AN APPROPRIATE MODEL FOR INMATES TREATMENT IN SPECIAL UNITS OF MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

A study of an Appropriate Model for Inmates Treatment in Special Units of Maximum Security (SUMS) Prisons in Thailand to investigated problems in handling inmates; the attitudes of experts on inmates’ classification and handling inmates; and the proper patterns in handling inmates in the SUMS prison in Thailand. Qualitative research was used and samples were taken from managerial experts in the super-max security prison, i.e. the Commanders, fourteen prison administrators, and eighteen top mangers of the Department of Corrections. Informal and in-depth interviews and non-participant observation were used in collecting data. There were five problems in treating inmates, i.e. illegal use or smuggling of mobile phones for ordering narcotics, technological control, insufficient and inefficient forces, improper security housing units, budgets for development, and personnel security. Clarity of inmate classification helped to gain details and information in classifying prisons for the committee to decide into which SUMS prisons the inmates should be transported. Criteria for the decisions were 1) fugitive behavior; 2) radical cases as classified by Department of Corrections; 3) number of narcotic cases; 4) radical case with the state records; and 5) riot inmates.

The recommendations for improvement were that the Department of Corrections should authentically select potential prisons to be the SUMS prisons. There should be clearly similar criteria of classification for the radical inmates to be detained nationwide. Recommendations for further research were that there should be studies on personnel working in the SUMS prisons counted as the core of operations. These are needed to study factors affecting approaches in developing the personnel of the SUMS prisons. Public opinion on correctional jobs, particularly on controlling radical inmates in the SUMS prisons and correction institutions, should be studied in order to implement the findings as guides for further develop and to improve performance efficiency in views of the public or outsiders who are the stakeholders.

KEY WORDS: AN APPROPRIATE MODEL/MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONS

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