



IMPROVING PRISONERS PSYCHOLOGY THROUGH ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

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Abstract: In earlier times jails were used as a means of torturing to the prisoner's for example jails built in British era such as cellular jail of Andaman and Nicobar also known as "kaala Paani" where freedom fighters were kept in total isolation with no natural light so that they couldn't connect with other freedom fighters. From decades in India prisons has been seen as a place of punishment for wrongful acts and not as correctional place for prisoners. Now certain laws regarding prisons have changed and now it's considered as a correctional and rehabilitation Centre for the prisoners so layouts of the jails now needs to be changed because it can impact prisoners psychology in a positive direction as change in the environment and atmosphere of it can have a huge influence on prisoners mind-set. So the basic purpose of this paper is to redesigning prison's infrastructural architecture in such a way both internally and externally so that environment of it can help prisoners to reform their inner-self and to look and think about the outside society in a better way thus contributing towards society's progress. There is an urgent requirement of redesigning jails internally and externally in such a way so that prisoners who come out of the jail can contribute to the society in a positive way

IndexTerms - Rehabilitation, Psychology, Correctional Centre, Free movement

I. INTRODUCTION

"Prison's way of life is mentally more taxing than physically."

Rising population increases crime rate and it leads to need for prison. So to lower the rate of crime the universally accepted goal of penology is rehabilitation of inmates for which correctional programmes are conceived. The objective of providing correctional programmes to the inmates is to improve their behavior, i.e. before and after release from their adjudicated confinement. As it improves human adjustments, education, understanding of human problems, etc. and it is something that can reduce the rate of criminality in society as well as in larger prospect of the world.

Jail is a well-equipped place guarded with security and by basic amenities where person are kept in custody for the wrongful things they have done in the eyes of law. It is a place where both a person who have been sentence with punishment and a person who is accused of any wrongful act are kept. In earlier times jail was supposed to be a place of punishment mentally and physically but now four major purpose of prisons are retribution, rehabilitation, incapacitation, deterrence. For small crimes there should not be any punishment only reformation.

Prison architecture is prime example of hard architecture where human dignity can be degraded. The aim of this research is to review on the impact of the physical environment on rehabilitation within prison. Prison currently serves as a place for punishment, so purpose is to make it reformation center.

1.1 Need of the Study

In context of architecture, prisons have never been looked upon seriously. Even today jails are function in the same way as they used to in British era. In terms of infrastructure the prisons need upgradation. As one goes into the atmosphere he or she gets psychologically affected by that very atmosphere in a good or bad way. The current inmates are entirely different from old inmates. With the current problems and economic upheaval, many people due to the unrest and less employment have turned into drug addicts, rebel gangs, underworld gangs, robbers etc. these activities have changed the generation in a bad manner. So rehabilitation of inmates becomes urgent and for that it is very important to study the psychology of inmates. So the reformation in both moral and physical behavior should be considered as reformatory punishment.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

'Jail' is a place properly arranged and equipped for reception of persons who by legal processes are ordered to be in safe custody while awaiting for punishment. In earlier times jail was supposed to be a place of punishment mentally and physically. There are three types of jail in India

- **Maximum security jail:** there are four types of maximum security jail (Fig. 1) those are as follows:
 - Central jail: The inmates are kept for more than 1 year.
 - District jail: The inmates are kept for 3 months to 1 year.
 - Sub jail: The inmates are kept for less than 3 months.
 - Women's jail: Women jails are used for women inmates only, although women may also be imprisoned in other jails.
 - Borstal school: Borstal Schools are youth detention centre. The objective is to care, welfare and rehabilitated of young inmates in suitable environment.
 - Special jail: Special jails are high security jail that have arrangements for keeping prisoners who are convicted for violent crimes and terrorism.

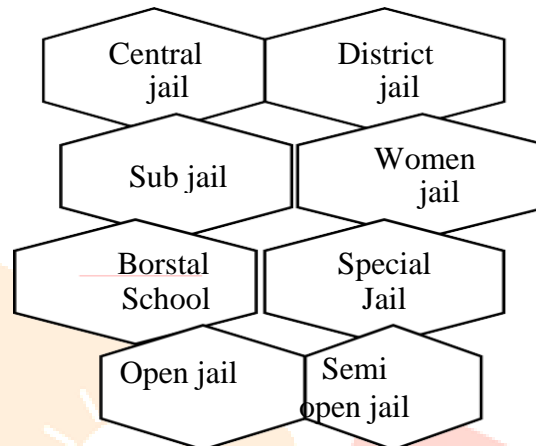


Figure 1: Types of Maximum Security Jail

- **Medium security jail:** These jails are modern jails that doesn't inspire from ancient jails so they are called modern jails. Jails of Lucknow, Ajmer etc. are modern of central jail.
- **Minimum security jail:** Semi open and open jails comes under minimum security jails where inmates are allowed to go out or to do their routine works during day time and have to come back in evening.

2.1 Need of Prison

Prisons have becoming overcrowded day by day thus need of developing new prisons is really important so that prisoners can be accommodated in a proper atmosphere and with basic amenities of the jail. Out of 0.38 million prisoners, 0.25 million prisoners have not been found guilty but are still in custody on trial basis (Fig. 2).

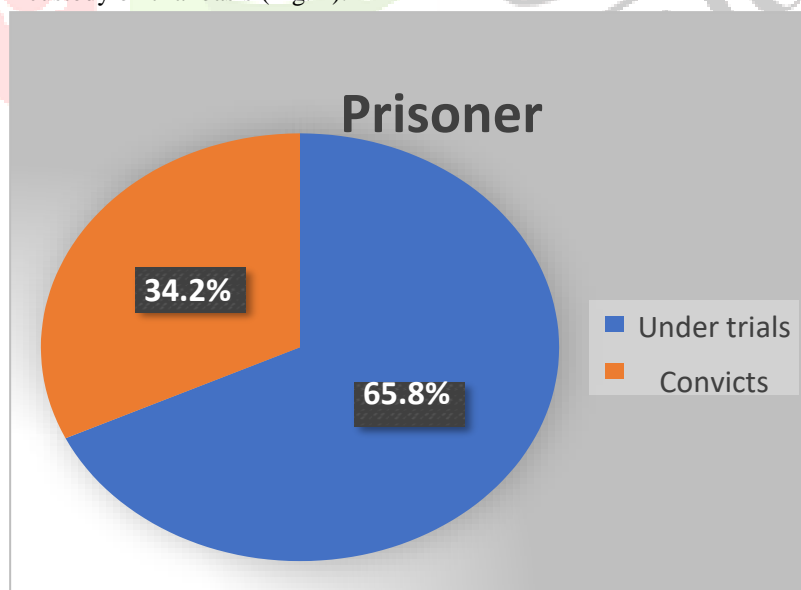


Figure 2: Prisoner Ratio

2.2 History

In ancient times prisoners were treated very badly in terms of punishment as people than didn't believe in correction of the prisoners. Prisoners were kept in basements of court buildings where hardly light or ventilation facilities were provided. The first correctional Centre was the Bride well House of Corrections in London (Fig. 3) where only women and children were kept. Earlier it was a king's castle which was made into a prison during 16th century. Other correctional Centre also came during this century, for homeless, minor offenders and undisciplined local poor.

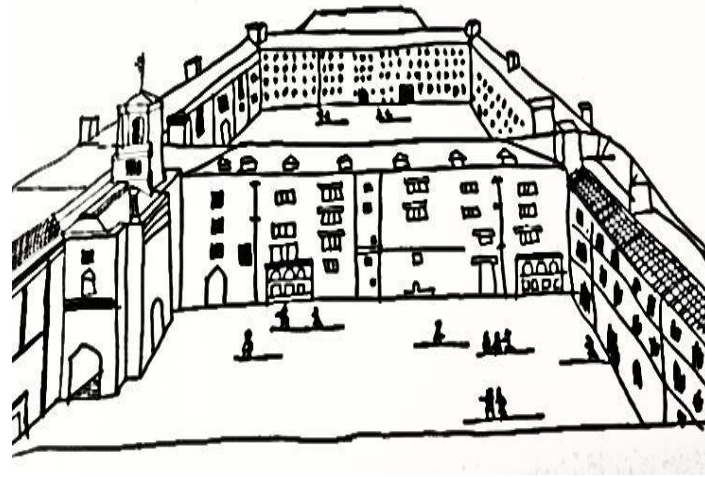


Figure 3: Bride well house of corrections in London

During 18th century voices in favor of prisoners started happening in which particularly Cesare Beccaria, John Howard and Jeremy Bentham raised their opinions about isolation and labor inside Prison. After this movement only Jeremy Bentham came with the Idea of Panopticon (Fig.4) which was based on surveillance system on a central tower with all the cells around it show that all the inmates should feel watched.

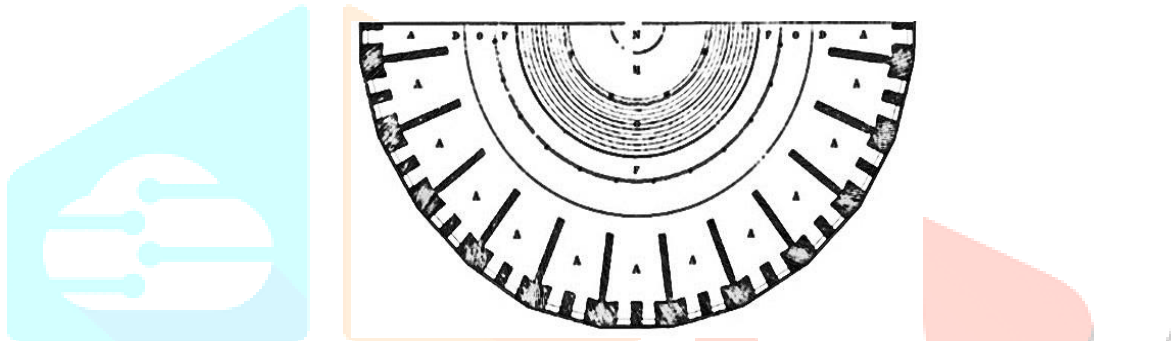


Figure 4: Panopticon

Afterward the model used was the Radial Prison (Fig.5). In this, the cells are disposed in long galleries (called wings), radiating from a central point. After the 18th Century models, there are variations of harsh environment where surveillance is the important aspect.

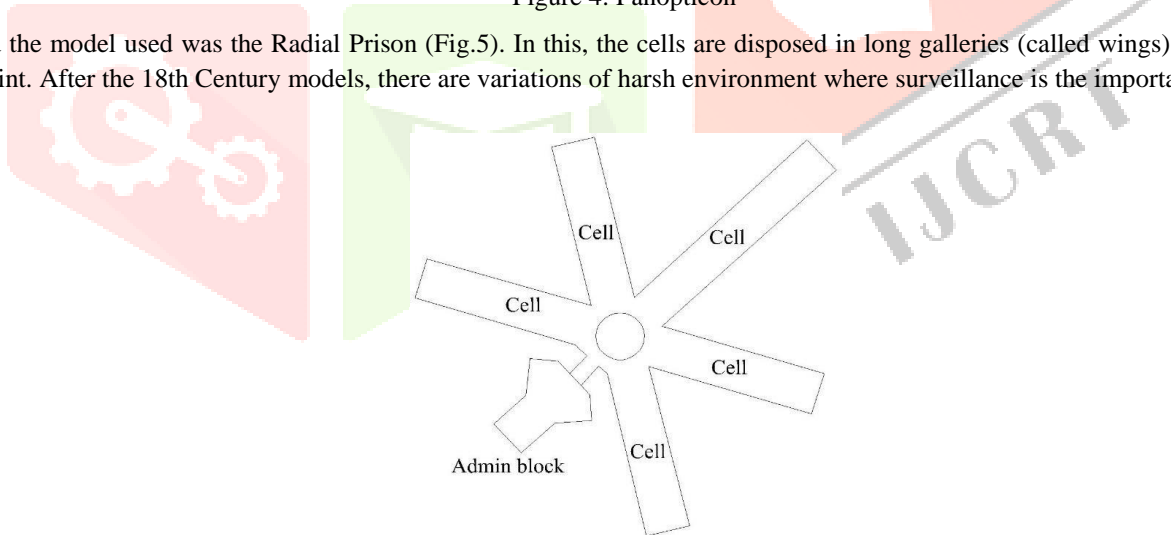


Figure 5: Radial planning layout

From the past 10 years opposite designed models have been made from Panopticon. So revival of prisons is the need of the hour and it's already happening for instance The first high-security modern prison was built in 2010, in Norway i.e. Halden Prison (Fig. 6).

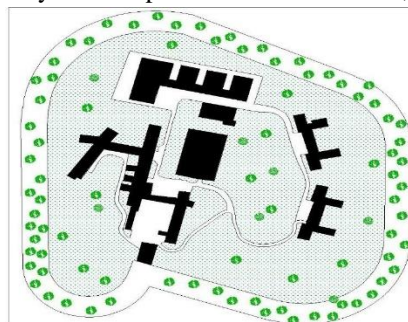


Figure 6: Halden Prison

2.3 Prisoner Vs Society

Today prisoner are looked down upon by the society because of crime they have done but society does not understand that every action has story behind it which majorly includes a disturbed mind and circumstances which leads to the disturbance in psychology. Judicial system is also responsible for this gap between inmates and society.

III. CASE STUDY

3.1 Tihar Jail, Delhi

Tihar jail is the largest prison in South Asia situated in Delhi, India. It is also known as Tihar haat and Tihar Ashram. Tihar jail is run by Department of Delhi Prisons. The Tihar jail contains nine central jail. The prison is styled as a correctional institution. Its main objective is to convert its inmates into ordinary members of society. Tihar Ashram is India's largest prison with maximum security. Tihar Prison is in operation since 1957 and has the capacity to accommodate approx. 5200 prisoners. It aims to engage, rehabilitate, and reform its inmates. Tihar jail gives music therapy to prisoners, which involves music training sessions and concerts. There is also an industry within the walls, manned wholly by inmates, whose brand name is Tihar. Tihar was a maximum security prison run by the State of Punjab till 1966. In 1966, the control was transferred to the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Total area of Tihar jail is 400 acres and Tihar complex is consist of nine central jails. Total number of inmates are 14183 and number of staff members is 1300. In Tihar jail, prisoners are allowed to do work on which they are interested. Their free movements are depends on their behavior in prison with staff and other prisoners. Campus of each jail have separate boundary wall and gates. No visitors are allowed after 4pm and special permission is required to meet with inmates on Saturday or Sunday. Television is provided in each barracks. Cells are attached with toilets. Proper window is provided for light and ventilation. In each jail one or more factories are provided. Tihar village has its own school, library, hospital etc. Staff residences are provided on the side of main road for a security purpose. There are total four gates before entering cell campus.

3.2 District jail, Faizabad

Faizabad is situated on the banks of river saryu. The district jail was built in 1896. Faizabad jail was designed by the Britishers for freedom fighter activists. The prison was designed on the concept of radial planning. Its form is based on Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon. It has 10 wings and at the Centre of which watch tower, kitchen and recreational facility is provided. The capacity of jail is 210, but currently the total inmates are 1363.

Building materials used are Bricks for wall, rough stones for flooring and in open spaces flooring is done with mud. There is no rain water harvesting. Total area of Faizabad jail is 54.02 acres (Fig. 7). Hospital, school, agriculture land is provided.

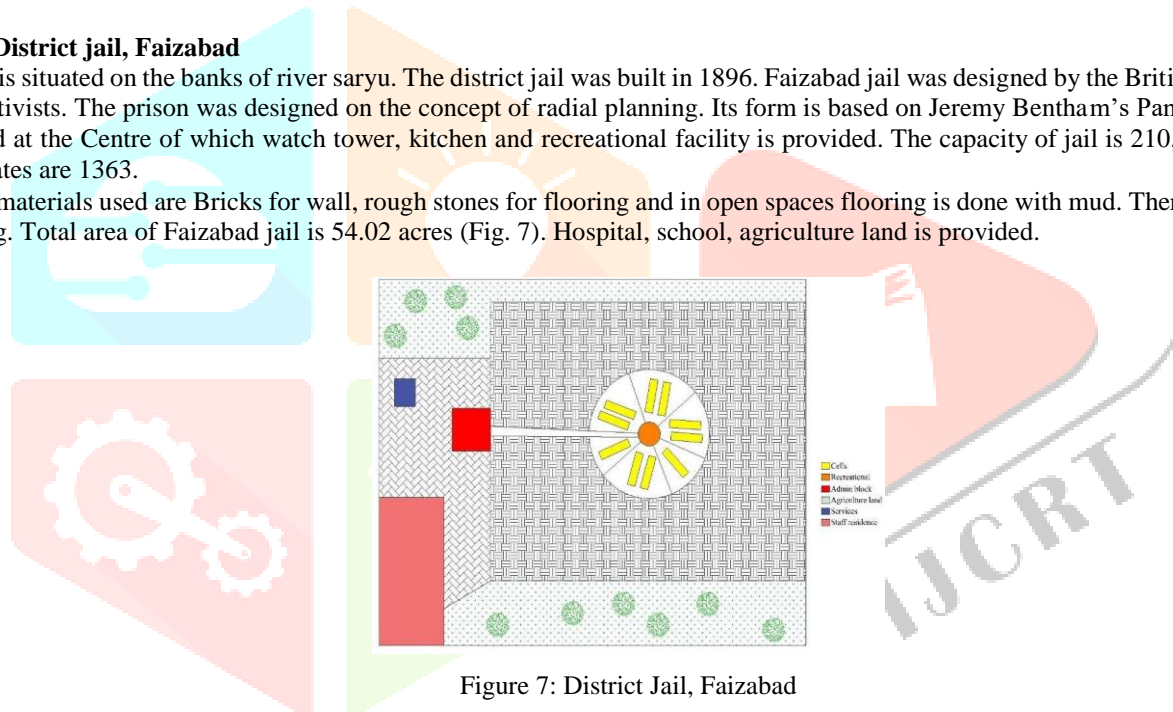


Figure 7: District Jail, Faizabad

IV. INFERENCES

Table 1: Inferences

Parameters	Delhi	Faizabad
Movement	Free movement	Restricted
Ventilation	Proper ventilation	No windows in cell

Landscape	Sufficient green spaces	Only agriculture land for prisoner but no green space within jail campus
Communal area	No space for interaction	No space for interaction
Visitors room (mulaqat ghar)	Proper room without furniture which creates eco	Proper room without furniture which creates eco
Interior	Bright Color wall without graffiti and painting	Walls are not painted
Toilets	Attached open toilet	Attached open toilet
Play ground	Proper play grounds for sports	No Proper play grounds for sports
Hospital	10 bedded	20 bedded
Surveillance	Proper surveillance (indirect supervision)	Proper surveillance (watch tower)

V. DESIGN RECOMMENDATION

- Adequate land for green spaces should be provided (Fig.9).
- Campus planning (Fig.8) is the ideal type of planning for prison, (Thomas, 2015) (Konaté, 2018) in comparison to in other type of planning such as radial planning etc.
- Windows should be provided in every cells, so that proper source of ventilation and natural light can be there.
- Space for communal should also be provided so that interaction between prisoners and staff and also between prisoners to prisoners can be done (Fig. 10).
- Facilities in visitor’s area should also be improved so that communication gap between inmates and their families can be avoided.
- The wall of the attached toilet in each cell should be such that where prisoners Visibility and also his/her personal intimacy is mentioned in the same time (Fig.11).
- Space for recreational facilities should be provided for the prisoners, so that their Daily routine can be developed.

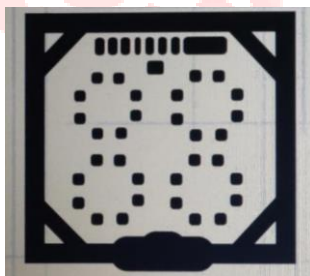


Figure 8: Example of Campus Planning



Figure 9: Example of adequate green spaces

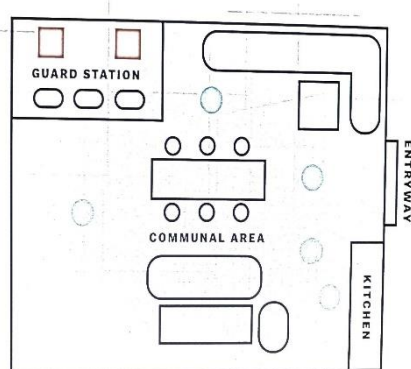


Figure 10: Example of communal space

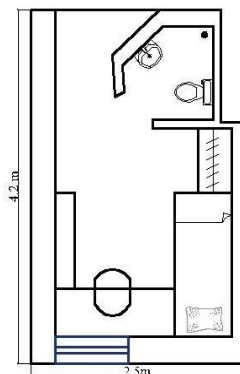


Figure 11: Example of cell layout

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During this study few elements within the jails came into picture which needs to be considered and changed for example redesigning prisons infrastructure through architectural means, developing sense of security among prisoners through humanitarian behavior, designing basic recreational facilities in the jail and rehabilitating prisoners mind-set in such a way so that they feel a sense of attachment towards society and can contribute in their own way. The atmosphere of the prison can effect Prisoner's mental well-being in various ways therefore maintain a healthy environment inside prison is really important. Keeping in mind security recreational facilities such as proper ventilation, natural light, agricultural land, temple, mess etc. should be provided so that basic needs of the prisoners can be fulfilled.

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