**Prisons**

Prison is a building in which people are legally held as a punishment for a crime they have committed or while awaiting trial.Prison as a place of punishment after conviction, is an 18th century invention. This is a humanitarian alternative to harsh and brutal penal methods of the dark ages. It was also believed that loneliness of the criminals in a solitary confinement would make them repentance resulting in reformation and rehabilitation. Until 19th century that the reformatory movements took practical shape when for the first-time classification, segregation, individualized treatment and vocational training etc. of inmates, were given due consideration. World moved from retribution to reformation and rehabilitation. This ideology also changed the objectives and functions of prisons throughout the world. Objectives of imprisonment vary in different countries depending upon their ideological notions about the function of penal system. These penal functions are usually incapacitation, deterrence; rehabilitation and reformation. Prisons are also meant to perform diverse functions irrespective of confinement and detention. Prisons transformed into institutions of learning and correction. Detention became an opportunity for self-improvement.

**History of prisons**

The increased reliance on confinement as a major means of dealing with criminals is of relatively recent origin, but the existence and use of confinement facilities is as old as the hills. References to prisoners are found in some of the world’s earliest literature and, in antiquity, various natural and human constructed structures were utilized to house prisoners. Ancient Semitic nomads utilized dry wells or cisterns to confine persons who had deviated from social norms. The offender would be lowered into the pit with ropes and left until further steps could be decided or until the prisoner died from exposure or starvation or from attack by wild animals. The use of pits or dry wells was common in many ancient cities. Early Egyptians housed prisoners in a walled, fortress like tower until the king decided how to dispose of them. moreover, underground prisons, courtyard prisons, and house arrest were utilized in cultures thousand years before the Greek and Roman eras. Typically, prisoners in antiquity were put to death or used as a slave labor force.

**Modern prisons in the United States**

Modern prisons and reformatories and the concept of imprisonment as the principal way of dealing with criminals originated and developed in the United States. In the years 1820 to 1840, the first prisons were built in the United States. The first type of prison in US was developed in Pennsylvania, called Pennsylvania Prison System. Inmates held in solitary confinement, isolated from outside world and one another, and were expected to remain in their cells, read the Bible, reflect on their crimes and repent.

A different type of prison was built at Auburn, New York, known as the Auburn Penal System. This institution was characterized by a practice where prison inmates were held in cells at night but released in daytime to work together at various forms of hard labor. Auburn Prison was quickly followed by similar prisons at Ossining and Dannemora and eventually the Auburn plan spread nationwide and indeed become an international prototype of a maximum-security prison.

**Prisons in Pakistan**

Pakistan inherited the Prison System from the Britishers as a colonial legacy. This system was used by the colonial as an instrument of punitive measures adopted to suppress the political opponents and threat to the Crown as well as antisocial elements. Jails served as means to detain freedom fighters and regime defiant along with criminals. While the history of Western society’s use of punishment dates back to eighteenth century public tortures, pillorying and executions at the scaffold. It was characterized by a legally approved discrimination, violence, revenge, and penitence during Medieval and Ancient times. The appalling and shocking pain inflicted on the “body of the damned” dates back the past punitive system of Europe. Bodily punishment dramatized around the spectacle of the scaffold disappeared in 19th century when prisons were constructed as place of punishment.

**Objective of prisons**

* **Custody:** Keeping inmates in safe place of confinement to the satisfaction of court.
* **Care:** Meeting basic needs (e.g. accommodation, food, medicine) of the inmates.
* **Control:** Maintaining order and discipline within the prison premises.
* **Correction:** Motivating inmates through ethical, moral and vocational teachings to become useful and law-abiding citizens.
* **Cure:** Providing treatment (through physical, medical and psychological counseling) to reform and rehabilitate the inmates.
* **Community:** Re-socializing inmates.

**Functions of Prisons**

* Execute the sentence awarded by the Court
* Maintenance, Care, Custody and transfer of prisoners.
* Maintenance of orders and discipline amongst the prisoners.
* Control of expenditure relating to prison management.
* Enforcement of Prison Act, all Laws, Rules/Regulations and orders pertaining to the protection and maintenance of prison/prisoners.
* Imparting useful education / training to the prisoners in various trades/skills and other vocational disciplines for their rehabilitation.
* Organizing of recreational programs, welfare measures and psychological counseling of inmates for their correction and rehabilitation.

**Administrative System of Prison in Pakistan**

Prisons are a provincial subject like policing. Provincial governments are responsible for establishment, maintenance and improvement of prisons. Legislation on prisons, recruitment and salaries of prison staff come under the jurisdiction government of each province. According to section (5) of Jail Manual (JM), an inspector general appointed by the provincial government heads the prisons establishment by exercising overall control and supervision of all prisons in the province. Each prison has superintendent and two or more deputy-superintendent to control day to day functioning of prison. The subordinate prison staff includes chief warders, head warders and warders. District government authorities have the power to visit the prisons. Each women prison has female assistant superintendent who controls the day to day matters of prison. This female superintendent is headed by the superintendent of local prison. Prison guards are appointed in the jails to control the prisoners and maintain law and order. The prison population is composed of those convicted of crimes or on remands for criminal charges, as well as civil prisoners and any person “ordered to be detained in prison without trial under any law relating to the detention of such person”. Convicted prisoners are classified into “casuals” (chance offenders) and “habitual” (repeat offenders), and further classified into juveniles (under the age of eighteen), adolescents (over eighteen and under 21), and adults (over 21). The rules also distinguish between those undergoing rigorous imprisonment (hard labor) and those undergoing simple imprisonment. Remand prisoners are classified into those facing the district and session’s court and those committed to other courts. Women prisoners are similarly classified.

**Types of prisons in Pakistan**

There are four types of prisons in each province of Pakistan which are as follows:

**High security prisons**

High-security prisons is the latest development in the prison types of Pakistan. Due to the increasing layer of terrorism, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, high-security prisons were established for the purpose to house offender involved in terrorist activities. Digital security systems were installed in these prisons to assure high security of the prisoners.

**Central prisons**

There is a central prison each division in a province. Central prison has detention capacity for more than 1,000 prisoners, irrespective of the length of sentence. The provincial government has discretionary authority to redesign at any special prison or district prison as a central prison.

**Special prisons**

These include women’s prisons, open prisons, borstal institutions and juvenile training centers. The provincial government can establish a special prison at a time and place of its choosing or can declare any existing prison a special prison.

**District prisons**

Other than central prisons or special prisons, all prisons are designated as district prisons, which, in turn, are divided into three classes: first class, capable of accommodating 500 prisoners or more, sentenced up to five years; second class, capable of accommodating between 300 and 500, sentenced up to three years; and third class capable of accommodating less than 300, sentenced up to one year.

**Sub-jails**

These are smaller facilities where criminal suspects may be detained on remand. A provincial government can declare any place “by general or special order” a “subsidiary jail”.