Fear and punitivity study in the prison population of Thuringia as an indicator - partial order of fear?

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Overview

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- Descriptive Statistics
- Groups of prisoners
- Factors of punitivity and fear
- Explanation of fear of victimization
- Explanation of victimization
- Explanation of approval of death penalty
- Comparison between prison population and German students
- Conclusion and outlook
Introduction
For what we need a Criminological department?

- Evaluation of the prison system
- Evaluation of the treatment
- Counselling of the ministry of justice
- Electronic documentation and data management
- Own research in order to prevent crime, violent behaviour in prison, suicide, drug abuse ...
- Permission of research projects
- Education of the prison staff

(Education of prison guards takes two years)
• Evaluation of the prison system: Security and Re-Socialisation

• Evaluation of the treatment (Recidivism)

• In order to prevent crime, violent behaviour in prison, suicide, drug abuse ...
• How dangerous a person is?
• Risk of suicide
• Mental disorder
• …..
Introduction

Indicators?

- Prison rate in Germany: 77 per 100,000 persons (2017)

• Lowest numbers of offences since 1992
• Number of cases (wilful homicide, homicide, mercy killing)
  • 2126 cases (2012), 2418 cases (2016)
  • 281 victims (2012), 373 victims (2016)
• Rate of homicide: 1.8 (2009)
  • 2.6 (Belarus 2009), 4.2 (Russian Federation 2009)
• Possibility of penalty
• 1593 prisoners (2012) in comparison to 1345 prisoners (2017)
  • Reduction of nearly a sixth or 15.6%
  • Demographic change and low unemployment rate
• Survey (voluntary)
• 128 prisoners have taken part in the study
• All kind of prisons (juvenile prison, prison for adult, life long, short time)
• Reason for the study: attitude of prisoners to victimization, fear of crime and punitivity
• Empathy is important for Re-Socialisation
• The last study of the Criminological Department has shown a high tendency to approve extremist opinions (only as a possible for reason for recidivism)
Descriptive statistic

Question 1: Cohesion of society

- "No opinion" has the highest value
- Living "outside of society"

The cohesion of society is good

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses to the question about cohesion of society, with "No opinion" at 42.2% and "fully agree" at 1.6%.]
Descriptive statistic

Question 2: Money for those in need

- "Fully agree" has the highest value
- Self understanding as "those in need"?
Descriptive statistic

Question 3: Offenders less punishment more support

- „Partly agree“ has the highest value
- Prisoners want support and treatment!
Descriptive statistic

Question 4: Approval for death penalty

- „Fully agree“ has the highest value
- After all around a quarter „agree“
Descriptive statistic

Question 5: Income is fair distributed

- „Fully disagree“ has the highest value
- Self understanding as „underprivileged“
Descriptive statistic

Question 6: Increase in penalty

- „No opinion“ has the highest value
- Undecided! Interesting for prisoners!
Descriptive statistic

Question 7: Increase of crime

- „Fully agree“ has the highest value
- General perception in the society! Criminal behaviour as an outside threat!
Descriptive statistic

Question 8: Everybody has equal chances

- „Fully disagree“ has the highest value
- Believe in equality
Descriptive statistic

Question 9: Fear of victimization

- „No opinion“ has the highest value
- Even prisoners can become victims! Self understanding of „male prisoners“!

![Fear of victimization chart](chart.png)
Descriptive statistic
Question 10: Fair judgement

- „No opinion“ has the highest value
- More than two fifth does not believe in fair judgement!
Descriptive statistic

Question 11: Police is doing a good job

- „No opinion“ has the highest value
- More than a third is not convinced!
Descriptive statistic

Question 13: Criminal behaviour has a genetic reason

- „Fully disagree“ has the highest value
- In order to become a criminal as an individual choice!
Descriptive statistic
Question 14: Satisfied with politics

- „Fully disagree“ has the highest value
- High rate of dissatisfaction! More than three fifth are not satisfied!
Descriptive statistic

Question 15: Crime can be prevented by increase in penalty

- "No opinion" has the highest value
- Undecided!
Descriptive statistic

Question 16: We have a problem because of crime

- „No opinion“ has the highest value
- Biased perception of crime! More than a half sees a problem!
Descriptive statistic

Question 17: More life long sentences

- „Partly agree“ has the highest value
- Nearly a half wants more life long sentences
Descriptive statistic
Question 18: Reducing the age of criminal responsibility

- „Fully disagree“ has the highest value
- More than a third does not believe in a deterrent effect to prevent juvenile crime!
Descriptive statistic

Question 19: Police should act consequently

- „No opinion“ has the highest value
- More than a third believes in a „strong police“!
Descriptive statistic

Question 20: Severe offenders should be supervised life long

- „Partly agree“ has the highest value
- Nearly a half believes in a „supervision“!
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Descriptive statistic

Question 21: Imprisonment does not change a person in a positive way

- „Partly agree“ has the highest value
- More than a half does not believe in „imprisonment“!
Descriptive statistic

Question 29: Re-socialisation more important than punishment

- „Fully agree“ has the highest value
- Prisoner believes in „re-socialisation“!
Question 40: Consuming of drugs should be punished less

- "Fully agree" has the highest value
- "Drug consuming as an illness"
Descriptive statistic

Question 42: „I am underprivileged“

- „No opinion“ has the highest value
- They don’t want to see themselves as underprivileged!
Descriptive statistic „Cases“

Question 57: Case „Burglary, 2nd time, TV“

- „Prison sentence“ has the highest value!
Descriptive statistic „Cases“

Question 58: Case „Rape“

- „Prison sentence“ has the highest value!

Sexual deviance is punished in the subculture of prison severely!
- More than half is „victim“

Victimization can also happen in prison. The inmates belong to a social group with high risk of crime and victimization.
Cluster Analysis shows us, which and how many groups we can get by the distance of the cases (Euclidean distance).
Groups of prisoners
Kohonen Card

Self learning unsupervised neural network
According to Factor Analysis we can reduce our items to five components. 37% can be explained.
Partial order

- Variable 1 to 24 for punitivity
- Sum of all variables for every person
- Ranking everybody to each other
Partial order of punitivity
Factors of fear and crime
Factor analysis Question 1 to 52

- **Factor 1:** High positive loads for more and severe punishment. „Punishment“
- **Factor 2:** High positive loads for therapy and support for prisoners. „Treatment“
- **Factor 3:** High positive loads with control, equal chances and fair justice. „Control and Chances for everybody“
- **Factor 4:** High positive loads with „satisfied with life“, „own responsible“, trust in politics and media. „Trust and satisfaction“
- **Factor 5:** High positive loads with „no believe in therapy“ and a tendency to believe „criminal behaviour is genetic“. „Criminal behaviour can not be changed“
Factors of fear and crime
Factor analysis Question 1 to 52
Comparison between prison population and German students

- 50.4% prisoners vs. 69-85% students (Heidelberg) „disagree death penalty“

- 25.9% prisoners vs. 28-35% students (Heidelberg) „disagree with fear of victimization"

- Prisoners belong mostly to a group with less chances and low economic status.
Conclusions and Outlook

- Attitudes to law, penal system, police … can be a reason for a relapse after dismissal.

- Trust in law, police, … is important for re-socialisation

- Law is always in change, so we have to investigate changes. Most of the changes starts in attitudes.
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Merci !