

Prevention and Minimizing Crimes Through Education

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I have completed a service of 34 years in the Sri Lanka Police, and during this period I had an opportunity to work in almost all the areas of the Island. An important factor that I realized in my career is the need of prevention of causes rather than punishments. In order to achieve this, one has to kind out the roots of causes for crimes. Five years ago, there were 12,000 prisoners. Today this number has increased to 330,000 returning 461 out of them to serve fresh terms.

A survey has revealed that 50% of the Island's crime is reported from the Western Province. Availability of drugs is predominant in this province, where heroine is being freely used. The survey also reveals that 75% of the prison inmates serving sentences in Sri Lanka have links to drug offences. Of them 90% of the inmates are from the Western Province. A further 90% of the criminal groups have made it to Colombo in the Western Province, which is their center for operational activities.

In the light of the above revelations, with my second assignment in charge of Colombo in November 2003, I realized the necessity of conducting a survey of those who are sentenced to prison due to drug offences and other criminal activities. From the survey reports it is