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Ways in which Offenders Gain Information from Prison Staff

Offenders in prison have various ways of obtaining information about other offenders or matters in prison. This is so because they have connections with the prison staff that provide them with the information they need for a price or protection outside the prison grounds. The prisons are in an enclosed place, far from towns and cities, and it is difficult to access it unless one is an offender or prison staff. Hence, it is hard for offenders to know what is happening in the world around them or people close to them. Therefore, for offenders to get specific information about anything around the prison, the staff is the go-to person for that task. They engage in different relationships that enable them to gain the information they need. These relationships are mainly exploitative since they seek something important from the other person.

The first way that offenders use to gain information from a prison staff is through blackmail and threats. For instance, if an offender needs particular details on a new inmate and the staff does not want to disclose it, the offender threatens the life of the prison staff or that of his or her family members. This usually works since many offenders have individuals that still work for them outside prison grounds, and with one call, they tend to execute the orders they have been given. Hence, the prison staff, due to fear, gives out the needed information to the offender.

The second way of obtaining information from the prison staff is through exchanging gifts or money for information. For example, if their families brought an offender something valuable through their visits, they tend to exchange the items delivered with a piece of information they need. Therefore, the inmate gives the prison staff a gift, or money, in exchange for information.

Another way an offender obtains information from a prison staff is through having sexual relations with them. Most of the individuals in the prison environment have sexual needs, and they tend to satisfy each other within their environment. Offenders usually use sexual abuse on the prison staff, which they get any information they need from them through manipulation (Salter, 2018). Therefore, these are the three ways that offenders use to gain information from the prison staff. However, none of these ways are ethical according to the codes and ethics of the prison employees. These ways are considered illegal and unethical since they violate the procedures and policies of employees in the prison sector.

Question

How can sexual abuse of prisoner staff by offenders be prevented and what efforts should be put in place to ensure that the measures are effective?

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