

Mauritius Case Study: World of Work

Recognition of Prior Learning project in the Mauritius Prison Service

Background

The Mauritius Prison Service and the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA) are collaborating to establish Recognition and Prior Learning within prisons in Mauritius. It is an attempt to keep convicted persons gainfully occupied in order to maintain peace and stability in prisons, as well as to increase the rehabilitation chances of offenders. RPL can help offenders to have their non-formal and informal skills recognised and to obtain a vocational training certificate. RPL not only enhances employability, but also helps prisoners to reintegrate into society.

Main activities

In implementing RPL, prisons register with a training institution called the Tremplin Vocational Training Centre (TVTC), where programmes in different fields (such as literacy and numeracy, basketry, metal fabrication, plumbing and pipe fitting, masonry, garment making, furniture making, mechanics, electronics, handicrafts and agriculture) are offered and detainees receive a certificate of attendance.

Detainees deliver a wide range of goods and services for the public sector in a cost-effective manner through these training programmes. Examples include office furniture, staff uniforms, baskets, handicrafts, breads, and all types of infrastructure projects.

RPL is implemented as a follow-up after years of coaching, training and skills acquired by the prisoners.

Prison inmates obtain a certificate containing an official record of the competences attained in their respective occupational fields.

Outcomes and ways forward

The provision of technical and vocational training to offenders has proven to be an important component of the rehabilitation regime in prisons.

The RPL project has resulted in a market of training providers offering a series of diversified, market-oriented and accredited technical and vocational training programmes organised for both young and adult offenders to strengthen their capabilities..

The RPL prisons project has striven to become sustainable through the training of 14 prison officers as facilitators by the MQA in collaboration with the Mauritius Prison Service.

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