

## **The Problems Faced by Family Members of Remand Prisoners**

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The existing legal system prohibits the arbitrary arrest and detention of individuals but at times, police defy these provisions. Depending on the significance of the role played by the arrested individual, his/her dependents have to adjust their lives after such an incarceration.

This research was conducted to examine the emotional, psychological, developmental, familial and financial consequences of remand incarceration on the families of inmates. Finally, the study looked into how society reacted towards these families.

The sample consisted of 150 remand prisoners awaiting trial for a long period in Walikanda and New Magazine prisons Sri Lanka. Another sample of 50 families was selected randomly from the prisoners in Colombo District who have been detained in custody for more than one year.

The data for the research was gathered using a structured questionnaire and interviews. Both remand prisoners and their family members were interviewed.

Results of the study show that when the remanded prisoner is the breadwinner of the family, rest of the family is subjected to adverse financial difficulties. When father of the family is imprisoned, mother and children of the family are often subjected to the miseries of hunger.

The incarceration of a parent, in most cases, results in severe disruptions in children's education unless someone else -may be a relative- provides a helping hand. It was revealed that if the families of detainees lived in a community with socio stature equal to that of theirs, the negative social impact will be lesser than if they lived in a community with a social stature superior to that of theirs.

The study concluded that incarceration of a family member has a negative bearing on the family but the level of impact differs from one case to another depending on the nature of contribution detainee used to make to the family.

***Key words: Imprisonment, Remand, Family problems***