



Implementation of Decongestion Program and Jail Management Efficiency

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2026.100701183>

Received: 11 August 2026; Accepted: 17 August 2026; Published: 24 August 2026

ABSTRACT

This study examined the relationship between the implementation of the decongestion program and jail management efficiency in a local detention facility within the Negros Island Region, as perceived by Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs). Guided by Program Implementation Theory and Systems Theory, the study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design. Data were collected from randomly selected PDL respondents using a researcher-developed, validated, and reliable questionnaire. Descriptive and inferential statistical techniques were utilized to assess the implementation of the decongestion program, determine the level of jail management efficiency, and examine the relationship between the two variables. The findings revealed that the decongestion program was effectively implemented, while jail management efficiency was perceived to be high. Moreover, the study established a significant positive relationship between the implementation of the decongestion program and jail management efficiency. The findings underscore the importance of strengthening decongestion initiatives to enhance institutional operations, improve service delivery, and support evidence-based correctional management and policy development.

Keywords: Decongestion Program; Jail Management Efficiency; Persons Deprived of Liberty; Jail Management; Program Implementation; Correctional Management; Detention Facility

INTRODUCTION

The intersection of institutional decongestion initiatives and correctional administrative operations represents a fundamental pillar of contemporary penological reform. In modern corrections, severe space deficits inherently degrade an agency's capacity to deliver essential security, healthcare, and rehabilitative services, forcing administrative personnel into reactive crisis management rather than proactive governance. Existing evidence indicates that effective decongestion measures alleviate operational pressure, enabling correctional staff to focus on custodial responsibilities and inmate rehabilitation (Western, 2021; Supreme Court of the Philippines, 2024).

International literature consistently identifies prison overcrowding as a major barrier to effective correctional management. Western (2021) emphasized that overcrowding impairs safety, healthcare, and rehabilitation, while Mosoti et al. (2023) demonstrated that decongestion initiatives successfully reduce inmate populations and improve facility operations. Similarly, Nudd et al. (2024) concluded that excessive crowding adversely affects public health, correctional administration, and human rights. Collectively, these findings highlight decongestion programs as essential to efficient and humane prison governance.

In the Philippines, severe congestion has driven similar national reforms. Following United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023) identifying the country's critical overcrowding levels, the Supreme Court of the Philippines (2024) convened the National Decongestion Summit to strengthen inter-agency collaboration in addressing overcrowding. The Department of the Interior and Local Government reported improved congestion rates through BJMP paralegal programs (Presidential Communications Office, 2024). Although local studies confirm that overcrowding hinders operations and rehabilitation (Marano, 2024; Saguran et al., 2023), a clear research gap remains. Existing literature largely focuses on statistics or general overcrowding without

empirically linking program implementation to jail management efficiency, particularly in the Negros Island Region from the firsthand perspective of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs).

Given these considerations, this study examined the relationship between the implementation of the decongestion program and jail management efficiency in a local detention facility within the Negros Island Region as perceived by Persons Deprived of Liberty. Specifically, it evaluated the extent of program implementation, assessed the level of management efficiency, and determined whether a significant relationship exists between the two variables. The findings aim to provide empirical evidence to assist correctional administrators in optimizing decongestion strategies and improving facility operations.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design to determine the relationship between the implementation of the decongestion program and jail management efficiency in a local detention facility within the Negros Island Region. The respondents were 300 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) selected through simple random sampling from a population of 1,200. The sample size was determined using Yamane's formula at a 5% margin of error. Data were collected using a researcher-developed questionnaire consisting of demographic information and measures of decongestion program implementation and jail management efficiency. The decongestion program was assessed in terms of legal and paralegal interventions, case review and early release programs, living conditions and jail congestion, rehabilitation and support services, and overall effectiveness, while jail management efficiency covered institutional operations, security, service delivery, rehabilitation, and administrative practices. The questionnaire used a five-point Likert scale and was presented in English and Hiligaynon to facilitate comprehension.

The instrument was subjected to content validation by five experts using Lawshe's Content Validity Ratio, with a CVR of 1.00 for both major variables. A pilot test was also conducted among respondents excluded from the actual study, and Cronbach's alpha was used to establish internal consistency, which indicated that the instrument was reliable. Data collection was conducted after securing authorization from the concerned City Jail Warden and obtaining informed consent from the participants. Frequency and percentage were used to describe the respondents' profiles, while mean and standard deviation were used to determine the levels of decongestion program implementation and jail management efficiency. Spearman's rank-order correlation coefficient was employed to determine the direction, strength, and significance of the relationship between the two variables at the 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Profile of the Respondents

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents According to Profile.

Profile	Category	f	%
Age	18-25 years old	44	14.66
	26-35 years old	81	27.00
	36-45 years old	104	34.67
	46 years old and above	71	23.67
	Total	300	100.00
Civil Status	Single	99	33.00
	Married	173	57.67
	Widowed	15	5.00
	Separated	13	4.33
	Total	300	100.00
Length of Stay	Below 1 year	108	36.00
	1-5 years	173	57.67

	6-10 years	17	5.66
	11 years and above	2	0.67
	Total	300	100.00

As shown in Table 1, in terms of age, the largest proportion of the respondents belonged to the 36–45 years old age group ($f = 104$, 34.67%), followed by those aged 26–35 years old ($f = 81$, 27.00%), 46 years old and above ($f = 71$, 23.67%), and 18–25 years old ($f = 44$, 14.66%). The findings indicate that the respondents were predominantly middle-aged adults. This age distribution suggests that most participants had accumulated sufficient life experience and prolonged exposure to the correctional environment, enabling them to provide informed assessments of the implementation of decongestion programs and jail management efficiency. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2024) emphasized that overcrowded detention facilities are largely occupied by adult populations whose prolonged incarceration provides substantial insights into institutional conditions and correctional practices. Likewise, Penal Reform International (2024) noted that adult inmates comprise the majority of correctional populations worldwide and are directly affected by institutional management policies. In the Philippine context, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) likewise recognized that adult detainees remain the primary beneficiaries and evaluators of interventions addressing jail congestion and service delivery.

With respect to civil status, the majority of the respondents were married ($f = 173$, 57.67%), followed by single respondents ($f = 99$, 33.00%), widowed ($f = 15$, 5.00%), and separated ($f = 13$, 4.33%). The predominance of married respondents suggests that many participants-maintained family responsibilities and social relationships despite their confinement. Family support has been recognized as an important factor influencing inmates' psychological well-being, participation in rehabilitation activities, and adjustment within correctional institutions. Penal Reform International (2023) emphasized that preserving family connections contributes to successful rehabilitation and social reintegration. Similarly, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2024) highlighted that correctional reforms increasingly promote family-centered approaches to improve inmate welfare and institutional outcomes. In addition, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) underscored the importance of humane detention practices that recognize the social and family needs of persons deprived of liberty.

Regarding the length of stay, more than half of the respondents had been confined for 1–5 years ($f = 173$, 57.67%), while 108 respondents (36.00%) had stayed for less than one year. Only a small proportion had remained in custody for 6–10 years ($f = 17$, 5.66%) and 11 years and above ($f = 2$, 0.67%). The findings indicate that most respondents had sufficient exposure to jail operations and decongestion initiatives, allowing them to evaluate institutional practices based on firsthand experience. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2024) explained that prolonged detention provides inmates with greater familiarity with correctional procedures, institutional services, and rehabilitation programs. Likewise, Penal Reform International (2024) reported that inmates with longer periods of confinement are generally better positioned to assess prison management practices and the effectiveness of reforms. Supporting this view, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) emphasized that sustained exposure to detention conditions enables incarcerated individuals to provide meaningful perspectives on institutional management and the quality of correctional services.

Level of Implementation of the Decongestion Program as a Whole and in Terms of Legal and Paralegal Interventions, Case Review and Early Release Programs, Living Conditions and Jail Congestion, Rehabilitation and Support Services and Overall Effectiveness of Decongestion Program

Table 2. Level of Implementation of the Decongestion Program as a Whole and in Terms of Legal and Paralegal Interventions, Case Review and Early Release Programs, Living Conditions and Jail Congestion, Rehabilitation and Support Services and Overall Effectiveness of Decongestion Program.

Statements	Mean	SD	Interpretation
Legal and Paralegal Interventions	4.80	0.23	Fully Implemented
1. I was informed about possible legal remedies that may lead to my release.	4.82	0.38	Fully Implemented
2. Paralegal officers assist me in checking the status of my case.	4.94	0.28	Fully Implemented

3. I am given opportunities for legal counseling or assistance.	4.77	0.44	Fully Implemented
4. Court-related processes for my case are regularly followed up by BJMP personnel.	4.74	0.46	Fully Implemented
5. Qualified PDLs are properly endorsed for release based on legal grounds	4.71	0.46	Fully Implemented
Case Review and Early Release Programs	4.72	0.28	Fully Implemented
6. My case status is regularly reviewed for possible release.	4.68	0.52	Fully Implemented
7. I am informed if I am eligible for release programs (e.g., parole, probation, bail).	4.69	0.51	Fully Implemented
8. BJMP personnel assist in identifying PDLs qualified for release.	4.84	0.38	Fully Implemented
9. Court decisions regarding release are promptly communicated to us.	4.73	0.51	Fully Implemented
10. The decongestion process helps reduce unnecessary delay in detention.	4.65	0.51	Fully Implemented
Living Conditions and Jail Congestion	4.69	0.27	Fully Implemented
11. The jail population is reduced through decongestion efforts.	4.66	0.53	Fully Implemented
12. My living space improved due to decongestion measures.	4.60	0.54	Fully Implemented
13. Overcrowding in the jail has lessened over time.	4.70	0.49	Fully Implemented
14. Health and sanitation conditions improved due to reduced congestion.	4.83	0.37	Fully Implemented
15. I feel safer because of reduced crowding inside the facility.	4.66	0.50	Fully Implemented
Rehabilitation and Support Services	4.75	0.27	Fully Implemented
16. I am given access to educational or skills training programs.	4.78	0.45	Fully Implemented
17. I participate in livelihood or rehabilitation activities inside the jail.	4.71	0.52	Fully Implemented
18. Counseling or moral recovery programs are available to me.	4.79	0.42	Fully Implemented
19. BJMP supports programs that prepare me for reintegration into society.	4.79	0.43	Fully Implemented
20. Rehabilitation programs are part of efforts to reduce jail congestion.	4.67	0.52	Fully Implemented
Overall Effectiveness of Decongestion Program	4.78	0.26	Fully Implemented
21. The BJMP decongestion program is effectively implemented in this facility.	4.73	0.45	Fully Implemented
22. I believe that the program helps improve the situation of PDLs.	4.82	0.41	Fully Implemented
23. The number of detainees in the facility has noticeably decreased.	4.79	0.43	Fully Implemented
24. The decongestion program protects the rights and welfare of PDLs.	4.78	0.42	Fully Implemented
25. Overall, I am satisfied with the implementation of decongestion efforts.	4.78	0.45	Fully Implemented
As A Whole	4.75	0.20	Fully Implemented

Legend: (4.21-5.00) Fully Implemented; (3.41 – 4.20) Implemented; (2.61-3.40) Moderately Implemented; (1.81 – 2.60) Slightly Implemented; (1.00 – 1.80) Not Implemented

Overall, the decongestion program obtained a mean of 4.75 (SD = 0.20), interpreted as fully implemented. The low standard deviation indicates a high degree of consistency in the respondents' perceptions, suggesting that the implementation of decongestion initiatives was widely experienced across the facility. The findings imply that the jail administration has effectively carried out interventions aimed at reducing congestion while safeguarding the welfare and rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs). This observation is consistent with the findings of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2024), which emphasized that comprehensive decongestion measures improve correctional management by enhancing access to legal services, rehabilitation, and humane detention conditions. Likewise, Penal Reform International (2024) reported that integrated decongestion strategies contribute significantly to institutional efficiency and compliance with international

correctional standards. Similarly, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) underscored that well-implemented congestion reduction initiatives promote safer detention environments and improve the quality of custodial services.

Among the dimensions, legal and paralegal interventions obtained the highest rating ($M = 4.80$, $SD = 0.23$), interpreted as fully implemented. The highest-rated indicator was "Paralegal officers assist me in checking the status of my case" ($M = 4.94$, $SD = 0.28$), whereas "Qualified PDLs are properly endorsed for release based on legal grounds" received the lowest mean ($M = 4.71$, $SD = 0.46$), although it remained within the same descriptive category. These findings suggest that legal assistance and case monitoring are consistently provided, facilitating timely access to judicial processes and appropriate legal remedies. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023) emphasized that effective legal aid and paralegal assistance reduce unnecessary detention and strengthen procedural justice. Likewise, Penal Reform International (2023) highlighted that access to legal services is a critical component of prison decongestion initiatives. In the Philippine setting, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) likewise recognized legal assistance as an essential mechanism for protecting detainees' rights and expediting case disposition.

The dimension on overall effectiveness of the decongestion program likewise received a fully implemented rating ($M = 4.78$, $SD = 0.26$). The highest-rated statement was "I believe that the program helps improve the situation of PDLs" ($M = 4.82$, $SD = 0.41$), while "The BJMP decongestion program is effectively implemented in this facility" obtained the lowest mean ($M = 4.73$, $SD = 0.45$). These results indicate that respondents generally recognized the positive impact of the program on detention conditions and inmate welfare. According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2024), effective decongestion programs contribute to improved correctional governance, enhanced inmate welfare, and more efficient facility management. Similarly, Penal Reform International (2024) found that successful decongestion initiatives improve institutional operations while promoting respect for the rights and dignity of incarcerated individuals. The International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) likewise emphasized that sustainable decongestion measures strengthen institutional resilience and improve service delivery within detention facilities.

The rehabilitation and support services dimension obtained a mean of $M = 4.75$ ($SD = 0.27$), interpreted as fully implemented. The highest-rated indicators were "Counseling or moral recovery programs are available to me" and "BJMP supports programs that prepare me for reintegration into society" (both $M = 4.79$, $SD = 0.42$ and 0.43 , respectively). The lowest-rated statement was "Rehabilitation programs are part of efforts to reduce jail congestion" ($M = 4.67$, $SD = 0.52$), although it remained within the fully implemented range. These findings suggest that rehabilitation services are consistently integrated into jail management and are perceived as important components of decongestion efforts. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2021) emphasized that rehabilitation programs enhance inmates' readiness for community reintegration while supporting institutional order. Likewise, Penal Reform International (2024) reported that correctional systems emphasizing rehabilitation experience improved institutional outcomes and reduced recidivism risks. Supporting this, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) highlighted that psychosocial support and reintegration initiatives contribute to humane detention and effective correctional management.

The case review and early release programs dimension was likewise assessed as fully implemented ($M = 4.72$, $SD = 0.28$). Among its indicators, "BJMP personnel assist in identifying PDLs qualified for release" received the highest mean ($M = 4.84$, $SD = 0.38$), whereas "The decongestion process helps reduce unnecessary delay in detention" recorded the lowest ($M = 4.65$, $SD = 0.51$). The findings indicate that systematic case review and release mechanisms are effectively implemented, promoting timely identification of qualified PDLs for appropriate legal remedies. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023) emphasized that regular case review is among the most effective approaches to addressing jail congestion and prolonged detention. Similarly, Penal Reform International (2023) noted that early release mechanisms improve correctional efficiency while protecting detainees' legal rights. The International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) further emphasized that prompt case processing contributes to more humane and efficient detention management.

Among the five dimensions, living conditions and jail congestion obtained the lowest mean, although it was still interpreted as fully implemented ($M = 4.69$, $SD = 0.27$). The highest-rated indicator was "Health and sanitation conditions improved due to reduced congestion" ($M = 4.83$, $SD = 0.37$), while "My living space improved due

to decongestion measures" received the lowest rating ($M = 4.60$, $SD = 0.54$). These findings suggest that respondents perceived noticeable improvements in environmental health, sanitation, and safety resulting from decongestion efforts, although improvements in physical living space may still be constrained by facility capacity. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2024) emphasized that reducing overcrowding improves sanitation, health services, and overall detention conditions. Likewise, Penal Reform International (2024) reported that decongestion initiatives positively influence inmates' safety, health, and quality of life. The International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) similarly observed that alleviating overcrowding is fundamental to maintaining humane living conditions and protecting detainees' well-being.

Level of Jail Management Efficiency

Table 3. Level of Jail Management Efficiency.

Statements	Mean	SD	Interpretation
1. The jail personnel efficiently maintain peace and order within the facility.	5.00	0.00	Highly Efficient
2. The rules and regulations are implemented fairly and equally for all.	4.97	0.16	Highly Efficient
3. The requests and concerns of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) are addressed promptly by the jail personnel.	4.95	0.21	Highly Efficient
4. The admission and release procedures for detainees are carried out efficiently.	4.98	0.14	Highly Efficient
5. The jail officers effectively manage conflicts or confrontations among PDLs.	4.95	0.22	Highly Efficient
6. Information regarding jail policies and procedures is clearly communicated to PDLs.	4.98	0.15	Highly Efficient
7. Security measures are effectively implemented to ensure the safety of everyone inside the facility.	5.00	0.00	Highly Efficient
8. The jail personnel respond promptly to emergencies and situations requiring immediate action.	5.00	0.00	Highly Efficient
9. The health needs and medical concerns of PDLs are attended to promptly and efficiently.	4.97	0.17	Highly Efficient
10. Rehabilitation and personal development programs are managed effectively.	4.97	0.18	Highly Efficient
11. The scheduling and conduct of family visitation are organized and efficient.	4.99	0.10	Highly Efficient
12. The distribution of food and other basic necessities is carried out properly and on time.	4.99	0.10	Highly Efficient
13. The jail personnel demonstrate professionalism in the performance of their duties.	4.74	0.46	Highly Efficient
14. Complaints and grievances of PDLs are handled fairly and efficiently.	4.85	0.36	Highly Efficient
15. Overall, the jail management operates efficiently.	4.98	0.14	Highly Efficient
As A Whole	4.95	0.04	Highly Efficient
Legend: (4.21-5.00) Highly Efficient; (3.41-4.20) Efficient; (2.61-3.40) Moderately Efficient; (1.81-2.60) Less Efficient; (1.00-1.80) Inefficient			

As a whole, jail management efficiency obtained a mean of 4.95 ($SD = 0.04$), which is interpreted as highly efficient. The very low standard deviation indicates a high level of agreement among the respondents regarding the effectiveness of jail operations. The result suggests that the detention facility consistently delivers essential custodial, administrative, and rehabilitative services in accordance with established correctional standards. Effective jail management is reflected in the orderly implementation of institutional policies, prompt service delivery, and the maintenance of a secure and humane correctional environment. These findings are consistent

with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022), which emphasized that efficient correctional management is characterized by sound governance, institutional accountability, and respect for the rights of persons deprived of liberty. Likewise, Penal Reform International (2024) reported that effective prison administration enhances operational performance while promoting safety, fairness, and rehabilitation. Similarly, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) stressed that efficient detention management strengthens institutional stability and improves the quality of services provided to detainees.

Among the indicators, the highest mean ratings were recorded for "The jail personnel efficiently maintain peace and order within the facility," "Security measures are effectively implemented to ensure the safety of everyone inside the facility," and "The jail personnel respond promptly to emergencies and situations requiring immediate action," each obtaining $M = 5.00$ ($SD = 0.00$), interpreted as highly efficient. These findings demonstrate the respondents' unanimous perception that the facility effectively maintains security, preserves institutional order, and responds promptly to critical situations. Such outcomes indicate the presence of well-established operational procedures and competent correctional personnel capable of ensuring a safe custodial environment. According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022), maintaining institutional security and emergency preparedness are fundamental indicators of effective correctional administration. Likewise, International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) emphasized that secure and orderly detention environments are essential for protecting the rights, safety, and well-being of both detainees and correctional staff. In support of these findings, Penal Reform International (2024) noted that robust security management contributes to operational efficiency while preserving humane conditions of confinement.

Several operational indicators also received exceptionally high ratings. These include family visitation and the distribution of food and basic necessities (both $M = 4.99$, $SD = 0.10$), as well as efficient admission and release procedures, clear communication of jail policies, and the overall efficiency of jail management (all $M = 4.98$, $SD = 0.14$ – 0.15). These results indicate that essential custodial and administrative functions are implemented systematically and consistently. Efficient service delivery in these areas enhances institutional transparency, promotes procedural fairness, and contributes to the welfare of persons deprived of liberty. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2021) emphasized that effective prison administration requires transparent procedures, timely service delivery, and accessible communication between correctional personnel and inmates. Similarly, Penal Reform International (2023) observed that efficient administrative systems strengthen institutional credibility and improve correctional outcomes. The International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) likewise recognized that organized custodial services, including visitation and essential provisions, contribute significantly to humane detention practices.

Other indicators, including fair implementation of rules and regulations ($M = 4.97$, $SD = 0.16$), prompt response to health needs ($M = 4.97$, $SD = 0.17$), effective management of rehabilitation programs ($M = 4.97$, $SD = 0.18$), prompt handling of PDL concerns ($M = 4.95$, $SD = 0.21$), and effective conflict management ($M = 4.95$, $SD = 0.22$), were likewise interpreted as highly efficient. These findings suggest that the facility maintains responsive governance by ensuring equitable treatment, accessible healthcare, effective rehabilitation, and timely resolution of inmate concerns. Such practices foster institutional trust and support a correctional environment conducive to rehabilitation and reintegration. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022) emphasized that responsive correctional institutions integrate healthcare, rehabilitation, and grievance mechanisms as core components of effective prison management. Likewise, Penal Reform International (2024) highlighted that equitable treatment and rehabilitation-centered approaches improve institutional performance and reduce management challenges. Supporting these observations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) underscored the importance of responsive health services and fair complaint mechanisms in promoting humane detention standards.

Although still interpreted as highly efficient, the indicators "Complaints and grievances of PDLs are handled fairly and efficiently" ($M = 4.85$, $SD = 0.36$) and "The jail personnel demonstrate professionalism in the performance of their duties" ($M = 4.74$, $SD = 0.46$) obtained the comparatively lowest mean scores. While these results reflect favorable assessments, they also suggest opportunities for continuous professional development and further enhancement of grievance management systems. Continuous training, ethical leadership, and transparent complaint-resolution mechanisms remain essential to sustaining public trust and institutional effectiveness. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2021) emphasized that professionalism and accountability among correctional personnel are indispensable to good prison governance. Similarly, Penal

Reform International (2024) reported that continuous staff development strengthens correctional performance and institutional legitimacy. The International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) likewise recommended strengthening staff capacity and complaint mechanisms to ensure fairness, accountability, and respect for detainees' rights.

Relationship Between Implementation of Decongestion Program and Jail Management Efficiency

Table 4. Relationship Between Implementation of Decongestion Program and Jail Management Efficiency.

Variable	Test Statistics (r_s)	p-value	Decision for H_0	Interpretation
Implementation of Decongestion Program vs. Jail Management Efficiency	0.116*	0.045	Reject H_0	Significant

As presented in Table 4, the analysis using Spearman's rank-order correlation revealed a weak positive but statistically significant relationship between the two variables ($r_s = 0.116$, $p = .045$). Since the obtained p-value (.045) is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected. This indicates that the implementation of the decongestion program is significantly associated with jail management efficiency.

Although the correlation coefficient reflects only a weak association, the positive direction suggests that improvements in the implementation of decongestion initiatives are accompanied by corresponding improvements in jail management efficiency. This finding implies that interventions such as legal and paralegal assistance, case review and early release mechanisms, enhancement of living conditions, and rehabilitation services collectively contribute to more effective jail operations. However, the relatively low correlation also indicates that jail management efficiency is influenced by other organizational and operational factors, including leadership, personnel competence, resource availability, institutional policies, and administrative capacity.

The result is consistent with the findings of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2024), which emphasized that reducing jail overcrowding enhances institutional management by improving service delivery, strengthening security, and enabling correctional personnel to perform their duties more effectively. Similarly, Penal Reform International (2024) reported that prison decongestion initiatives contribute to more efficient correctional administration by facilitating better allocation of resources, improving inmate supervision, and promoting humane detention conditions. In the Philippine context, the International Committee of the Red Cross (2025) likewise observed that efforts to reduce congestion improve detention management by creating safer environments, enhancing access to health and rehabilitation services, and strengthening institutional capacity to respond to the needs of persons deprived of liberty. Collectively, these findings support the present study by demonstrating that while decongestion programs alone do not entirely determine jail management efficiency, their effective implementation constitutes a significant component of sound correctional administration.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were formulated:

Majority of the respondents are middle-aged adults, married, and confined for at least 5 years in the detention facility.

The decongestion program was comprehensively and effectively implemented across its major components, reflecting the jail facility's commitment to legal assistance, case processing, rehabilitation, humane living conditions, and the protection of the rights and welfare of Persons Deprived of Liberty. Jail management was found to be highly efficient, demonstrating the facility's capacity to maintain security, deliver essential services, and administer correctional operations effectively while supporting the welfare of Persons Deprived of Liberty.

The implementation of the decongestion program was significantly associated with jail management efficiency, indicating that effective decongestion initiatives contribute to improved institutional management.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The researcher offers her deepest gratitude to Heavenly Father, the Almighty God, for providing the wisdom, strength, courage, guidance, and countless blessings that enabled her to complete this research successfully.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the research adviser and language critic, panel of jurors, statistician, colleagues, friends, and family for their valuable guidance, constructive suggestions, encouragement, and steadfast support throughout the research process.

The researcher also gratefully acknowledges the research participants and partner institutions for their cooperation, trust, and willingness to participate in the study. Their contributions, experiences, and insights were invaluable to the completion of this research.

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