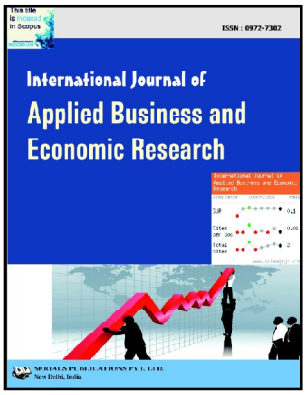

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Measurement of Drug-abuse Inmates' Prison Climate: Confirmatory Factor Analysis

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Abstract: Correctional or rehabilitation programmes have better effects on offenders in prisons that have a positive social climate. Different aspects of prison environment may have different impacts on different groups of inmates. This study was carried out to identify the underlying factors manifesting prison climates to gain humanitarian insights in designing and executing effective rehabilitation programmes among drug-abuse inmates. Data were collected using self- administered questionnaires. A total of 376 drug-abuse inmates were involved in this study. The respondents were selected using a two-step sampling technique. An area sampling technique was performed followed by a simple random sampling. Findings of this study, using a confirmatory factor analysis, supplement the literature examining the underlying specific factors manifesting the latent constructs of prison climate. The study suggested that Reintegration, Activities, and Right and rules were aspects of drug-abuse prison climate which require emphasis to enhance the effectiveness of prison rehabilitation programmes.

Keywords: prison climate, drug-abuse inmate, Confirmatory Factor Analysis, measurement model

INTRODUCTION

In Malaysia, the number of the prison population, including pre-trial detainees and remand prisoners, has been on an increasing trend since 2012 and does not show any sign of declining. In 2016, it was reported that the number increased to 51,602 from 36,608 in 2012, representing an increase of almost 41 per cent (World Prison Brief Data, 2017) as illustrated in Figure 1. The situation creates an underlying central problem to the prison management as a result of lack of control over the increasing number of inmates that caused overcrowding in Malaysian prisons (Omar, 2001). Figure 2 illustrates that the prison population exceeded the prison capacity in 2015. Moreover, Omar (2001) also noted that one of the reasons that contributed to the overcrowding in the prison was due to the increase of drug-related offenses and there

was an incredible increase in the number of drug-abuse inmates (130%) in 2015. In many countries, individuals charged with or convicted for drug-prohibition related offences represent a large group of people in prison, either awaiting trial or serving sentences (Allen *et al.,* 2015).

Similarly, the same circumstance ensued in Malaysia where it has been reported that almost 60% of inmates in Malaysian prisons were charged for various drug-abuse offenses (Mat Ali *et al.,* 2016). Drug abuse seemed to be a social and economic predicament and the Malaysian government declared a "war on drugs" in 1993. The initiative resulted in the prosecution of drug offences with lengthy sentences for those who used and possessed drugs. The death penalty is mandatory to drugs traffickers under the current law of Malaysia. Despite such punitive penalties for those who were caught, drug-abuse continues to be a major problem in Malaysia (Mohamad *et al.,* 2016).

Prisons are under the management of an authorised group of personnel who cannot choose their clients and have no power to release them until they have completed their penalty period. They look after a group of individuals who have failed society because of their poor life decisions or for whatever reasons that they did not abide the current laws. They were sentenced to serve their punishment for crimes they committed or were awaiting trial. In most cases, they were forced inside and prevented to leave the prison until they fulfilled their term of punishment. Their life in prison is governed by a set of prescribed rules and regulations, whilst their movements are tightly controlled and monitored. The prisoners are legally held, not captured voluntarily, leading to most of them experiencing an unhappy life situation that has a corresponding influence on their behaviour. For example, there were instances where inmates planned and attempted escapes from the prison. There were other reported cases of inmates' self-harming, fighting, or committing drug use during their incarceration.

One of the core roles of prison management is to manage inmates' behaviour to avoid incidents of violence, vandalism, unsanitary conditions and the like. Most of the time, the prisons' unconducive

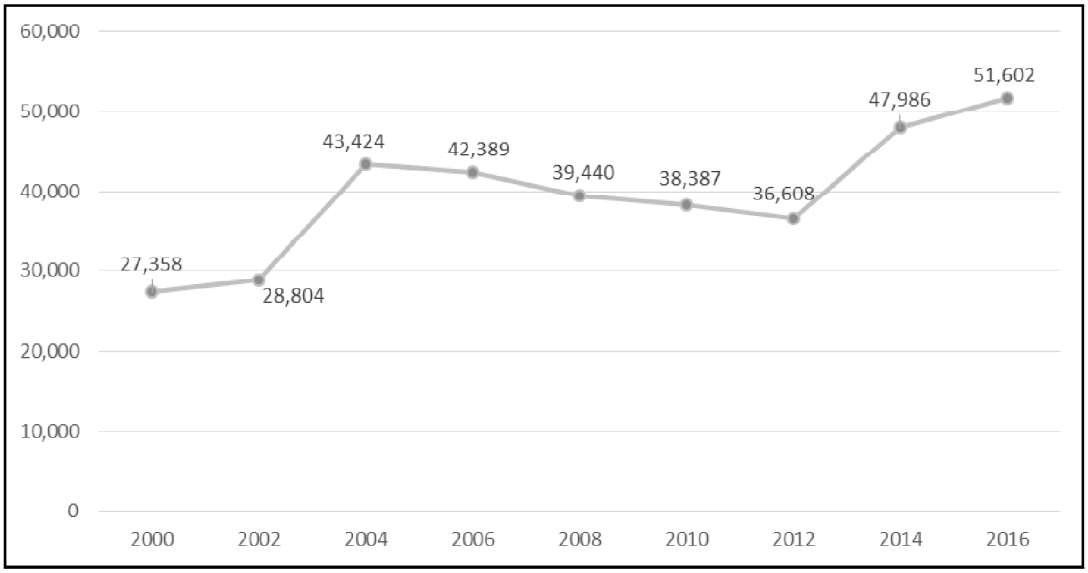

Figure 1: Total Prison Population in Malaysia 2000-2016

Source: World Prison Brief Data, Institute for Criminal Policy Research (2017)

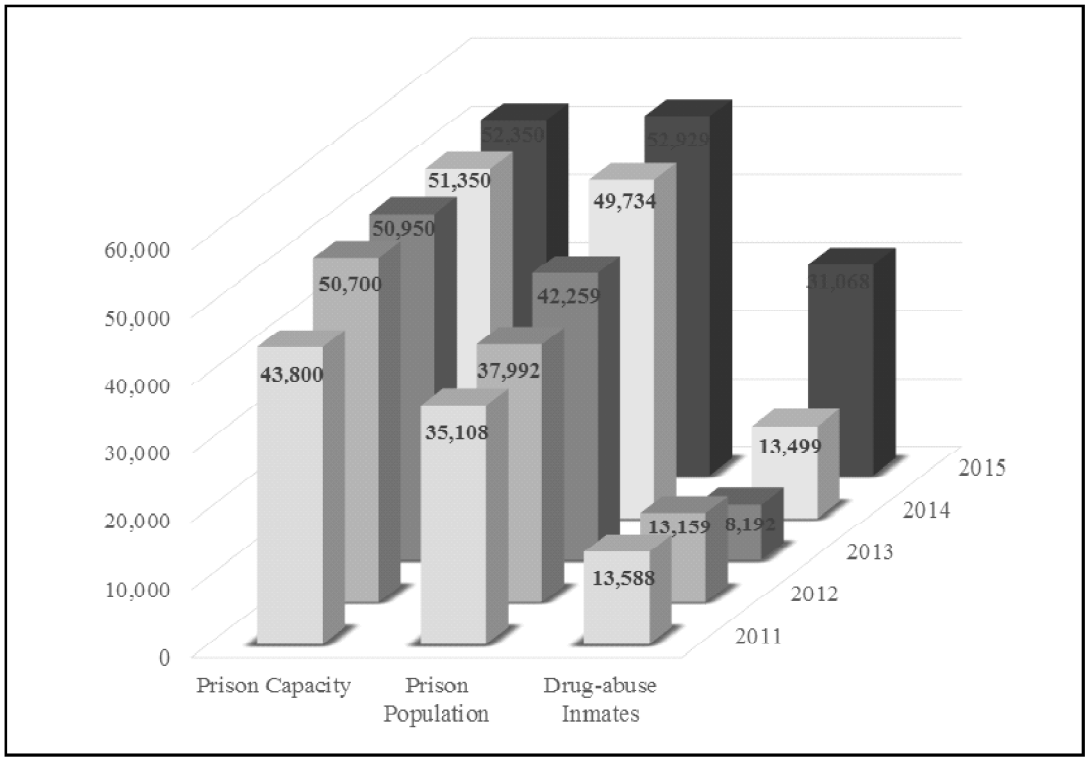

Figure 2: Prison Capacity, Prison Population and Drug-abuse Inmates

Source: Maklumat Dadah 2015, National Anti-Drugs Agency (2016)

conditions frequently do not facilitate the prisoners' process of rehabilitation. In some cases, poor and unsanitary detention conditions in prisons are likely to impact the prisoners' health (Hayton, 2007). It was noted by Molleman & Van der Broek (2014) that inmate's negative perceptions of prison conditions can lead to disorderly situations. The situation warrants the prison management to foster social ties among inmates to reduce strain during and after incarceration (Adams, 1992), including establishing social bonding with the prison staff. This is to help offenders coping with the stigma of criminal convictions and imprisonment (Behrens, 2004). An appropriate prison environment is regarded as providing the essential assistance to facilitate inmates' positive internal change, behavioural change and personal growth (Lutze, 1998).

Recently, most prisons adopted more of a correctional rather than a penal approach in treating offenders. Similarly, prisons in Malaysia adopted a similar approach on the premise that such treatment would prepare offenders to return to the community; became good and productive citizens, achieve personal growth, leading a normal happy life. Whilst imprisoned, prisoners were given opportunities to be equipped with certain skills that would be essential for them to attain a productive mind-set and positive behaviour so that they can successfully adapt and fit-in their communities upon release from prison. In addition, initiatives were undertaken to prevent prisoners from engulfing in a new "social prison" and reoffending. Nevertheless, in order to ensure the success of the correctional programmes, it is utmost important for the prison management to ascertain what aspects of prison climate would "work" for the drug-abuse inmates from the perceptions of the offenders.

The operationalization of organizational climate, which in this case is prisons' climate, received limited attention in the empirical literature (Lugo, 2016). Advancing the understanding of prison climate is central in gaining insights pertaining to inmates' experience whilst imprisoned and post imprisonment (Ross et al., 2008). The initiative perhaps would enlighten the prison management on aspects of humanism. Therefore, they could have better insights pertaining to the type of prison climate that would be conducive to offenders which facilitate the management of positive change in the prisoner's attitude and behaviour effectively. This corresponds to Harding (2014) who proposed that correctional or rehabilitation programmes have better effects on offenders in prisons that have a positive climate than those delivered in a negative climate. In addition, better understanding of the prison climate from the perspective of offenders would assist the prison management in designing appropriate correctional or rehabilitation educational training programmes meeting the expectation of the offenders.

Focusing on studying prison climate would promote understanding of factors conducive in reducing institutional misconduct, staff and inmates stress that tend to make the prison experience less negative, especially for prisoners. More importantly, studies concerning the measurement of this prison climate are necessary (Lugo, 2016) because wrong measurement of prison climate would lead to suggesting wrong correctional solutions. Thus, it is crucial to have a validated prison climate measurement tool to aid evaluating the different aspects of prison climate from the perceptions of drug-abuse inmates. The step to have a specific validated measurement tool measuring drug-abuse inmates' prison climate was founded on the assumption that different groups of inmates have different sets of environment requirements. Against the above setting, this research was conducted to develop a reliable and validated tool for measuring prison climate, particularly in the context of the Malaysian drug-abuse inmates. This was to ensure that the measurement would elicit aspects of prison climate that contributed to better effects on drug-abuse offenders' positive internal change, behavioural change and personal growth.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The underlying theory supporting most studies on prison climate was grounded on Murray's (1938) Environmental Press theory postulating that environmental condition, interplayed with individual characteristics, would inûuence individuals' current and future behaviour. In other words, prison climate influenced the offenders' behaviours whilst in prison and after release from the prison. The term prison climate, synonymously used with prison environment, is an issue of importance for both inmates and prison management because it influenced the prisons' correctional and rehabilitation philosophy that is to reduce recidivism and promote offenders leading normal life in their community after release from prison. It was noted that some researchers defined prison climate as prison condition (Molleman & van der Broek, 2014), prison social climate (Day, Casey, Vess & Huisy, 2011) and prison environment (Wright, 1993; Toch, 1977).

Prison climate was conceptualised by Ross *et al.,* (2008) as the social, emotional, organizational and physical characteristics of a correctional institution as perceived by inmates and staff. Social characteristic reflects the aspect of prison's environment that promotes social interactions among inmates and member of the prison staff. Emotional aspect concerns the relationships and the rapport inmates established with the prison's staff along with relations with other inmates (Bradford, 2006). Organizational climate refers to the attributes of the institution, including resources, leadership, and management practices and policies

that became a key component in prison operations which empower or prevent prison's staff performing their designated job (Lugo, 2016). The physical condition of a prison includes its location and the design of the prison to accommodate the correctional philosophy. There were debate on the physical conditions of prisons. Some suggested that prison's condition should be unpleasant which implies that it is not a place to remain in order to reduce recidivism and overcrowding. However, others were against the idea believing that unpleasant punitive conditions would deter effective correctional treatment and most likely result in corresponding negative effects on offenders' current and future behaviour. The study by Bierie (2012) overrides the idea of unpleasant prison physical condition. He proved that poor prison's physical condition significantly had corresponding higher rates of serious violence.

This research adopted a general definition of prison climate proposed by Wright (1993) as a set of characteristics that distinguished the organization from other organizations was relative enduring and influenced the behaviour of participants in the organization that include both the offenders and the staff members of the prison. Basically, prison climate reflects an individual's perception of the prison's unique characteristics and features, that include the social, emotional, organizational and physical aspects, to which the person belongs and became a major force in influencing their behaviour. Molleman & Leeuw (2012) conducted a study among inmates and correctional staff in the Dutch prison system to examine the impact of staff orientation and working conditions on perceived prison circumstances of inmates. Their work suggested that inmates in housing units where the orientation of staff towards inmates is relatively supportive perceived their circumstances as more positive. The staff's work condition affected the way they treated inmates which in turn affected the inmates' perceptions of prison environment. Moreover, Molleman & Leeuw (2012) noted that many scholars had emphasised the direct link between the prison climate and the inmates' behaviour whilst in prison and after release. Offenders to a certain degree behaved in a manner responding to their experiences in the prison.

Toch (1977) proposed eight dimensions of prison climate: privacy, safety, structure, support, emotional feedback, social stimulation, activity, and freedom. Wright (1985) developed the Prison Environment Inventory (PEI) based on the dimension proposed by Toch (1977) since these dimensions globally reflected several aspects of concerns for inmates universally. Lutze (1998) noted that these attributes, defined by Toch (1977) and operationalized by Wright (1985), were discovered to be commonly discussed in prisons' studies. Recently, Molleman & van der Broek (2014) proposed eight dimensions of prison environment which are similar to those of Toch (1977): security, rights and rules, rule enforcement, contact with the outside world, day programme, autonomy, reintegration and expectations for the future. Table 1 illustrated the similarities and differences of prison dimensions as postulated by Toch (1977) and Molleman & van der Broek (2014).

3. METHOD

3.1. Survey Instrument

The measurement of prison social climate was adopted from the study of Molleman & van der Broek (2014). The instrument consists of 58 items rated on 10-point Likert-type scales, ranging from 1 = strongly do not agree to 10 = strongly agree. The data collected in the pilot study was subjected to an Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) and the findings of the analysis suggested the measurement instrument achieved acceptable reliability (Cronbach's alpha > 0.70) and was used in the actual survey.

Table 1
Toch (1977) and Molleman & van der Broek (2014) dimensions of prison climate

Dimension		*Definition*
Molleman & van der Broek (2014)	*Toch (1977)*	
Day programme	Activities	Refers to offenders' need for maximizing the opportunity to be occupied and to fill-up time; a need for distraction from the routine life in prison.
Right & rule	Structure	Refers to the environment stability and predictability. Offenders' preference for consistency, clear rules, orderly and scheduled events.
Rule enforcement		
Reintegration	Support	Reflects the offenders' requirements for reliable assistance from persons, physical facilities and services that enable self-advancement and self-improvement.
	Social Stimulation	Related to offenders needs for congeniality, opportunities for social interaction, companionship, and sociability.
Autonomy	Freedom	Reflected offenders' needs for minimal restriction, maximum opportunity to govern one's own conduct.
	Privacy	Concern about social and physical over-stimulation; a preference for isolation, peace and quiet, and absence of environment irritants, such as noise and crowding.
	Emotional Feedback	Concern about being loved, appreciated, and cared for; a desire for inmate relationships that provide emotional sustenance and empathy.
Security	Safety	Concern about physical safety; a preference for social and physical setting that provide protection and that minimize the chances of being attacked.
Expectations for the future	Not applicable	Refers to offenders' expectation of finding a job and not reoffend after detention, making a new start and bright future after detention.
Contact with the outside world	Not applicable	Offenders' concerns about the possibilities of maintaining contact with their lawyers, having opportunities and sufficient privacy during telephone conversations and visiting hours, and maintain contact with family and partner/friends.

Source: Gransky, L., & Cowles, E. L. (1999). Pg.168. An Evaluation of the Illinois Dept. of Corrections' Gang-Free Environment Program.

3.2. Data collection method

The target population for the current study were drug-abuse inmates in the Peninsular Malaysia Prisons. Self-administered survey questionnaires were distributed by trained enumerators among drug-abuse inmates sentenced to imprisonment in the nine prisons approved by prison management located in the north, south, and central regions of Peninsular Malaysia. A total of 376 respondents were drawn using a simple random-sampling approach from a sampling frame of 1500 drug-abuse inmates in the selected nine prisons.

The selection criteria of the respondents were based on:

(i) Offenders charged under Malaysia Dangerous Drug Act 1952 (Revised 1980), Section 12(2). The penalty under this section is a fine of less than RM20,000.00 or less than 5 years imprisonment or both.

(ii) They were drug-abusers upon conviction.

3.3. Data analysis procedure

The data collected were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science Program (SPSS Version 16) and Analysis of Moment Structures (AMOS Version 18). SPSS was used to run descriptive analysis and exploratory factor analysis while AMOS was used to run confirmatory factor analysis in order to identify the underlying items manifesting the prison climate.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Profile of the Respondent

The respondents involved in the study were male drug-abuse inmates. Majority of the respondents (58.3%) were in the age group of 26 - 40 years old and completed high school education. Most of the respondents (66.2%) were self-employed and earning an average income of RM1000 to RM2000 per month (45.2%). They were catergorised in the bottom 40% population (B40) group (household income of less than RM3,860.00 per month). Majority of them were single (50.3%) and they indicated that the first time they got involved in drug-abuse incidents were when they were between the ages of 13 to 25 years old (75%). The majority of them were imprisoned for a period of 3 years of less (94%).

4.2. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

There are several requirements that need to be considered before further analysis of EFA could be conducted. First, the values of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO) should be greater than 0.50 (Hair *et al.,* 2010). Second, the Bartlett's Test of Sphericity should be large and statistically significant at $p < 0.05$ (Ho, 2006). Table 2 indicates that the constructs met the minimum requirements of KMO and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity as suggested by Hair *et al.,* (2010) and Ho (2006). In other words, those indicators suggest that the data were appropriate for EFA.

Table 2
KMO and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO)		*.902*
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	2449.535
	df	105
	Sig.	.000

Exploratory principal axis factoring (PAF) with varimax rotation was carried out to simplify a large number of items to a few representative factors or dimensions, in order to test the pattern of correlation among the items of variables, and to establish the goodness of measure for testing the hypotheses (Hair *et al.,* 2010; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). In this study, only factors with eigenvalues greater than 1 were used. Therefore all factors having eigenvalues less than 1 were considered insignificant and disregarded from the analysis. A low-loading variable factor reduction process was used to reduce the number of variables in the

initial scale to produce a more stable factor structure (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). Items having low loading less than 0.50, and cross-loaded were eliminated from the analysis to ensure each item is a pure measure of the respective factors. Table 3 illustrates the number of reduced items through this extraction process. Table 4 presents statistics on factor loading, eigenvalues and total variance explained for items retained in each construct. CFA was performed to test the validity and reliability of the instrument. Path analysis was conducted to test the hypotheses proposed in the study.

Table 3
Factor Retention Results from Exploratory Factor Analysis

Construct	*Initial Number of Items*	*Number of Items Dropped*	*Number of Items Retained*
Prison Climates	58	43	15

Table 4
Items Retained in Prison Climates Measurement

Items	*Loading*	*Eigen values*	*% of Variance*	*Cronbach's Alpha*
Activities		7.02	28.65	0.91
I am satisfied with the sports activities. (P30)	0.67			
I am satisfied with the library activities. (P31)	0.72			
I am satisfied with the work activities. (P32)	0.74			
I am satisfied with the education activities.(P33)	0.76			
I am satisfied with the creative activities. (P34)	0.82			
I am satisfied with the exercise activities. (P35).	0.78			
I am generally satisfied with the day programme. (P40)	0.68			
Rights and rules		2.45	21.77	0.88
I was informed of the house rules when I arrived here. (P4)	0.68			
I know what will happen if I break the house rules. (P5)	0.71			
I was informed of my rights when I arrived at this prison. (P6)	0.85			
I was informed of obligations when I arrived at this prison. (P7)	0.75			
The rights of inmates are clear. (P8)	0.67			
Reintegration		1.11	13.55	0.88
If inmates require additional care for their integration, the institution provides for this. (P12)	0.75			
If inmates require assistance for their integration, the institution provides for this. (P13)	0.85			
In this situation I am being prepared effectively for my return to society. (P14)	0.58			
Total Variance Explained			63.97%	

4.3. Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

Figure 3 illustrates the pooled measurement model for prison climates construct. The results indicated that factor loadings for every items (more than 0.71) and their respective variance explain (R^2), more than 0.5,

met the requirement as suggested by Hair *et al.,* (2010). However, values of normed x^2 (4.0400) and RMSEA (0.09) suggested that the Fitness Indexes do not meet the acceptable level of goodness-of-fit as recommended even though all factor loadings are above the threshold of 0.6. Thus, the Modification Indexes (MI) were applied to identify the correlated or redundant items and make an appropriate modification to the model in order to improve the fit. The process started by deleting one of the redundant items beginning with the correlated measurement error that has the highest MI value. The process of deleting items continued based on MI until the Fitness Indices achieved the acceptable required level. The number of deleted items should not be more than 20% of the total items in a model (Hair, Babin & Krey, 2017; Awang, 2015). Table 5 indicated the MI values for each pair of correlated errors.

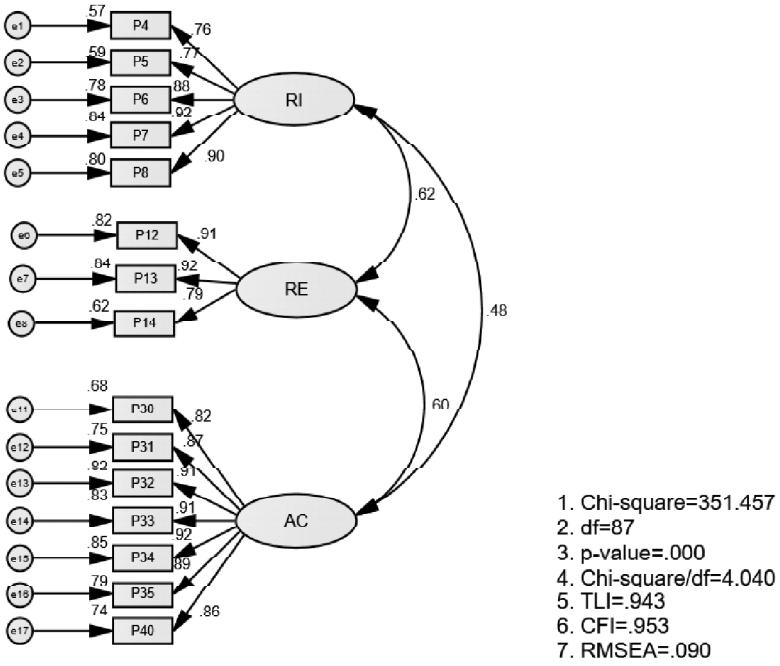

Figure 3: The Pooled Measurement Model for Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

Table 5
The Modifications Indices - the covariance between each pair of items

			M.I.	*Par Change*	*Notes*
e16	<—>	e17	30.367	.491	
e8	<—>	AC	14.219	.526	
e8	<—>	RE	17.370	-.474	
e8	<—>	RI	12.926	.364	
e14	<—>	e15	26.040	.346	
e14	<—>	e11	17.940	-.389	
e14	<—>	e13	10.734	.248	MI>15 indicates item P4 and P5 are redundant.
e1	<—>	e5	15.537	-.285	P4 was deleted.
e2	**<—>**	**e1**	**59.330**	**.565**	

In this case, MI value of correlated measurement error (59.330) between e2 (item P5) and e1 (item P4) is the highest and indicating that both items are redundant. In dealing with redundant items in the model, there are two choices i) delete one of the two redundant and run the new measurement model; ii) set these two correlated measurement errors of redundant items as a 'free parameter' and run the new measurement model. In this study, the redundant item with a lower item loading was deleted. Thus, item P4 was deleted and the new measurement model run again. Results in Figure 4 and 5 still indicated that the measurement model did not achieve the required level of goodness-of-fit indices. Table 6 and Table 7 indicated the respective redundant deleted items. The results in Figure 6 suggested that all the goodness-of-fit indices achieved the recommended required level. The analysis suggested that three items out of fifteen items were dropped (20% of the total items in a model) meeting the requirement of CFA.

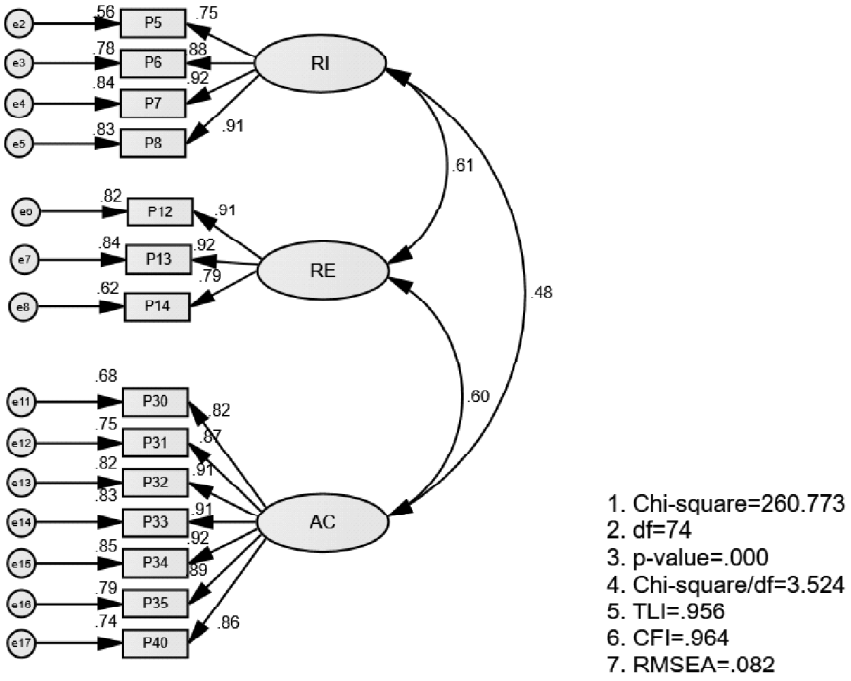

Figure 4: The Pooled Measurement Model for Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

Table 6
The Modifications Indices - the covariance between each pair of items

			M.I.	*Par Change*	*Note*
e16	**<—>**	**e17**	**30.435**	**.492**	MI>15 indicates item P35 and P40 are redundant. P40
e8	<—>	AC	13.949	.521	was deleted.
e8	<—>	RE	16.978	-.472	
e8	<—>	RI	12.519	.359	
e14	<—>	e15	26.032	.346	
e14	<—>	e11	17.948	-.389	
e14	<—>	e13	10.686	.247	

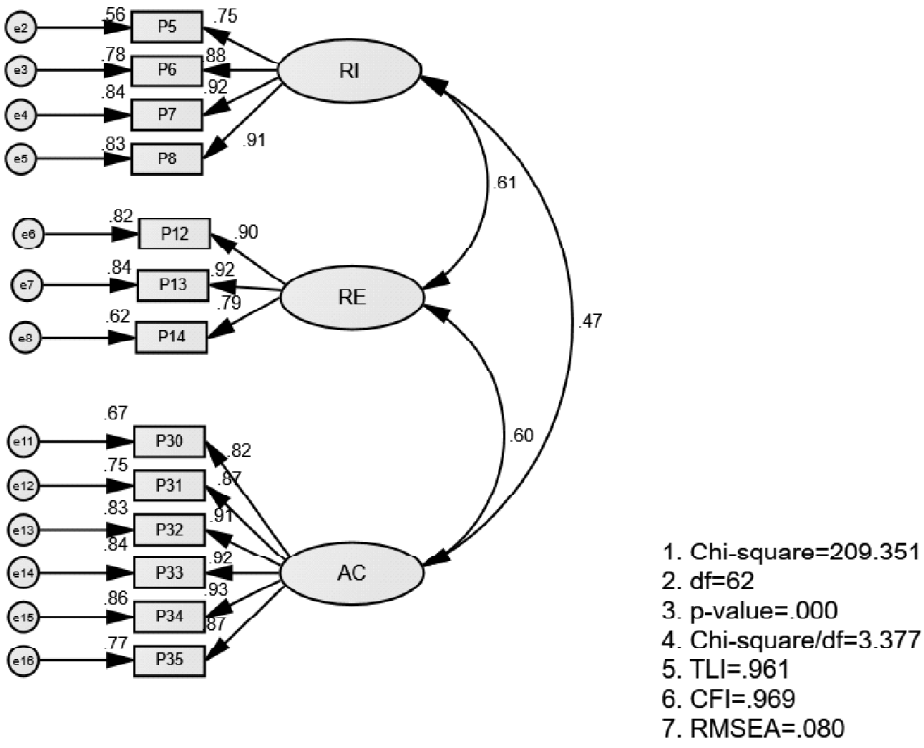

Figure 5: The Pooled Measurement Model for Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

Table 7
The Modifications Indices - the covariance between each pair of items

			M.I.	*Par Change*	
e8	<—>	AC	14.501	.539	
e8	<—>	RE	17.149	-.476	
e8	<—>	RI	12.704	.362	
e11	<—>	e16	11.957	.367	
e13	<—>	e15	10.292	-.223	
e14	**<—>**	**e15**	**18.107**	**.282**	MI>15 indicates item P33 and P34 are redundant. P33 was deleted.
e14	<—>	e11	17.449	-.387	

The Second Order CFA for Prison Climate Model

The second order CFA was performed to confirm that prison climate consists of three underlying sub-constructs with their respective measuring items as illustrated in Figure 7. The validity and reliability of the model achieved the accepted level as illustrated in Table 8. Table 9 illustrates that the model has achieved the required level of discriminant validity. Table 10 shows that the effect of prison climate (main construct) on all sub-constructs are significant since their respective p-value is lower than 0.001.

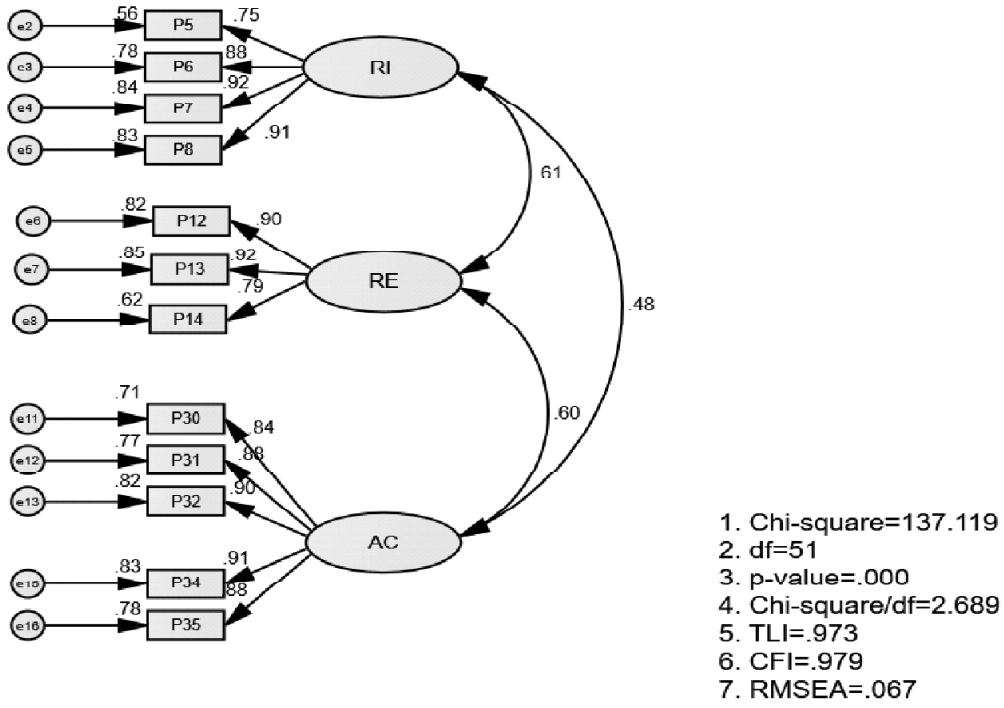

Figure 6: The Pooled Measurement Model for Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

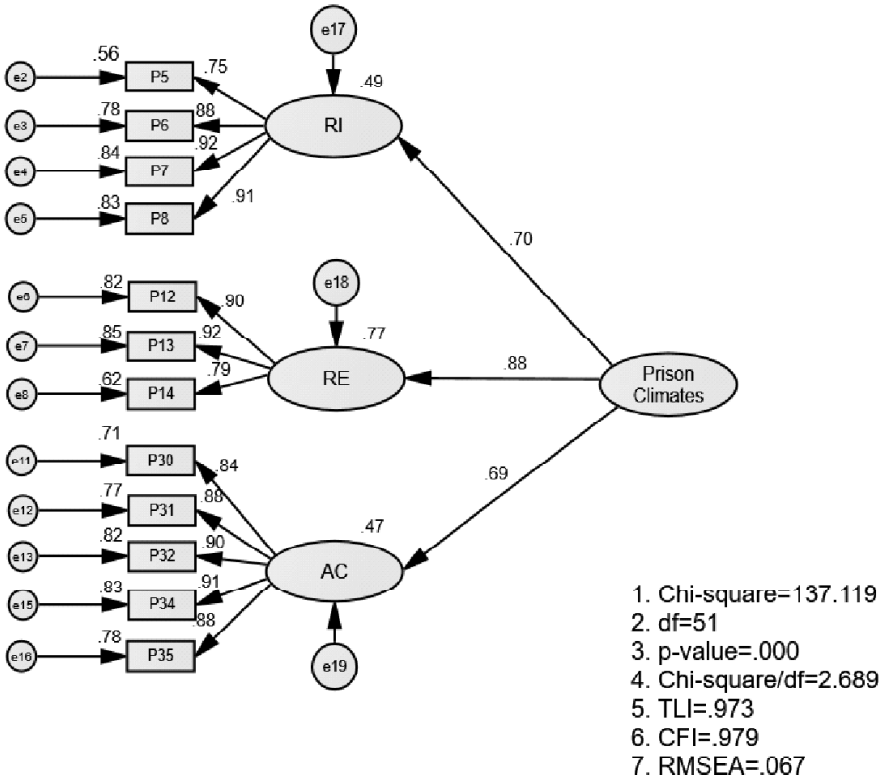

Figure 7: The Measurement Model for Prison Climates Model

Table 8
The Reliability and Validity of the Prison Climates Construct

Construct	*Items*	*Loading*	*AVE*	*CR*
Prison Climates	Activities (AC)	0.69	0.58	0.80
	Rules (RI)	0.70		
	Reintegration (RE)	0.88		
Activities (AC)	I am satisfied with the sports activities. (P30)	0.84	0.78	0.95
	I am satisfied with the library activities. (P31)	0.88		
	I am satisfied with the work activities. (P32)	0.90		
	I am satisfied with the creative activities. (P34)	0.91		
	I am satisfied with the exercise activities. (P35).	0.88		
Rights and rules (RI)	I know what will happen if I break the house rules. (P5)	0.75	0.75	0.92
	I was informed of my rights when I arrived at this prison. (P6)	0.88		
	I was informed of obligations when I arrived at this prison. (P7)	0.92		
	The rights of inmates are clear. (P8)	0.91		
Reintegration (RE)	If inmates require additional care for their integration, the institution provides for this. (P12)	0.90	0.76	0.90
	If inmates require assistance for their integration, the institution provides for this. (P13)	0.92		
	In this situation I am being prepared effectively for my return to society. (P14)	0.79		

Table 9
The Discriminant Validity Index Summary

Construct	*Rules (RI)*	*Reintegration (RE)*	*Activities (AC)*
Right and rules (RI)	**0.87**		
Reintegration (RE)	0.61	**0.87**	
Activities (AC)	0.48	0.61	**0.88**

Table 10
The Regression Path Coefficient and its Significance for Prison Climates Model

Construct	*Path*	*Construct*	*Estimate*	*S.E.*	*C.R.*	*P*	*Result*
Activities (AC)	<—-	Prison Climates	0.892	.091	9.806	***	Significant
Rights and rules (RI)	<—-	Prison Climates	0.651	.066	9.885	***	Significant
Reintegration RE	<—-	Prison Climates	1.000		Reference point		

4.3. Assessment of Data Normality

The data normality was ascertained after the measurement model achieved the acceptable level of goodness-of-fit. Skewness and kurtosis were used as the criteria to assess the data normality. The measure of skewness should fall within the range of -3.0 to 3.0 (Kline, 2005) to indicate that the data is normally distributed. In addition, the value of multivariate kurtosis should be lower than 50.0 to assume that the multivariate normality is achieved (Awang, 2012). The skewness values for all the variables in the study, ranging from -1.680 to 0.125, are within the range of acceptable values. Therefore, the data normality is assumed.

5. DISCUSSIONS

The study uncovered that three out of eight underlying factors of prison climate proposed by Molleman & van der Broek (2014) were significant in the context of Malaysian drug-abuse inmates. These dimension were identified as Reintegration, Activities, and Right and rules, arranged according to their importance. Reintegration reflected the inmates' requirements for additional care and assistance to make them become prepared effectively for their safe returns to the society. The ultimate goal of correctional initiatives of prison treatment is offenders' successful reintegration into the community and reduced relapse. Most prisoners who have spent several years of their life incarcerated experienced a mixed feeling of overwhelming joy and anxiety. Some prisoners may find it difficult to find a place in a society after their release probably due to the negative perceptions of the society towards drug-abuse ex-prisoners. Drug-abuse inmates in the Malaysian prisons indicated reintegration as the top in their "wish list" so that they are capable of re-entering the society successfully and safely. Such programmes that are helpful to get inmates' lives back on tract are critical and should be made available starting from the beginning of their incarceration to the time of their release. Notably, it is also helpful to provide counselling services to ex-prisoners where they could get help in cases when they could not cope-up with their lives after their release.

Over long periods, life in prisons can become routine. Offenders expect activities that would reduce the impact of the prison's daily routine life which could relief them from the monotony. Thus, the second factor on the "wish list" of drug-abuse inmates is Activities. In this particular case, these activities include sports (physical recreation), library, work (vocational and education training courses), creative (playing in-door games or watching movies/television) and exercise activities. In addition, different activities organised by the prison's management could help inmates to reduce stress and tensions between inmates and staff. Moreover, Brayshaw argued (as cited in Frey & Delaney, 1996) that prison activities were perceived as a media for reducing recidivism by providing prisoners with transferable skills and lifestyles that could enhanced their self-esteem.

Prison's rules were outlined not only to govern offenders' actions in order to ensure a safe and secure prison environment, but also to explain inmates' rights and fair treatment during their incarceration. Thus, the third important aspect of prison climate from the perceptions of drug-abuse inmates in the Malaysian prison is right and rules. It refers to the inmates' requirements to be clearly informed of their rights and obligations whilst under imprisonment. In addition, it is important for them to know the consequences if they break the prison's rules. The finding suggested that drug-abuse inmates wanted to avoid trouble and cared for their safe custody, fair treatment and decent living conditions during their incarceration.

Another insightful finding of the study is that it supported the need for a reliable and validated measurement of prison climate for different group of inmates. Different groups of inmates may have a different set of prison climate needs during prison. The findings of the study empirically suggested that, in order to perform effective rehabilitation programmes for drug-abuse inmates in the Malaysian prison, it is important to make the prison climate meet the expectation of the inmates for Reintegration, Activities and Rights and rules as explained in the above.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Understanding the mechanisms of prison climate that promote the integrity of prison rehabilitation programmes not only can help identify factors that would help correctional staff effectively do their job but will also facilitate better treatment outcomes among inmates. The study uncovered the underlying factors measuring prison climate among drug-abuse inmates in Malaysia. In the Malaysian context, the findings of this study affirmed that prison climate among drug-abuse inmates was demonstrated by three underlying factors labelled as Reintegration, Activities and Rights and rules.

Reintegration is concerned with congeniality, and a preference for settings that provide an opportunity for social interaction, companionship, and sociability. Most prisoners are aware of the threat of victimization, especially in overcrowded prisons. Therefore, rules and regulation would be important to inmates to ensure their safety whilst under imprisonment. Rules and rights describes the prison rules and inmates' rights. Activities is concerned about inmates' need for the opportunity to be occupied and distracted from monotony that could help inmates to reduce stress and tensions.

The study suggested that these factors were aspects of prison climate that require emphasis in drug-abuse inmate programmes to ensure successfulness of the rehabilitation programme. The inclusion of these factors would ensure positives outcomes of drug-abuse inmate rehabilitation programme. The study proposed that the prison administrative or any penitentiary body should focus on these aspects of prison climate. This is to ensure that the development programmes of rehabilitative are effective in addressing the specific needs of this segment of inmates group. Effective prison climate rehabilitation could enhance inmates' wellbeing and reduce re-offending.

Some limitations of the study need to be mentioned. First, the assessment of prison climate was based on the perspective of the Drug-abuse inmate in Malaysia. The generalisation of the study to other type of inmate should be done with caution because perceptions of inmates may vary among different groups of prisoners. Future research should replicate similar study expanding to the other groups of inmates in Malaysia prisons. Second, the respondents were selected in peninsular Malaysia prisons, so the findings of the study only represent this group climate. Acknowledging that perceptions of inmates may vary between prisons, future studies should utilise data from prisons located in East Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak) to validate the predictive directionality of variables in the model. Third, the results of the study were based on a cross-sectional data set which has the limitation of causality. Future research should adopt a longitudinal research design to overcome the problem of causality.

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