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**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

THE ROLE OF THE PRISON LIBRARY IN THE REFORMATION AND REHABILITATION  
PROCESS: A CASE OF MUTIMUREFU PRISON IN MASVINGO

BY

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## **ABSTRACT**

Available literature suggest that there are high incidences of offenders returning in Zimbabwe jails. This would suggest that available methods of incarceration were not working or that prisoners were not being properly rehabilitated. This prompted the researcher to carry out this study to assess the role of a prison library in the inmates' rehabilitation and reformation process. Mutimurefu prison was chosen as the area of study. A total of 30 prison guards as well as 50 inmates were selected as a sample of the study. The Librarian and the Officer-in-Charge were interviewed as part of the data gathering process. The case study was adopted as a methodology for gathering data. The data was gathered by way of questionnaires, interviews and participant observation whereby the researcher played the role of the prisoner or prison guard. Results of the study indicated that a number of participants were using the library, but felt that it was lacking in most areas resulting in most of the information needs of users being unmet. It was concluded that incarcerated persons had a large number of unmet needs which translated into a high demand for information, learning materials and self improvement resources. The library, in cooperation with other prison programmes, could play a vital role in meeting these needs. It was also recommended that there should be less censorship of materials particularly current information from newspapers which inmates needed to keep up to date on current affairs.