TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS ON EDUCATION OF INMATES IN SPANISH PRISONS



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SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE INSTITUCIONES PENITENCIARIAS

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN PRISON

Relevant part of the penitentiary treatment

Closely linked to intervention delivered by psychologists and rest of "treatment staff"

Existence of teachers and "education department"

Young inmates

Inmates with no reading or writing acquired

Foreign inmates with no domain of spanish

Vulnerable groups

EDUCATION PROVIDED IN PRISON

FORMAL/OFFICIAL EDUCATION

- Literacy (priority).
- Secondary studies.
- High school studies (pre-university).
- University studies (National University of Distance Education)
- Spanish for foreign inmates.
- Foreign languages education.

OTHER STUDIES

- Mentor Classroom.
- Non oficial language courses.
- Preparation for University (preuniversity courses).
- Professional training courses.



DIGITAL ADMINISTRATION

- Intended to replace traditional and usual working methods.
- Focused on the modernization of Public Administration.
- Aimed at citizens wherever they live in.
- It provides reliable services in which communication is more effective and possibilities are broadened.

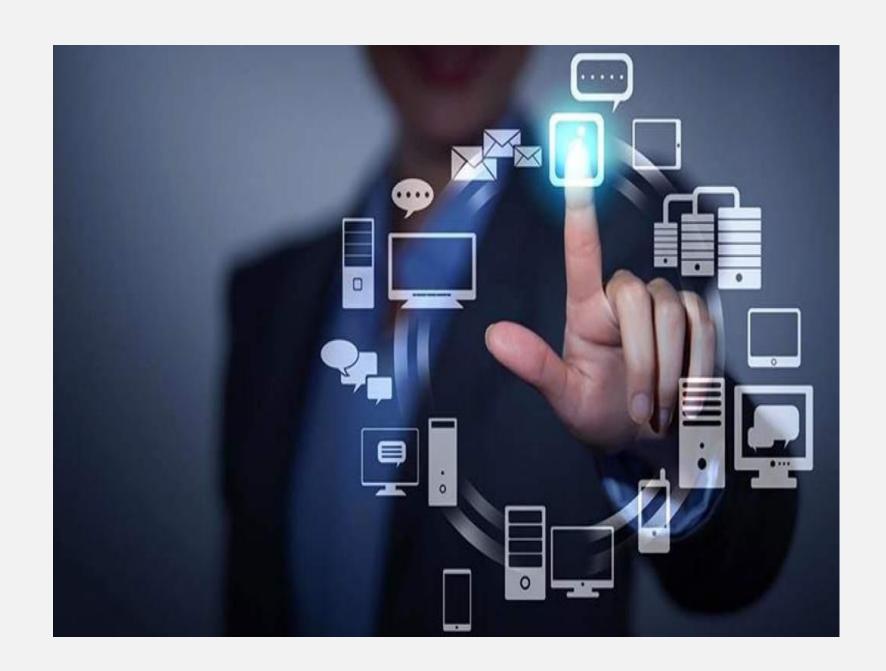
- Prisons are components of Public Administration.
- They are considered a public service to society.
- Prisons are aimed at promoting reintegration into society.
- Education is a key element of the rehabilitation process.



Traditional education



New developments



INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS ON EDUCATION FROM A TECHNOLOGICAL STANDPOINT



E-LEARNING PLATFORMS

- Available in most Spanish prisons under the control and monitoring of prison staff.
- They support and update traditional educational methodology.

- To obtain driving license inside prison (no practical part of the process).
- Driving education campaigns for sentenced for crimes against road safety.
- Psycho-educational programmes on the use of drugs.



DRIVING EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

- Campaigns delivered in most Spanish prisons and closely linked to the obtaining of driving license.
- Also linked to healthy life campaigns on education for relapse prevention and prevention from further drug-addiction problems.
- Use of specific software that keeps inmates motivated, by providing an alternative approach in line with modern technology.



UNIVERSITY STUDIES

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

National University of Distance Education



SOFTWARE PLATFORM "ALF"

- Connection to university intranet.
- Access to full bibliography online.
- Forums and chats not allowed.
- Delivered originally to university studies.



SOFTWARE PLATFORM "ALF"



New approach that enriches university studies.

It broadens educational resources for inmates.

It takes university studies in prison closer to ordinary studies outside prison.

Originally implemented in 17 prisons.

In 2015, it was extended to more prisons.

Available in 30 prisons, at the moment.

Recently, it has been put in place not only for university studies, but also for oficial studies in some southern prisons.

"MENTOR" CLASSROOM

- Available in some Spanish prisons to support oficial studies.
- Fully supported by the Ministry of Education and Professional Training.
- No need for inmates to be registered at university studies.
- It is aimed at facilitating online education by providing computers, internet, software and diverse materials.



An administrator/tutor is required.

"MENTOR" CLASSROOM



It is aimed at inmates who wish to update from an educational standpoint, regardless of their level of qualification or profesional degree.

 It allows inmates to organise their educational agenda and pace of work.

- It matches individual needs, as the inmate is allowed to decide his/her goals.
- Technological issues and subjects to be studied are specifically supported by "Mentor Classroom".

PILOT PROGRAMME: ONLINE CONNECTION WITH INTRANET EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS FOR OFFICIAL STUDIES



- Each Spanish region has its own competences in educational issues. Thus, for such purpose, each prison depends on regional educational services concerning contents and methodology.
- This pilot programme intends to provide online connection with educational resources available for students outside prison, in the scope of each regional administration.
- It is aimed at official education (no university studies).
- Implemented in a few prisons so far with excellent results.

KEY POINTS

- Covid 19 situation has shown how relevant technological developments are, in order to overcome traditional educational practices.
- Digital administration needs to be extended to the prison context.
- Prison should not be excluded from digital and technological developments, as they offer a secure and structured setting.
- Education in prison, as it is now understood in modern countries, needs to incoporate innovations compatible with security.



A STEP FORWARD





MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- New developments in the prison context, are enhancing and broadening educational possibilities for inmates.
- Such technological developments, focused originally in security issues, have also proved their effectiveness when implemented on educational issues.
- Both university studies and official studies have benefited from these practices.
- No threats to security have been reported so far.
 - These developments are promoting chances for further re-integration into society, as they improve personal skills on the whole.



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THANK YOU!



