

# Correctional Programs in Reform and Rehabilitation Centers in the Southern Governorates of Palestine and Their Impact on the Level of Psychological and Social Adjustment from the Perspective of Recidivist Inmates

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## Abstract

**Objectives:** This study investigated the impact of rehabilitation programs on the psychological and social adaptation of recidivists in Palestine which was achieved by examining the level of implementation of rehabilitation programs and the psychological and social adaptation in different correction and rehabilitation centres.

**Methods:** A systematic research design was adopted to achieve the goal of objective normative inquiry. Data was collected through a questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive analysis and linear regression. This encompassed measuring correctional program effectiveness and psychological-social compatibility among 237 recidivist inmates in the southern governorates, chosen through simple random sampling.

**Results:** The results of the study showed a high level of application of the correctional programs used from the point of view of the inmates of recidivism for crime, according to the relative weight of 73.6%. and social, by 12.3%, as well as a significant effect of the variable of age and the variable of educational level as extraneous variables on the relationship between the correctional programs scale and the psychological and social adjustment scale Psychological and social.

**Conclusions:** The study concluded the presence of a high level of implementation of rehabilitation programs as perceived by recidivists, while also indicating a low level of psychological and social compatibility among recidivists. The study further concluded a significant impact of rehabilitation programs on psychological and social compatibility, as well as the influence of age and educational level. However, the study found no significant impact of social status and the duration of punishment.

**Keywords:** Correctional programs, inmates of recidivism, social adjustment.

البرامج الإصلاحية في مراكز الإصلاح والتأهيل بمحافظات جنوب فلسطين و أثرها في مستوى التكيف النفسي والاجتماعي من وجهة نظر نزلاء العود للجريمة  
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## ملخص

الأهداف: تبحث هذه الدراسة في تأثير البرامج الإصلاحية في التكيف النفسي والاجتماعي لنزلاء العود إلى الجريمة في فلسطين. ويجري ذلك من خلال دراسة مستوى تنفيذ البرامج الإصلاحية والتكيف النفسي والاجتماعي في مختلف مراكز الإصلاح والتأهيل.

المنهجية: وقد جرى اعتماد تصميم البحث المنهجي لتحقيق هدف التحقيق المعباري الموضوعي. جرى جمع البيانات من خلال استبيان مصمم لتحقيق الهدف أعلاه وحللت باستخدام التحليل الوصفي واختبار الانحدار الخطي. ويشمل ذلك قياس مستوى البرامج الإصلاحية والتوافق النفسي والاجتماعي لـ 237 نزلاء من نزلاء العود إلى الجريمة في المحافظات الجنوبية. جرى اختيار عينة هذه الدراسة باستخدام عينة عشوائية بسيطة.

النتائج: أظهرت نتائج الدراسة وجود مستوى مرتفع من تطبيق البرامج الإصلاحية المستخدمة من وجهة نظر نزلاء العود للجريمة، حسب الوزن النسبي 73.6%، كما أظهرت النتائج تدني مستوى التوافق النفسي والاجتماعي لدى نزلاء العود للجريمة، بينما أظهرت نتائج الدراسة وجود تأثير معنوي للبرامج الإصلاحية في التوافق النفسي والاجتماعي، بمقدار 12.3%، وكذلك وجود تأثير معنوي لمتغير العمر ومتغير المستوى التعليمي كمتغيرات دخيلة في العلاقة بين مقياس البرامج الإصلاحية ومقياس التوافق النفسي والاجتماعي، في المقابل أظهرت النتائج عدم وجود تأثير معنوي لمتغير الحالة الاجتماعية ومدة العقوبة كمتغيرات دخيلة في العلاقة بين مقياس البرامج الإصلاحية ومقياس التوافق النفسي والاجتماعي.

الخلاصة: خلصت الدراسة إلى وجود مستوى مرتفع من تطبيق البرامج الإصلاحية من وجهة نظر نزلاء العود للجريمة، كما أظهرت انخفاض مستوى التوافق النفسي والاجتماعي لدى نزلاء العود للجريمة، بينما خلصت الدراسة إلى وجود تأثير معنوي للبرامج الإصلاحية في التوافق النفسي والاجتماعي وكذلك لمتغير العمر ومتغير المستوى التعليمي في المقابل أظهرت الدراسة عدم وجود تأثير معنوي لمتغير الحالة الاجتماعية ومدة العقوبة.

الكلمات الدالة: البرامج الإصلاحية، نزلاء العود، التكيف الاجتماعي.

## 1. Introduction

Criminals who return to criminal behavior are traditionally seen as people who despise the values of society, as they are a source of danger to themselves and the people around them. The punishment against returning criminals, according to this outdated view, must be severe as their return to criminal behavior indicates their intrinsic criminal tendencies that require isolation. Nonetheless, this view did not last long with societies' progress and advancements, and the spread of scientific studies on human behavior – including criminal behavior.

Moreover, the interests on recidivism have become more focused towards the person committing the crime rather than the criminal act itself. Recent trends in the field have been geared towards reforming the criminals' lives and their rehabilitation to lead an honorable social life. One of the most important goals and objectives of criminal politics is to ensure that a criminal does not return to commit crime and becomes a useful member of society and behaves according to the accepted moral principles, as well as social and behavioral concepts (Al-Shahrani, 2014).

After its establishment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1994, the Palestinian National Authority was assigned the responsibility for managing prisons that were previously used by the Israeli occupiers as detention and interrogation facilities. The operations of the correctional facilities are in line with the recommendations of the United Nations, which, since its establishment, advocated for the abolishment of torture and inhuman treatment of prisoners. Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued in 1948 prohibited torture or cruel, inhuman punishment. This announcement was followed by a set of international agreements and resolutions in this regard. The European Convention on Human Rights, ratified in Rome in 1950 by several European countries, constituted a legal start for the care of imprisoned human beings. This agreement included texts related to convicts and arrested suspects (Ghanim, 1999).

The Ministry of the Interior of the State of Palestine took upon itself the responsibility to impose security and safety and to restore rights to their owners. The Ministry gave reform and rehabilitation centers (prisons) great attention with regards to the treatment of their inmates. However, the Ministry faced difficulties in implementing its programs, mainly due to the Zionist occupiers, who frequently bomb the reform and rehabilitation centers. In light of these challenges, the Ministry is improving the existing correctional centers in the governorates of Gaza in order to accommodate and provide suitable facilities for the inmates (Abu Batiha, 2013).

Correctional programs are a set of activities that are offered within correctional institutions, implemented by official bodies in the state on inmates who have committed violations of the law. The programs are aimed at rehabilitating the inmates by taking care of their overall welfare and equipping them with the experiences and skills that would help them to perform efficiently at work with the least time and effort (Al-Dhaiman, 2009). Accordingly, correctional programs may be defined as a planned set of activities that are aimed at bringing about changes in an individual and/or a group in terms of information, experiences, skills, work methods, behavior, and trends. In other words, the term “educational reform programs” in this study refers to a set of programs that is aimed at providing inmates with a set of skills, knowledge, and experience that will help them to have a sound psychological and social compatibility with the community upon leaving the correctional centers. Moreover, the main outcome of the correctional programs is that they should act as a means of social and professional rehabilitation that enables the inmates to obtain necessary skills and qualifications.

Furthermore, these programs have generally been well accepted by the inmates – as stated in the achievement reports received from the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centers Department in the Southern Governorates. The correctional programs had clear and effective impacts on repeat offenders, especially with regard to their rehabilitation, reform, and care. Within the literature on correctional programs, there are some studies that demonstrated the effectiveness of the programs, as well as the satisfaction and demand for them by the inmates of correctional institutions. Examples of such studies are the ones by Ben Shari (2018) and Rabi' (2018). At the same time, there are other studies that found several deficiencies and flaws in some correctional programs offered to inmates, such as the study by Aqil et al. (2012) and Saleh (2009). Nonetheless, the correctional programs examined by these studies were limited to a few services that fall short in achieving the reform objectives sought by these institutions. The studies indicate conflicting opinions among researchers within the field on the viability of correctional programs and their associated activities. This in turn calls for a specialized and modern study looking at the reasons

and dynamics behind the return of inmates to prison, which forms the main motivation for the present research.

## **2. Literature review**

This section presents the relevant theories explaining the effectiveness of correctional programs in providing the proper treatment and social adjustment for returning inmates. One of the most prominent school of thoughts in correctional programs' effectiveness is the "school of reform and social reconciliation", developed and popularized by Mark Ansel. The essence of this school of thought is considered by many to be one of the highest levels of human thought on the domain of correctional facilities. This school's central tenet may be coined as follows; since the role of penal institutions is to treat and restore social harmony, individuals who commit criminal acts would not have done so had it not been for the existence of social and societal circumstances beyond their control that contribute to the pushing factors that lead them to commit that act. Therefore, society is directly responsible for addressing its flaws and mistakes that lead to the criminal act. Moreover, this school of thought is of the opinion that the goal of punishment – through the correctional programs that inmates receive in correctional and rehabilitation centers – should be reformatory in the first place. Hence, the idea of reform becomes essential within penal institutions.

There is no doubt that care for inmates within prison institutions is based on a set of measures that can only be established within the framework of foundations and principles of social service. In order for these measures to succeed, the required material and human capabilities to carry out the necessary work must be made available. "Human energy" – represented by the cadres and the appropriate frameworks that serve as bases for their roles – is required on top of the necessary programs and plans to provide the ultimate care for inmates (Quirion, 2007). Such "human energy" component is made up of social workers, psychologists, educators, doctors, professional trainers, religious counselors, and graduates of university institutions. The existence of the said cadres would support the reform process within prison institutions as well as encourage the proper care of inmates. From the lens of social defense, care for inmates may be perceived as highly important in order to achieve social security by maintaining a balance between the inmates and the people around them through the encouragement of good behaviors, such as respecting socially accepted rules, standards, values, as well as not deviating from them as much as possible. The outcomes of such efforts may be seen in (1) the psychologically and emotionally stable life of the individual; (2) sufficiency in livelihood and attachment to familial and social culture; (3) and the feeling of reassurance about life, money, and relatives. Ultimately, this will prevent the inmates from acquiring aggressive tendencies that is resentful by the society (Al-Omar, 2006).

Here are some of the programs used in reform and rehabilitation centers that help inmates to reform and to steer clear of criminal behavior, simultaneously reintegrating into society as normal people upon their release.

### **2.1 Educational qualification programs**

Education in prisons is defined as the organized process that an instructor practices to reform inmates, educate them of their mistakes that make them end up in prison, and then address them so that they can return as good citizens after the end of their sentence (Shola al-Islah, 2015).

Many international covenants focus on human rights in general, and the rights to education in particular. This is also supported by Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Each individual has the right to access higher education, which should be available to all on an equal footing and on the basis of competence.

Rule 4(2), Rule 92, Rule 102(2), and Rule 104 of the Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Offenders stipulate the prisoner's right to education. This can be achieved by taking measures to continue the education of all inmates who are able to benefit from it (Minimum Rules Set, 1955).

Scientific and security starting-points for rehabilitation in correctional institutions begin with the development, implementation of programs, and plans aimed at providing the inmate with the necessary skills to reintegrate into society – both professional and social. Moreover, correctional institutions provide inmates with multiple knowledge and experience that directly contribute to achieving the desired process of refinement and reform. The role of correctional institutions in the current punitive thought is no longer as places of deterrence and punishment, but rather act as important institutional

and educational facilities aimed at rehabilitating inmates for life in society again, effectively transforming them from being destructive to constructive.

Studies have also shown the importance of perceptual education and its impacts on the behavior of deviants. The study by Kropp-Edward-H (2006), for example, demonstrated the importance of providing a corrective educational environment with the aim of modifying the behavior of inmates of correctional institutions. The study, which was conducted at the California Correctional Institution, was aimed at clarifying the importance of perceptual education based on the dimensions of deviant behavior. The study was also geared towards understanding the importance of providing the means of supporting positive behavior as well as good educational values so that inmates realize the causes of their deviation. Hence, as they will eventually recognize the means of social interaction that is needed to reintegrate them back into society.

### **2.2 Religious Rehabilitation Program**

Religious education in correctional institutions is significant as it provides inmates with a sense of purpose, morality, and community. Religious education may also restore confidence in the inmate, as it is considered as 'the door to good for all', and it stands at the head of the other means that may be employed to reform inmates. Various international rules regulating correctional institutions have emphasized the importance of educating prisoners on religion and have recommended that attention be given to religious culture.

Religion purifies souls and calls for good morals as well as good qualities, such as being ambitious and self-reliant. Religion forms the cornerstone of rehabilitation programs, leaves a positive impact on the soul of the inmate, and stands as an impenetrable barrier between him and the commission of sin or crime. This could effectively help in preventing crime and limiting its spread. Religious programs typically consist of *tadhkirah* (تذكرة) sessions, recitation of the Noble Qur'an, understanding of hadith and Sunnah, and religious guidance lessons, with the aim of recreation and instilling tranquility in the souls of the inmates (Al-Wadi, 2001). It has been shown that the impact of religious education on personality traits leans on the positive side. Religious education provides inmates with traits such as self-control, adherence to laws, and patience. Furthermore, those who frequently attend education and training are found to be more compliant with regulations, which effectively assist the prison management in controlling security within the correctional institutions.

### **2.3 Psychosocial rehabilitation programs**

Deviant behavior is due to a number of psychological factors. Some theories hold that deviant behavior is the result of unconscious psychological conflicts that have arisen since childhood, which translate into great frustration in adulthood. Therefore, these psychological theories perceive poor environmental and social conditions as the reinforcing factors for deviant behavior.

It should be noted that many studies have indicated an exacerbation of diseases in prisons, such as the one by Derya et al, (2016). This is also indicated by a study on the prevalence of mental health problems in prisons by Kumar (2013). The findings of these studies signal an important need for psychotherapy within correctional institutions. In a different study, Lionel et al., (2016) found that the characteristics of inmates and the prison environment affect the mental health of young people in prison. Prison management may alleviate mental health problems of young inmates by developing scientific procedures for assessing their mental health and providing an effective correctional environment. Therefore, to cater to the health needs of prison inmates, there is a great demand for primary health care services in prisons.

Another study by El-Gilany et.al, (2016) indicates that psychological disorders are prevalent among prisoners, in which personality disorders and socially hostile behavior are among the common ones. Therefore, it is necessary to have a proper psychological evaluation and diagnosis – when inmates enter prison for the first time – as well as to provide regular follow-up and treatment. Building upon this point, examining prisoners to diagnose normal mental disorders and to provide integrated health care may be deemed as highly necessary (Dadi, et al, 2016; Bernice, 2012; Brazão, 2015; Fraser, 2009).

Social service plays a leading role in social protection institutions, both private institutions – such as associations for the care of prisoners and their families – and government institutions – such as after-care services – as a means of reducing the return to delinquency. These institutions provide the possibility to those released from prison to start a dignified life far from crime, delinquency, and deviance. Moreover, the social protection institutions will also extend a helping hand to the

inmates' families, who are grieving the loss of their breadwinner to imprisonment. In the field of reintegration to combat criminal behavior, there is currently a specialized social service program staffed with social workers, responsible for providing all kinds of care, assistance, support, and guidance, whether to the family of the prisoners or to the released prisoners themselves. The support is provided in the context of treatment for their problems and the prevention of their re-deviation. The social worker employs various tools of professional practice and is highly committed to the philosophy and values of the social work profession (Ibrahim, 2020).

#### ***2.4 Vocational education programs***

Vocational education within correctional institutions is of great importance as it trains inmates in trading or profession that is in line with their inclinations and desires, restores self-confidence and self-esteem, as well as contributes to their overall happiness. The inmates' interests in training shall avoid them falling prey to unemployment upon release, a factor which increases the chance of physical diseases and psychological disorders. The training also increases their experience, develops their skills, and allows them to obtain a salary that meets their basic needs. There are times when prisoners are allowed to work in prison and earn some money. The proceeds from this in-prison employment will help their families during the period whence they are serving their sentences. It is for this reason that researchers have dubbed vocational education as an essential tool to fight the recurrence of crime among ex-inmates and is an important element in the rehabilitation of the convict (Bouaqna, 2009).

The main objective of rehabilitation programs is to enable inmates in correctional institutions to have a level of training that will allow them to obtain jobs after their release from prison (Burkey, 1981). This is confirmed by Taha Al-Majdoub's (1986) study on the relationship between rehabilitation and education within correctional institutions, which aimed to identify the reality of rehabilitation programs and the magnitude of their impacts. The study aimed, among others, to clarify the role of vocational rehabilitation in helping ex-inmates to obtain suitable work and to adapt to society. The study was also aimed at identifying the role of rehabilitation and education programs within correctional institutions in achieving the social compatibility of ex-prisoners with society. The study concluded that vocational rehabilitation, apart from contributing to the overall level of education of the inmate, creates a sense among prisoners that the community stands by their side and help them in learning something useful that will ultimately benefit them. The professional reintegration resulting from vocational training helps the released inmates to find meaningful employment with ease. This means that reintegration and education within penitentiary establishments help the inmates to work and adapt quickly to society upon release.

#### ***2.5 Psychological and social adjustment***

Social adjustment is one of the concepts of psychology and mental health of which human behavior is based on. The study of psychology revolves around how to reach consensus, whether at the personal or societal levels. It also indicates the existence of harmonious relationships between humans and the surrounding environment. This includes individuals' ability to satisfy their needs as well as their biological and social demands.

Inmates need psychological and social adjustment. Anyone who was forced by circumstances to enter prison should invest his/her time and effort to benefit from serving the prison term. Additionally, inmates should achieve psychological and social harmony through the programs provided to them during their stay at the reform and rehabilitation centers.

Qusai Abdel Rahman (2018), in his study, explores the psychological and social adjustment of prison inmates who enrolled in the education program in Sudan by looking at the roles of the surrounding environment in achieving psychosocial adjustment among prison inmates. The study aimed to investigate the psychological and social adjustment of the inmates who participated in the educational program as compared to those who did not. The study concluded that there is a statistically significant relationship between psychosocial adjustment and those who were in the education program. There are also statistically significant differences in the level of psychosocial adjustment of inmates according to their educational level, in favor of those with high school and university level education.

Therefore, this study links the issue of psychological and social compatibility with reform and rehabilitation programs due to their perceived corrective impact on the inmates of reform and rehabilitation centers. These programs are prepared according to prison regulations and laws, with the main objective of influencing the behavior of inmates and assisting them

in acquiring the appropriate professional skills. The programs help them integrate and develop psychological and social harmony with their societies after serving their sentence in the correctional facilities.

### 3. The rationale and need for the study

This study was conducted in recognition of the importance of correctional programs in reforming and rehabilitating criminal inmates, as well as their positive impacts on inmates' psychological and social compatibility. With the recent increase in the number of inmates in Palestine – especially in the Southern Governorates – it is imperative that a study needs to be undertaken in order to investigate the effective ways that could reduce inmates' deviation and aggressive behavior, which would ultimately reduce the phenomenon of recidivism. This study focuses on identifying the level of implementation of correctional programs in reform and rehabilitation centers among repeaters in the Southern Governorates of Palestine. In addition, the study also explores the impact of reform programs on psychological and social adjustment of inmates in the said correctional facilities.

### 4. Objectives of the study

- Exploring the level of implementation of correctional programs on repeat offenders in correctional and rehabilitation centers; and
- Exploring the impact of correctional programs on the psychological and social adjustment of the recidivist inmates.

### 5. Hypotheses of the study

Based on the researcher's objectives, the following hypotheses were devised:

- There is a high level of implementation of prison programs in prisons and rehabilitation centers for the recidivist inmates; and
- There is a significant impact of correctional programs on the psychological and social adjustment of the recidivist inmates.

### 6. Methodology of the Study

This section explains the specifications of the statistical model used in this study that is built upon the assumption that there is a relationship between the independent variables, represented by correctional programs, and the dependent variables, represented by the psychological and social adjustments among inmates of the reform and rehabilitation centers in the Southern Governorates of Gaza. The independent variables are the programs, namely educational, religious rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, medical rehabilitation, psychological rehabilitation, social rehabilitation, and sports. On the other hand, the dependent variables include these dimensions, namely emotional, health, home, and the social dimension. The model is set up with the aim of measuring the direct impact of reform programs on psychological and social adjustment of inmates.

The researchers took a simple random sample from the study population, which amounted to 237 inmates, distributed in proportion to the number of reform and rehabilitation centers in the Southern Governorates. The researchers also acknowledged that, since these inmates are known to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, there is a high degree of homogeneity among them with regards to recidivism, regardless of the type of crimes they committed and were imprisoned for. Each of them must share the characteristic of the *oud* (recidivism), or those who have been repeatedly admitted to prisons due to their repeated offenses that led to their imprisonment. These characteristics of the research participants were considered to justify the method of random sampling, allowing all prisoners of the *oud* to enter the sample without the intervention of the researcher. This ensures, to a large extent, that this sample reflects all the characteristics of the original community of the inmates and numbered as previously mentioned.

In this research, a quantitative method was used. The data for this study was collected from a survey through the distribution of questionnaire to the sample that aims to measure the relationship between correctional programs and psychological as well as social adjustment for *oud* inmates. Using the SPSS statistical program, the following measures and

tests were calculated/carried out: frequencies, percentages, mean, standard deviation, Pearson correlation, Alpha-Cronbach coefficient, split-half coefficient, one model T-test, and simple linear regression.

### 6.1 Descriptive analysis:

Table 4.1 presents the descriptive statistics of the participants' responses based on the scale of the reform program and its impacts on psychological and social adjustment. Descriptive statistics include mean, standard deviation, relative weight, t-test value, significance level, agreement level, and rank.

**Table 4.1 shows the arithmetic mean, standard deviation, relative weight, "t" value and its statistical significance for the responses of the sample members on the scale of correctional programs and psychological and social adjustment.**

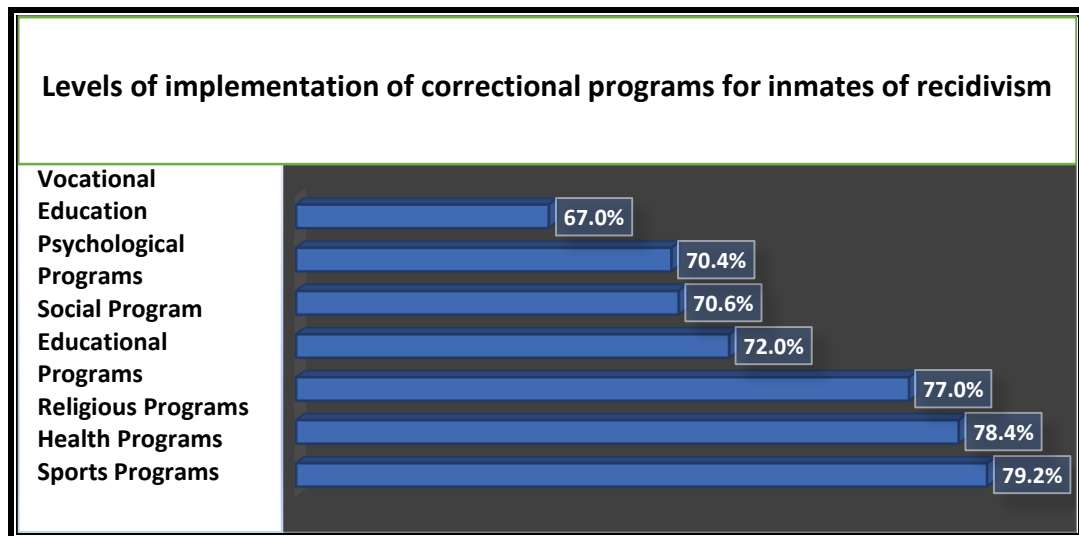
Correctional Programs	#	Section	Mean	Standard deviation	Relative weight	t-test value (t)	Significance level (Sig)	Approval level	Ranking
	1	Health programs	3.92	0.81	17.54	0.00	%78.4	High	2
	2	Social program	3.53	1.05	7.72	0.00	%70.6	High	5
	3	Educational programs	3.60	0.98	9.34	0.00	%72.0	High	4
	4	Psychological programs	3.52	0.99	8.10	0.00	%70.4	High	6
	5	Religious programs	3.85	0.97	13.44	0.00	%77.0	High	3
	6	Vocational education	3.35	1.12	4.80	0.00	%67.0	Medium	7
	7	Sports programs	3.96	0.87	17.00	0.00	%79.2	High	1
		<b>Total Correctional Program Scale</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>13.63</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>%73.6</b>	<b>High</b>	
Psychological And Social Adjustment	1	Emotional compatibility	2.27	0.41	10.38	0.00	%75.7	Medium	1
	2	Healthy compatibility	2.18	0.43	6.52	0.00	%72.7	Medium	4
	3	Home compatibility	2.25	0.43	9.00	0.00	%75.0	Medium	2
	4	Social compatibility	2.19	0.43	6.70	0.00	%73.0	Medium	3
		<b>Total Of the Psychosocial Adjustment Scale</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>10.29</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>%74.0</b>	<b>Medium</b>	

According to the outcome of the descriptive analysis, as summarized in Table 4.1, the responses of the participants on the reform programs scale shows the mean of 3.68 out of 5, with a standard deviation of 0.77 and a relative weight of 73.6%. In order to verify the equality of the average responses for the value, which expresses the degree of neutrality, the calculated "t" test value was equal to 13.63, which is greater than the tabular "t" value at the significant threshold level of 0.05. This indicates the approval of the research participants on this scale. Therefore, we may conclude that the level of application of the reform programs used was high from the point of view of the recidivists.

Sports and recreation programs ranked first in terms of the participants' approval by relative weight at 79.2%, followed by health and treatment programs by relative weight at 78.4%. This is followed by religious programs in third place with a relative weight of 77%, and educational programs in fourth place with a relative weight of 72%. In fifth place comes social programs, with a relative weight of 70.6%, followed by psychological programs with relative weight of 70.4%.

In addition, the participants' mean responses on the Psychosocial Adjustment Scale as a whole were 2.22 out of 3, with a standard deviation of 0.33 and a relative weight of 74%. This shows an average level of psychological and social adaptation among the prisoners. To check the equality of the average responses for the value, which expresses the degree of neutrality, the calculated value of the t-test was equal to 10.29, which is greater than the tabular value of "t" at the significant level of 0.05. This indicates the significance of the increase in the value of the arithmetic mean for the degree of neutrality. Therefore, we may conclude that there is a low level of psychological and social compatibility among recidivist inmates.

Emotional compatibility ranks first in terms of participants' approval, with a relative weight of 75.7%. Next comes family compatibility, with a relative weight of 75%, then social compatibility with a relative weight of 73%. In the fourth and last place comes health compatibility, with a relative weight of 72.7%.



Graph 4.1: Levels of Correctional Programs Implemented from the Perspective of Repeat Offenders

## 6.2 Linear regression analysis:

In this study, the researchers utilize a regression model that illustrates the relationship between correctional programs and psychosocial adjustment among recidivist inmates. The result of this regression is illustrated in Table 4.2 below:

Table 4.2: The effect of correctional programs on the psychological and social adjustment of inmates of recidivism.

Independent variable	Non-standard coefficients		Standard coefficients	“T” test		Analysis of Variance Test		Correlation Coefficient R	R <sup>2</sup>
	Coefficient	Standard error	β	T	Sig.	F. value	Sig.		
Constant	1.77	.101		17.45	.000	20.64	.000	.284	.081
Correctional Programs	.123	.027	.284	4.54	.000				

The tabular value of “F” at degrees of freedom (1 and 235) and a significance level of 0.05 equals 3.88

The tabular T value at 234 degrees of freedom and a significance level of 0.05 equals 1.97

Table 4.2 shows that there is a statistically significant effect of reform programs on the psychological and social adaptation of recidivist inmates. This is shown by the value of correlation coefficient between correctional programs and psychological and social adjustment (0.284) that indicates a direct relationship between the two variables. Meanwhile, the value of coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is 0.081. This is the value that expresses the amount of variance in the dependent variable – psychological and social adaptation – that is predicted by the statistical model. On the other hand, the value of the regression coefficient is 0.123. This is the value illustrating the effect of correctional programs on the psychological and social adjustment of recidivist inmates. From the above, we may conclude that there is a significant effect of reform programs on psychological and social adjustment, and the magnitude of this effect is 12.3%.

## 7. Findings and discussion

Based on the analyzed data, as well as the interpretation of the results, the following findings emerged:

- The results of the current study show that there is a high rate of implementation of reform programs used from the perspective of crime inmates. This may be further explained as follow:
  - Sports and entertainment programs are ranked first in terms of acceptance and satisfaction of the research



participants. This high degree of acceptance was from the point of view of recidivist inmates. This is largely in agreement with the results of previous studies by Ben Sherri (2018) and Rabee (2018). However, this is not in line with some other studies such as the ones by Ibrahim (2017) and Al-Alimat et al. (2017).

- The health and treatment programs are ranked second in terms of acceptance and satisfaction of the research participants. This finding is consistent with Ben Sherri (2018) and Rabih (2018). However, this differs from the study by Ibrahim (2017) and Al-Alimat et al. (2017).
- Religious programs are ranked third in terms of acceptance and satisfaction of the research participants and achieved a high degree of acceptance. This result is in agreement with previous studies, such as Ibrahim (2017) and Al-Soffi (2015) and differs from the results reported by Abdul Rahman (2018) and Al-Taweel (2015).
- Educational programs are ranked fourth, with high degree of acceptance. This result is in agreement with Attia (2014) and Al-Omari (2013), while disagreeing with the studies by Al-Dajni (2014) and Ismail (2011).
- Social programs are ranked fifth, with high degree of acceptance. This is in line with the studies by Al Masoud (2020) and Al-Ahmari (2017), while differs from the studies by Al-Dajni (2014) and Shrek (2011).
- Psychological programs are ranked sixth, with high degree of acceptance. This is in agreement with Abdul Rahman (2018) and Abu Safiya (2016). It disagrees, however, with the studies done by Ahmed (2017) and Attia (2014).
- Vocational education programs are ranked seventh and last, with a medium degree of acceptance. This is consistent with Juli (2017) and Ibrahim (2017), while differs from Akil et al. (2012) and Al-Osaimi (2011).
- The results also suggest a low level of psychological and social adjustment among the recidivist inmates. This is in agreement with El-Sayed (2017). However, this differs from the results obtained by Dovey et al. (2020).
- The results also demonstrate a significant effect of reform programs on psychological and social adjustment of inmates. This is in agreement with Al-Salahem (2014) and Naisa (2014).
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## **8. Conclusion**

The current study suggests that there is a high level of application of correctional programs from the point of view of recidivist inmates. Accordingly, the researchers propose a program that provide the inmates with latest technology education, especially after the world has largely experimented with online learning post Covid-19. This may be done in coordination with the competent educational authorities at all stages.

The results also demonstrate a low level of psychological and social compatibility among inmates of recidivism. It may be suggested that a dedicated psychological unit should be established in each of the reform and rehabilitation centers, specialized and equipped with a team of doctors, psychologists, and social workers to treat inmates who need psychological treatment. This may be targeted to inmates who are exposed to diseases and mental disorders as a result of their stay in reform and rehabilitation centers.

The current study also demonstrates the significant effects of reform programs on inmates' psychological and social adjustments. As a suggestion for future research, more studies should be conducted to investigate the effectiveness of cognitive counseling programs in improving the level of psychological and social compatibility among inmates of recidivism in the Southern Governorates.

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