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# Economic Factors Contributing to Recidivism from Karak Governorate's Lawyers' Perspective

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#### Abstract

Purpose of the Study: The study also aimed to identify the point of view of Karak Governorate's lawyers in Jordan towards the social factors that contribute to recidivism. The study aims to identify:

- 1. The social factors contributing to recidivism from the perspective from Karak Governorate's lawyers' perspective.
- 2. The relationship between the demographic characteristics of lawyers in Karak governorate and the social factors contributing to recidivism.

Methodology: To achieve the goal of the study, a study tool (a questionnaire) was developed for the purpose of collecting data for its analysis, and the tool included two parts: (personal variables and social dimension items). The validity and stability of the tool was confirmed, and the tool was distributed among the study sample of (237) Researchers from lawyers in Karak governorate.

Main Findings: the study reached a set of results, the most important of which are:

The attitudes of lawyers in Karak Governorate in Jordan towards the social factors contributing to recidivism to crime came at a high degree, with an overall average of (3.56), and a standard deviation (0.97).

Applications of this study: this study can be useful for many of the governmental and non-governmental institutions such as Criminal Legislative Organs, Social institutions, Social defense and Law firms...etc.,

Originality of this Study: the importance of the study stems from the theoretical and practical side, as follows:

- 1. The theoretical aspect: it provides theoretical literature and enriches the Arab library on the issue of factors contributing to recidivism, and that identifying the relationship between social factors and recidivism has an effective role in the success of reform programs within correctional institutions.
- 2. The practical aspect, as follows:
- a. Knowing the attitudes of lawyers in Karak governorate towards the social factors that contribute to recidivism.
- b. It provides recommendations based on scientific results that may assist decision-makers and officials towards developing policies and strategies that contribute to reducing recidivism.

**Keywords:** behaviour, economic factors, crime, poverty, correction and rehabilitation centers, return to crime, lawyers.

#### Introduction

Crime is a social phenomenon that no human society is free from, whether the society is primitive, developing or civilized. Each of these human societies is dominated by many religious, social, economic, and legal systems whose first task is to regulate the behaviour of individuals in all areas of life, and this organization it is necessary for every human society. Indeed, without this

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organization, social life cannot be straightened or continued. Because if individuals were left to behave without regulation, this life would not continue. Therefore, every society exerts great efforts in order to preserve the social entity represented in its social organization.

Modern forensic sciences take the social view of crime, which focuses on the fact that the crime is not an abstract phenomenon represented by an act, or the commission of an act subject to a criminal text that determines the law on whoever commits a specific penalty. As the social concept of crime is an integral concept that goes beyond the purely legal framework, and crime is also viewed as a behavioural problem for the individual who belongs to a specific community, which requires in-depth study and analysis in order to understand and become aware of the motives and causes of criminal and anti-social behaviour.

This concept deals with crime as a reality related to many living conditions, economic, social, professional and cultural factors of society on the one hand, and the individual, his relationship with himself and his interaction with other members of society on the other hand, as the first aspect reflects the official dimension, which is the organizational and administrative framework of society, This is what is termed as (the social construction), while the other side includes the social self, represented by the relationship between the individual and himself, as well as the relationship that exists between him and the social and family environment around him, which is called the psychological construction. [1]

For this reason, the issue of recidivism has received great attention from legal scholars and sociologists, and many studies have been developed on recidivists to crime, and the number of recidivism times, and lawmakers have begun to define penalties for those recidivists and punishment for the crime of recidivism towards more reform policies, so that the criminal can be returned to the right path to become a citizen.

It has become the duty of sociologists to address this serious problem by conducting studies and research to uncover the causes of recidivism. So that, through the results of the studies, he can draw preventive and therapeutic methods to confront this phenomenon, and due to the lack of studies that dealt with this topic, this study came, and it is - to the best of the researcher's knowledge - the first study that was conducted on the role of social factors in recidivism to crime in Jordanian society from the lawyers point of view.

## Literature Review

(Al-Dossary, 2008) study: "The extent to which social, economic, ,social factors and the prison environment are linked to recidivism," which aimed to identify the factors that lead to recidivism for female prisoners recidivists and compare them with non-recidivists prisoners, and to identify patterns of their crimes, and was applied to a random sample of imprisoned women in various cases in the women's prison in Riyadh, their number has reached (60) Saudi female prisoners, of whom (30) female prisoners are recidivists, and (30) female prisoners who are not, and the study reached several results, including:

- 1. Most of the female prisoners are between 30-40 years old, with low level of education, and most of them are married or previously married.
- 2. Average income level of the families of female prisoners is, and most of them do not work before entering prison.
- 3. A large proportion (48%) of female prisoners have relatives who have previously entered prison, and that this percentage is higher among recidivists' female prisoners. [2]

(Al-Subaie, 2007) study entitled: The Socio-Economic Characteristics of Recidivists to Crime,

the study aimed to identify the social and economic characteristics of the recidivists. It also aimed to find out whether these characteristics distinguish them from other criminals for the first time. The study used survey method, where the study sample consisted of (150) inmates in Dammam Prison in Saudi Arabia, the study found a set of results, the most important of which are:

- 1. Most of the recidivists sample members are of illiterate fathers and mothers, where the percentage of illiterate fathers is (51.6%) and mothers who are illiterate (72.6%).2. The economic factor is still a vital factor along with other factors that drive an individual to commit criminal behaviour.
- 2. The prisoners who are most inclined to recidivism are among those with an average education or less, and they are unmarried.
- 3. That there is a direct correlation between the recidivists and the general atmosphere in which they live within the family. [3]

(Hamdan, 2001) study that examined the recidivism to crime in Jordanian society, where it concluded that recidivism is concentrated in the unmarried criminals age group (25-34) years who have a low educational level. The results of the study showed that 80.3% of repeat criminal behaviour fall in the age group of 25-34 years, and that the illiteracy rate among them is 20.6%, while 22.9% have a low educational level. That is, they only can read and write. The percentage of unmarried persons among these recidivists to crime was 67.4%. [4]

(Al-Mutairi, 2005) conducted a study entitled: The Impact of Some Social, Economic and Environmental Factors on Recidivism for the Crime of Theft, and aimed to find out the impact of some socio-economic and environmental factors on recidivism for the crime of theft, and it was applied to Saudi inmates returning to the crime of theft and its perpetrators for the first time. The survey method was adopted. Social, and the questionnaire was used as a tool for collecting data, and the study reached many results, the most important of which are the following:

- 1. The magnitude of the phenomenon of recidivism for the crime of theft exceeds the size of its perpetrators for the first time, through a comprehensive inventory of Riyadh prisons during the implementation of the study.
- 2. The majority of the recidivists and non-recidivists for the crime of theft are of young age groups, most of them have never been married, and more than half of the two groups did not go beyond primary school.
- 3. About half of recidivists and non-recidivists are not working, while others are students or work in low-economic professions, and most of them are low-income people. [5]

Papps and Winkelmann (2007) study aimed to test the causal relationship between unemployment and crime in the Netherlands, by applying fixed and random effects models, using regional cross-sectional time-series data during the period from 1996 to 2005, and this study concluded that there is a small impact of unemployment. On total crimes, and some types of property assault crimes. [6]

Michael and Panu (2007) study aimed at investigating the relationship between gang crime and unemployment. The results of the study, based on the Becker crime model, showed a positive relationship between unemployment and crime, but did not find a significant effect of unemployment on the level of violence.<sup>[7]</sup>

Daniel and Stephen study (2006) entitled "The relationship between labor market conditions

and levels of crime in three Asian countries (Australia, Japan and South Korea) using the Johansen method of joint integration on annual aggregate data. The results of the study revealed a strong relationship between unemployment and crime." Especially among young people in those societies.

# Methodology

The methodology used in this study depends on the field survey method, which includes a desk survey based on references, sources, previous studies and published research. To build the theoretical framework for the study, and the field survey to collect data; by using the study tool and analysing it statistically.

## **Study Population**

The study population consisted of the 539 attorneys in Karak governorate, and these data were taken from the Jordanian Bar Association for the year 2019/2020.

## Study Sample

An intentional sample of (50%) of the population of the study was chosen, and accordingly the size of the sample reached (270) individuals, and the questionnaires were distributed over all the sample items, so (242) questionnaires were retrieved, and (5) questionnaires were excluded because they were not valid for statistical analysis, so the number of questionnaires became Suitable for analysis (237) questionnaires constitute (44%) of the total study population, and (87.8%) of the selected study sample, which is an acceptable percentage for the purposes of scientific research.

**Table (1):** Shows the Characteristics of the Study Sample.

variable	Variable classes	Repetition	percentage
Marital status	Single	85	35.9%
	Married	152	64.1%
	Total	237	100%
Academic qualification_	Bachelor	176	74.3%
	Postgraduate	61	25.7%
	Total	237	100%

Through the results of Table (1) related to the variable of marital status, it becomes clear that the majority of the study sample was for the married group, it was found that the number of married people reached (152) with a percentage of (64.1%). ). As for the academic qualification of the study sample, the number of those who hold a bachelor's degree was (176) at a rate of (74.3%), while the group of those who hold a postgraduate degree reached (61) and (25.7%) of the total sample.

# **Study Tool**

Through reviewing the theoretical literature and previous studies, a questionnaire adapted to the studied environment was developed, based on the aggressive behaviour scale (Al-Dossary 2008; Al-Subaie, 2007). The questionnaire consisted of two parts, which are as follows:

Personal characteristics:

The following variables are included:

- A- Academic qualification, which has two levels (Bachelor's, postgraduate studies).
- B- Marital status, and it has two levels: (single, married)

The economic factors paragraphs, which included (19) paragraphs (1-19).

The answers were classified according to the (five-point Likert) scale, and were determined by five answers, which are (strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree), and the answer was given numbers from (1-5), so that the number (5) indicates (always applies) and number (1) for (never apply).

Descriptive analysis of all study variables was carried out according to the responses of the study sample members to the paragraphs contained in the questionnaire, where the arithmetic averages and standard deviations calculated, and they arranged in descending order according to their relative importance based on the value of the arithmetic mean, taking into account the scale used in the study, and based on that, the values of the arithmetic averages reached by the study relied on the following criteria to interpret the data:

SMA	level	
3.5 +	High	
2.5 - 3.49	Average	
1 - 2.49	Low	

Depending on this criterion, if the arithmetic mean value of the paragraphs is greater than (3.5), then the level of the study sample's estimate is high, but if the arithmetic mean value is (2.5 - 3.49) then the level of the study sample's estimate is average, and if the arithmetic average is (2.49) And below, the level of appreciation of the study sample is low.

## Validate the Study Tool

To ensure the validity of the study tool, the questionnaire was presented to (6) arbitrators, professors from the faculty members of the specialty of criminology / sociology, for the purpose of arbitration, and to verify the validity of its content, as the opinions of the arbitrators and their amendments were taken into account, taking into account the following:

- 1. Accuracy and clarity in drafting paragraphs.
- 2. Avoid using ambiguous expressions or unclear paragraphs.
- 3. The paragraph contains a specific idea that the individual can answer accurately.

## Stability of the Study Tool

The stability of the study tool was ascertained, by preliminary presentation and distribution of an experimental survey sample of (20) respondents, and the form was modified based on the opinions of the pilot study sample.

#### **Statistical Treatment**

The study uses the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS.16.1) program in processing data to answer the study questions and test its hypotheses, according to the following statistical treatments:

- 1- Calculate frequencies, arithmetic averages and standard deviations.
- 2- Analysis of variance (ANOVA) to test the effects of personal and functional variables on the respondents' perceptions of the independent and dependent variables and their

dimensions.

- 3- Using the dimensional comparisons with the Scheffe Test method.
- 4- Using the Cronbach alpha equation to ensure the stability of the instrument

#### Discussion

Social factors leading to the recidivism is the set of circumstances that surround a person in all stages of his life, his relations with other people, and his close mixing with them that would greatly affect his behaviour. Social factors play a decisive role in individuals' inclination to criminal behaviour, given that the individual is a social being who cannot live alone, as he was born and raised in a group, and then completes the rest of his life playing his role within the group, the social factors can be highlighted as follows:

## **Economic Factors Contributing to Recidivism**

The economic conditions of individuals and groups and social inequality occupied the attention of individuals and groups, and many scholars, thinkers and social reformers attributed to them many diseases and social ills, especially the practice of crime. A large number of economists and others, including sociologists, have contributed numerous studies to clarify the impact of economic factors and social inequality in shaping the basic factors of delinquency and crime (Al-Mubarak, 2009). [9]

Among the most important economic factors that contribute to recidivism are the following:

## Poverty

Many scientific studies have shown that poverty is one of the most important factors that contribute to the individual's commission of a crime or recidivism in the future, as the low standard of living of the family that does not meet its needs and meets its requirements undoubtedly constitutes an obstacle to achieving social control for family members to a certain degree (Al-Shahrani, 2004). [10]

There is an effect of high economic conditions or wealth in committing criminal behaviour. Scholars have noticed an increase in crime rates and delinquency during economic prosperity, as the family disintegration that appears in periods of prosperity and prosperity has a major role in delinquency and crime. From home, supervision over children is weak, parents and children are far from home, and even from each other, and the family relationship appears to be very weak (Al-Sarhan, 2004).<sup>[11]</sup>

## The Unemployment

The phenomenon of unemployment is considered a problem with economic, social and humanitarian dimensions, and it has negative effects that are reflected in the individual himself, his family and his society. As for its effects on the individual, this is represented in his loss of income and his inability to provide the necessities of life. Tension, anxiety and fear of the unknown future, and the resulting family disintegration and disruption in parenting. As for the effects on society, this lies in the disruption of productive energies and the spread of evils and crimes, as it leads to the commission of crimes such as theft, drug use, murder, and circumvention around Bad companionship that drives moral perversion (Al-Sanea, 2000).<sup>[12]</sup>

Unemployment is a major reason for the decline in the family's standard of living, and the greater unemployment among members of the same family, the greater the family's inability to

meet its needs and the greater its suffering, thus losing balance and control over its members, which leads to the dispersal of children, insecurity within the family, and the search for a safe place. It makes him vulnerable to delinquency and exploitation by those with weak souls and abnormal behaviours.

## Explaining Theories of the Factors Contributing to Recidivism

## Psychoanalytic Theory

The owners of this trend attribute the criminal behaviour of individuals to the nature of the individual's psychological formation, and this appears greatly in the processes of socialization, types of treatment and conditions that a person goes through in his early childhood stages, through the process of reward and punishment upon which he is brought up. People who are subjected to some kind of harsh education and punishment and people who go through in their childhood experiences cruel and painful without the ability to resist them resort to suppressing these experiences, and this cruelty in the area of the unconscious, these experiences are full of feelings of anger, hatred and love of revenge, and these feelings and suppression may appear later, as these shipments are discharged on form types of unwanted behaviour, such as criminal behaviours. On the contrary, children who lead a happy, cheerful life fill their memories with pleasant experiences, which are stored in the subconscious, which are reflected in positive behaviours that are good in adulthood (Hajj Hassan, 2007).<sup>[13]</sup>

The human being, according to the school of analysis, is equipped with two basic motives: the instinct of life and love, which Freud called Eros, and the instinct of death and hate, which he called the name Thanatos, and represents the instinct of life and death, which is the one that the individual is born equipped with, and it is a tendency that is always looking for rapid gratification and struggling in a permanent way in search about happiness and pleasure and avoiding pain. As for the ego, the individual develops it during the first years of his life and then the superego comes. The ego is related to the social reality that directs the individual's behaviour towards gratification within the social and physical data, and upon the development of the superego, the moral aspect and the feeling of guilt begin to appear and include the superego. The conscience and the ideal ego define what we should do. The school of psychoanalysis believes that the causes of crime are due to internal conflicts, emotional problems, unstable feelings of unconsciousness and a feeling of inadequacy and inadequacy, and in this area it can be said that the urban environment develops such problems more than others. Psychoanalytic theory, as mentioned (Hajj Hassan, 2007) attributes criminal behaviour to several reasons, the most important of which are:

- 1. The inability to develop the ego and the superego, the individual is unable to control his instinctive tendency and control it, and thus the ego dominates him and his behaviour may turn into an anti-social pattern.
- 2. Troubled ego, especially during the early years of life.
- 3. The superego has developed excessively and extreme, not allowing instinctive gratifications, so most criminals are of the neurotic type.

## **Capitalist System Theory**

Some socialist scholars believe that crime is closely related to the capitalist system, and it is one of the bad consequences of the economic situation that prevails in this system, which is based on several foundations, each of which is a motive for some kind of criminal behaviour, so the merchant who seeks to achieve the largest profit may In order to sell his commodity at the

highest prices, he resorts to fraud or deception, and free competition between the owners of capital may push them to resort to illegal methods such as fraud, fraud, breach of trust, etc. To prove their presence in the economic field, and the control of capital owners over the working class and their exploitation of it in light of the failure to provide the necessary guarantees for this class may lead members of this class to commit crimes, especially if this class suffers from long working hours, low wages as well as treatment, the bad things you receive from employers or capital owners, this is in addition to the spread of ignorance among members of this class, which is considered a criminal factor, as indicated by criminal statistics, and based on these ideas advocated by "Karl Marx" and "Engels" "In the middle of the eighteenth century, crime must not have a real existence under the socialist or communist system, and if some acts that may be considered crimes occur, their cause is due to the mental or psychological illnesses of some individuals suffering from it, and it is unrelated. For its socialist community, Because with the justice it achieves among its members, it will not have a role in criminal behaviour, and the economic explanation of the criminal phenomenon has received support and support among many criminologists in Belgium, France, Germany and Italy, but this support reached its maximum extent with the Dutch scientist "Bunger" (1867-1940 AD) ), Who published a book in 1905 under the title (Crime and Economic Conditions), in which he dealt with an explanation of the faults of the capitalist system that arise from competition between owners of capital, the wage system and the control of employers over the working class, and Bunger believes that crimes are common under the system Capitalist as a result of the social pressures individuals suffer that weaken their ability to resist the individual impulses that increase in severity and violence for the existence of this system. Social disparities generate hatred among the working class individuals towards the owners of capital, which leads to pushing some of them to commit crime (Al-Warikat, 2008). [14]

#### Conclusion

First: The results showed that attitudes of lawyers in Karak governorate towards the social factors that contribute to recidivism to crime were high, and this result and social factors are explained by the set of circumstances surrounding a person in all stages of his life and his relationships with other people and his close mixing with them that would affect his behaviour, and social factors play a decisive role in individuals' delinquency towards criminal behaviour given that the individual is a social being who cannot live alone, as he was born and raised in a group, and then completes the rest of his life, fluctuating between several roles within the group, and social factors in the family environment can be highlighted, and what might suffer from disintegration and violence. It has an important social factors affecting the behaviour of the individual and the formation of his personality, it has also a primary role in guiding children.

Studies have shown that the personality of an individual is formed in the first ten years of his life, and that the social characteristics he acquires from society with its various social institutions such as the family, school, friends and social environment. In order for the psychological and social health to be achieved, There are different sources of emotional gratification that enable access to healthy transactions and relationships, and this is only available under a kind of family cohesion and compatibility, because the lack of cohesion and the breakdown of family ties lead to deprivation of young people of these rights and necessary needs, and this is what Sutherland's theory of virtuous association went to.; Where this theory looks at the human personality as a mediating variable that reveals aspects of the social structure, its effect on the individual's behaviour, and its characteristics and features, and that

the individual may live in a disjointed society that creates deviation among its members, as the areas of crime and deviation are dominated by traditional and criminal values together, and thus exposed individuals for both types of values In Sutherland's point of view, crime is not a random act, but an organized act subject to a set of values and standards.

Social factors are one of the reasons that lead to family disintegration and may lead to separation between spouses, which leads family members to homelessness or join criminal gangs under the influence of financial temptation, or to search for an alternative family, and this can be explained by the fact that criminal behaviour occurs to all social and educational levels, but it is very prevalent among families with low educational level. In addition, with the increase of the family size, its social and economic requirements increase, which creates psychological pressure as a result of support and the health and living requirements of the children. Thus, deviation is a form of social adaptation to the pressures of social construction, as Merton's non-normative theory states.\*

Second: The results showed that there are statistically significant differences for the social factors contributing to the recidivism of the crime from the viewpoint of the lawyers in the Karak governorate, due to the scientific qualification variable, and the differences were in favour of the respondents with a bachelor's degree, and that there are statistically significant differences for the age variable in the social factors contributing to the recidivism of the crime from the point of view of the lawyers in Karak governorate, and that the differences are in favour of the respondents with ages (30 years or less), and the results showed that there are no statistically significant differences for the experience variable in the social contributing factors in recidivism from the point of view of lawyers in Karak Governorate.

# Limitation and Study Forward

This study presents theoretical literature and enriches the Arab library on the issue of factors contributing to recidivism, and that identifying the relationship between social factors and recidivism has an effective role in the success of reform programs within correctional institutions. As well as knowing the lawyers' perspective in Karak governorate towards the social factors that contribute to recidivism. This study also provides recommendations based on scientific findings, which may help decision-makers and officials towards developing policies and strategies that contribute to reducing recidivism

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