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EXPLORING THE FACTORS AND CHALLENGES OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS: AN INPUT TO AN INTERVENTION PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to explore the significant factors causing the reoffending of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) of Manila City Jail Male and Female Dormitories as a basis for identifying its root causes, factors, and underlying circumstances, as well as to determine whose government agencies' responsibility was the continued rise of reoffending or crime recurrence in the city of Manila to formulate appropriate intervention programs to lessen, if not eradicate, reoffending. Specifically, examining the variables and difficulties faced by criminal offenders entailed looking at the detailed connections between personal traits, social context, and environmental elements that induced criminal behavior and recidivism. This emphasized the significance of focused interventions and rehabilitative ways of addressing the complexities of these issues. This study was conducted in the male and female dormitories. Those who responded to survey questions provided the information required for quantitative analysis and interpretation. Results of the study disclosed that the increased number of commitments of repeat offenders to both male and female dowries were indicative of the seriousness of the challenges encountered by repeat offenders upon release from jail, triggered by societal, economic, and psychological factors.

KEYWORDS: *Repeat Offenders, Recidivism, Social Factors, Economic Factors, Psychological Factors, Intervention Program*

INTRODUCTION

Recidivism, or the tendency for people to commit crimes again after being convicted the first time, was a problem that the criminal justice system regularly faced. Determining the causes of criminal recurrence was essential to perceiving the effectiveness of successful welfare and development and lowering recidivism rates. According to Fuente and Alop (2021), recidivism is defined as "the relapse of criminal behavior that resulted in the re-arrest, reconviction, and/or reimprisonment of an individual."

Associating recidivism rates across countries was very thought-provoking because of dissimilar definitions and methods of monitoring. Many countries possessed information regarding repeat offenses, with each nation presenting its own unique interpretation of the concept. In many countries, recidivism just included reincarceration; in others, it also included reconvictions or even rearrests. Furthermore, because follow-up times following release from prison differed widely, it was difficult to draw exact comparisons. Regretfully, according to Villamor (2019), the Philippines was among the countries that lacked comprehensive recidivism statistics. Since 1914, there have not been many thorough court statistics on recidivism in the country. In their paper "Improving Recidivism as a Performance Measure," the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) noted that considering potential changes in the underlying population.

A detailed study on reoffending rates in 23 nations by Yukhnenko, Sridhar, and Fazel (2019) revealed that only 10 out of the 50 countries with high prison populations shared data on recidivism among released prisoners. This discovery highlighted the lack of data collection and reporting on this matter globally.

Several similarities and differences emerged, highlighting gaps addressed in the current study. Despite numerous studies, Tollman and Spies' (2021) research indicated that mental health components were often not prioritized, though specialist programs targeting mental health showed promise in reducing criminal conduct. This aligned with Grossi's (2020) exploration of educational programs within prisons, which, despite their potential, faced limitations due to low funding and structural restrictions affecting job opportunities upon release. Both studies emphasized the need for improved support systems and structural changes to enhance reintegration success.

Tegeng and Abad (2018) and Rodolfa et al. (2020) similarly addressed recidivism by highlighting various contributing factors such as family issues, economic hardships, and inadequate welfare programs. However, while Tegeng and Abad focused on specific regional factors like family dynamics and economic conditions, Rodolfa et al. stressed the systemic challenges faced by individuals cycling through the criminal justice system, advocating for tailored social service interventions.
Petrich (2022) critiqued reentry programs for their mixed results and methodological issues, suggesting that these programs often

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failed due to a lack of focus on high-risk offenders and improper implementation. This perspective contrasted with Tharshini et al. (2018), which underscored the reentry challenges like unstable health, drug addiction, and lack of family support, thereby highlighting the practical issues faced by ex-offenders during reintegration.

Dwivedi (2022) introduced a statistical model to explore the interactions between social, psychological, and neurological factors in recidivism, proposing a neuro-predictive model for better predictions. This study added a nuanced layer to the understanding of recidivism by integrating various risk factors, a point that complemented Frankham et al. (2020), who examined the impact of financial hardship on mental health but noted methodological limitations.

Lin et al. (2020) challenged previous findings on the effectiveness of risk assessment algorithms versus human judgment in predicting recidivism, suggesting that algorithms might outperform human predictions under certain conditions. This study highlighted the need for a better understanding of the effectiveness and limitations of predictive tools in the criminal justice system. Pękala-Wojciechowska et al. (2021) and Walters (2019) both addressed the broader socio-environmental factors influencing recidivism, with Pękala-Wojciechowska focusing on health issues in Poland and Walters examining criminal thinking patterns. Both studies provided insights into the multifaceted nature of recidivism, reinforcing the need for comprehensive interventions.

Local literature, including studies by Delfin et al. (2023), Dela Fuente and Alop (2021), and Nicholls (2023), aligned with these findings by highlighting specific challenges within the Philippine context, such as overcrowding and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These studies emphasized the need for targeted interventions and improved prison administration to address recidivism effectively.

The studies shared several similarities. Many of them, including those by Mitchell et al. (2023), Howard and van Doorn (2018), and Rowe et al. (2022), focused on understanding and addressing recidivism. These studies examined predictors of reoffending and evaluated the effectiveness of various interventions and treatment programs aimed at reducing repeat offenses. Additionally, Walters (2020) and Huang et al. (2020) highlighted the significance of psychological and social cognitive variables, such as mental health, personality disorders, and cognitive biases, in predicting criminal behavior and recidivism. Research by Broadhurst et al. (2018) and Jones et al. (2023) emphasized the positive impact of restorative justice programs on reducing reoffending rates and enhancing victim satisfaction, showcasing consensus on the benefits of such interventions.

However, there were notable differences among the studies. They were conducted in various locations, such as Australia, England and Wales, and Spain, and utilized diverse methodologies. For instance, Mitchell et al. (2023) employed a retrospective cohort study, while Rowe et al. (2022) used a mixed methodology combining qualitative and quantitative analyses. This variation influenced the generalizability and applicability of the findings across different contexts. Furthermore, some studies concentrated on specific aspects of criminal behavior. Zoran and Naumova (2018) focused on distinguishing between violent and nonviolent offenders based on personality traits and reinforcement sensitivity theory, whereas Expósito-Álvarez et al. (2021) examined intimate partner violence concerning substance use problems.

In contrast, the Philippine Corrections System involves a framework that includes the government, civil society, and business sectors, each contributing to the confinement, correction, and restoration of individuals charged or convicted of crimes. Jails and prisons are central to this system, focusing on the correction, welfare, and development of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) and their reintegration into society.

The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), created by Republic Act No. 6975 on January 2, 1991, was tasked with overseeing the administration and operation of district, city, and municipal jails in the Philippines. This agency was responsible for the safekeeping and development of PDL, which included those detained, under investigation, undergoing trial, or convicted with a sentence of three years or more. Before the BJMP, the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police managed local penology. The BJMP aimed to separate its functions from the national police and report directly to the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government.

On the other hand, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), previously known as the Bureau of Prisons, managed national offenders sentenced to three years or more. BuCor's headquarters were located at the New Bilibid Prison Reservation in Muntinlupa. Its responsibilities included confining convicted individuals, preventing crime within prisons, providing humane treatment, implementing welfare and development programs, and engaging in agro-industrial projects to develop prison lands and resources.

BuCor operated seven units across the Philippines: the New Bilibid Prison, the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW), the Mindanao-PPanabo, Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm, Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm, San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm, Leyte Regional Prison, and Davao Prison and Penal Farm. Both BJMP and BuCor were responsible for the safekeeping, reform, and development of individuals convicted of crimes.

Onsat et al. (2023) explored factors affecting recidivism at the Tabaco City District Jail, identifying employment opportunities, substance abuse, lack of education and skills, and poor social support as significant contributors to repeat offenses. The study emphasized the need for comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration programs that addressed these issues through social

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assistance, drug treatment, and educational and vocational training.

Leonor et al. (2023) evaluated community involvement in rehabilitating PDL at the Iriga District Jail in Camarines Sur, revealing partial implementation of community activities such as work programs, moral and spiritual support, education, sports, behavior modification, and health programs. Challenges included limited funds, inadequate facilities, and insufficient support. Recommendations included psychological evaluations, job placement, community service, and family involvement in rehabilitation.

Bonggot et al. (2024) conducted a phenomenological study on the experiences of released inmates, highlighting positive outcomes of rehabilitation programs, such as spiritual growth and skill development, though also revealing emotional struggles related to family separation and the harsh realities of incarceration. The study found that rehabilitation programs were beneficial in easing the transition back into society and reducing the likelihood of reoffending, despite ongoing reintegration challenges. Palgan et al. (2022) investigated the post-incarceration lives of ex-offenders, noting that social relationships significantly impact their reintegration. Ex-offenders faced challenges related to their personal lives, safety concerns, and societal stigma, leading to a reluctance to engage socially and an emphasis on comfort and acceptance from immediate family and newfound liberties.

Theoretical Framework

Strain theory, foundationally developed by Robert K. Merton, is a sociological and criminological perspective explaining deviant behavior, including criminal activities, as a response to societal structures and processes that place individuals under stress or "strain." Introduced in Merton's 1938 article "Social Structure and Anomie" and expanded in his 1957 book "Social Theory and Social Structure," the theory posits that strain arises when individuals perceive a gap between culturally approved goals, such as wealth and success, and the legitimate means to achieve them, like education and employment. This disjunction often leads to a state of normlessness or "anomie," causing individuals to adapt in various ways: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, and rebellion. Merton argued that those unable to achieve societal goals through legal means might resort to illegal alternatives. In the late 20th century, Robert Agnew refined the theory with his General Strain Theory, adding dimensions such as negative affective states, individual differences, and coping strategies, thus broadening its scope beyond economic strain. Together, these frameworks provide insight into the challenges and conditions that criminal offenders face, highlighting the need for interventions addressing these underlying strains.

Significance of the Study

The study provided a chance to pinpoint and comprehend the specific factors that led to recidivism. This awareness was crucial for creating interventions that specifically targeted the underlying reasons for recidivism. The study supported initiatives designed to break the cycle of reoffending by examining the issues and obstacles encountered by repeat offenders. Programs for effective intervention had the power to break the cycles that re-entered criminal conduct in people. The results provided important information for formulating plans to lower the recidivism rates of repeat offenders. Although community safety and the general efficacy of the criminal justice system depended on this, repeat offenders frequently confronted intricately linked problems.

Through a better understanding of the underlying problems that contributed to chronic criminal behavior, the study aided in unraveling these barriers. Welfare and development programs that explicitly targeted the needs and difficulties of people with a history of recurrent offenses were developed with guidance from the study. Interventions that were specifically designed had a higher chance of success. The most efficient ways to lower recidivism among repeat offenders were the ones that correctional facilities and intervention programs should have concentrated on if they wanted to maximize their resources. This ensured a more efficient use of resources within the Manila City Jail. Policymakers could use the study's findings to shape policies that specifically targeted repeat offenders, and this might have included legal reforms, diversion programs, and enhanced support systems aimed at preventing further criminal activity.

Successful reintegration into society was a primary goal for repeat offenders, and understanding the factors and challenges allowed for the development of comprehensive reintegration programs that addressed specific barriers faced by this population. Repeat offenders often have a more significant impact on society due to their recurring involvement in criminal activities. The study contributed to efforts aimed at reducing the societal consequences associated with persistent criminal behavior. By targeting repeat criminals, the study addressed the underlying causes of persistent criminal conduct and potentially had a positive long-term social impact.

Consequently, this promoted safer neighborhoods and a criminal justice system that was more rehabilitative. In summary, the study's relevance for repeat offenders rested in its ability to offer focused insights that could guide welfare and development initiatives, legislative changes, and intervention programs designed to lower recidivism. The study helped Manila City Jail male and female dormitories find more practical and long-lasting solutions by addressing the particular difficulties experienced by those with a history of repeat offenses.

This study was important because it illuminated and highlighted the effectiveness of the current welfare and development programs implemented in the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Manila City Jail to the repeat offenders and addressed its contributing factors, such as sociological, economic, and psychological factors, giving criminologists, correctional facilities, and legislators insightful information. It helped create a more comprehensive understanding of the criminal justice system

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by identifying these hidden costs.

This study is significant to the following:
Persons Deprived of Liberty. This study is important because it seeks to understand and address the factors influencing recidivism, providing insights for more effective interventions and support systems to facilitate their successful reintegration into society.

Correctional facilities. This study is important because it emphasizes the value and aims to identify and address factors influencing criminal offenders' recurrence, offering valuable insights for the development of targeted intervention programs within correctional settings to reduce recidivism and enhance welfare and development outcomes.

Legislators. This research has great relevance for legislators, as it offers valuable and concrete insights into the complex reasons behind repeat criminal behavior. By delving into societal, economic, and psychological aspects, this study offers a nuanced understanding that can assist policymakers in making evidence-based decisions. Armed with this knowledge, legislators can develop more impactful legislation and allocate resources to support individualized interventions. Ultimately, this will promote improved public safety and the successful reintegration of offenders into society.

Academe. This study holds great significance for the academic community, as it offers valuable insights into the intricate dynamics between societal, economic, and psychological factors that affect the recurrence of criminal offenders. Its findings not only serve as a foundation for future scholarly investigations but also pave the way for the creation of theoretical frameworks and models in criminology and related fields. Additionally, this research has the potential to inspire innovative and successful intervention programs, fostering ongoing discourse and progress in understanding and combating criminal recidivism within academia.

Community. This study carries meaningful implications for the community as it offers valuable insights into the complexities and obstacles that lead to the repeat offending of criminals. Through its exploration of societal, economic, and psychological factors, this research lays the groundwork for community-driven initiatives and interventions that aim to lower recidivism rates. These findings have the potential to inform and shape local programs, policies, and resources tailored to the unique needs of individuals reintegrating into society, ultimately fostering a safer and more supportive community. Furthermore, this study promotes active community participation and cooperation in crafting effective strategies for crime prevention and the successful welfare and development of offenders.

Future Researchers. This study is important as it offers the potential for future researchers to gain insights from the theory formulated based on its findings. Operational Statement: Evaluate how much future researchers use the developed theory in their work, using citations and references in academic writings to measure the influence and adoption of the criminological theory among scholars.

Objectives of the Study
This study aims to explore and analyze the contributing factors to the recurrence of criminal offenses among persons deprived of liberty and evaluate the perceived effectiveness of the welfare provided. Specifically, it seeks to:

- **To determine** the extent of the contribution of societal, economic, and psychological factors to the recurrence of criminal offenses among offenders.
- **To compare** the differences in the extent of contribution among societal, economic, and psychological factors to criminal recidivism.
- **To evaluate** the perceived level of seriousness of challenges encountered by repeat offenders upon their release into the community.
- **To investigate** the relationship between the extent of the contributing factors and the perceived seriousness of challenges faced by repeat offenders.
- **To propose** an intervention program for implementation in the Manila City Jail based on the findings of the study

METHODOLOGY
In this chapter, the author outlined the research strategy—the methodology to be utilized, the research approach, the methods used in collecting data, the selection of the sample, and the research process.

Research Design
Quantitative research was the process of collecting and analyzing numerical data. It could be used to find patterns and averages, make predictions, test causal relationships, and generalize results to wider populations.

The quantitative approach in studying "Exploring the Factors and Challenges of Criminal Offenders: An Input to an Intervention Program" in the Manila City Jail Male and Female Dormitory was a cross-sectional survey that was used to conduct a one-time survey to gather data from male and female offenders in the Manila City Jail Male and Female Dormitory. It aimed to quantify and analyze the factors and challenges influencing criminal behavior and reoffending among male and female offenders in the Manila City Jail. This quantitative research design was intended to provide numerical data that could be analyzed statistically to uncover patterns, associations, and predictors related to criminal behavior and challenges faced by offenders. The findings contributed valuable insights for the development and enhancement of targeted intervention programs within the Manila City Jail Male and Female Dormitory.

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Research Method

This quantitative study used a descriptive method on "Exploring the Factors and Challenges of Criminal Offenders: An Input to an Intervention Program." It aimed to provide statistically rigorous insights into the factors and challenges associated with criminal behavior among offenders. The findings had practical applications in shaping intervention programs and policies within the context of the Manila City Jail male and female dormitories.

Population of the Study

The researcher, employed as an instructor at a nearby educational institution, conducted the study near Manila City Jail. The primary focus was on repeat offenders currently committed as Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) both in the Male and Female Dormitories in Manila City Jail under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). The decision to select this specific group as the target population was based on its convenient accessibility to the researcher, who served as a full-time faculty member at the Philippine College of Criminology, located within a 10-15 minute walk from the city jail. Subsequently, with the current estimated population of 5,000 PDL both in the male and female dormitories, 310 repeat offenders from the PDL population in Manila City Jail, with a breakdown of 244 from the male dormitory and 66 from the female dormitory, forming the sample population for this study.

Table 1 Male and Female Dormitory 2024 Record

Dormitory	No. of PDL Interviewed by BJMP	Recommitted at MCJ only	Percentage vs Total Population	Sample Size
Male	3,186	1,249	31.35%	244
Female	798	341	8.55%	66
TOTAL	3,984	1,590	39.91%	310

Sampling Method. This study utilized convenience sampling techniques. A convenience sample was taken from the population sector that the researcher found most easily accessible, using a non-probability sampling technique (Qualtrics, 2023).

This study used a sampling method, specifically purposive sampling, which aimed to explore and study the factors and challenges among specific subgroups within the inmate population, providing a nuanced understanding that could inform intervention strategies. It also considered the criteria related to criminal history, participation in intervention programs, and other relevant characteristics.

A convenience sampling technique was employed as well to specifically choose 310 repeat offenders from the PDL population in Manila City Jail.

Data Gathering Tools

The data-gathering instruments used were survey questionnaires that were formulated by the researcher with the guidance of the thesis adviser and were signed, checked, and approved by the members of the panel. The questionnaire comprised items related to demographic information, criminal history, societal, economic, and psychological factors contributing to recidivism, perceived challenges upon release, and opinions on potential intervention programs.

Structured Questionnaires:

- Standardized sets of questions are designed to collect quantitative data from participants.
- Administered the structured questionnaire within the Manila City jail, ensuring standardized procedures for all participants.
- Data collectors were trained to maintain consistency and address potential issues.
- Obtained informed consent from participants before data collection. Reliability Testing. A reliability test was performed on both male and female inmates at Valenzuela City Jail. The use of reliability testing in Valenzuela City Jail is critical for ensuring that data acquired from various assessments and surveys is consistent and reliable. This facilitates making educated decisions based on accurate and reliable information, which is critical for tailoring correctional programs and interventions to the individual requirements of inmates. Reliable data also makes efficient monitoring and assessment of these initiatives possible, allowing for timely adjustments to increase their effectiveness.

Data Gathering Procedures

After the research instrument was validated, the researcher personally approached the Manila City Jail's male and female dormitory wardens and sought their approval. After obtaining approval from the regional office to conduct data collection with the PDL and personnel via participation in the research study on a specified time and date, the researcher disseminated the structured survey questionnaires to the respondents.

During data gathering, the researcher utilized the survey questionnaires administered to the respondents and personally administered and collected the answered survey questionnaires.

This quantitative data-gathering procedure aimed to provide a systematic and statistically sound exploration of the factors and challenges faced by repeat offenders, contributing valuable

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insights to the development of effective intervention programs.

Research Process. The researcher utilized the following steps in the gathering of data:

1. Conduct of the interview;
2. Developed a survey questionnaire;
3. Distribution of survey questionnaires;
4. Collection of data;
5. Statistical treatment;
6. Presentation;
7. Analysis;
8. Interpretation; and
9. Tabular presentation.

Treatment of Data

Data from the study were processed, analyzed, and interpreted using descriptive and inferential statistics. The data set was prepared applying MS Excel and treated using the add-in Real Statistics and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) V.17.

Descriptive statistics were used in determining the extent of the contribution of the factors to the recurrence of criminal offenses by criminal offenders. level of effectiveness, the degree of academic performance, and the level of seriousness. The extent of the contribution made use of a 4-point Likert scale.

A Likert scale is a rating scale that quantitatively assesses opinions, attitudes, or behaviors. It provides "a range of responses to a given question or statement" (Cohen et al. 2000). Since the response categories of a Likert scale have a rank order, they fall within the ordinal level of measurement (Hansen, 2004), and the median is the appropriate measure of central tendency. The same applied to the degree of seriousness of the challenges faced by repeat offenders upon their release into the community.

To determine the extent of contribution of the factors to the recurrence of criminal offenses of criminal offenders in terms of societal, economic and psychological factor, the following numerical values, descriptive ratings, and median scale ratings are used:

Table 2 Verbal Interpretation for Extent of Contribution

Numerical Value	Descriptive Rating Median Scale Rating
4	Strongly influential 3.5 - 4.00
3	Moderately influential 2.5 - 3.49
2	slightly influential 1.5 - 2.49
1	not at all influential 1.00 - 1.49

In determining whether there was a significant difference in determining the extent of the contribution of the factors according to gender, a non-parametric test, Mann-Whitney, was applied. For the comparative analysis according to the frequency of commitment, the Kruskal-Wallis test was used.

Another treatment that was used was Spearman's correlation. Spearman's correlation in statistics was a nonparametric alternative to Pearson's correlation. Spearman's correlation was used for data that followed curvilinear, monotonic relationships and for ordinal data. Statisticians also referred to Spearman's rank-order correlation coefficient as Spearman's ρ (rho). This treatment was utilized to know the significant relationship between the extent of the contribution of the factors and the perceived level of seriousness of the challenges encountered by the repeat offenders.

A test of normality was also conducted to justify the use of non-parametric tests in this study. Shapiro-Wilks was used in this test. A p-value of ≤ 0.05 indicates that the data were not normally distributed.

Ethical Considerations

To ensure that participants, mainly Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) of Manila City Jail Male and Female Dormitories, had thorough knowledge of the study's goal, potential dangers, and benefits before deciding to participate, a rigorous strategy for gaining informed consent was used in this particular investigation. Participants' privacy was given top priority, and precautions were taken to safeguard their data and uphold confidentiality for the whole research project. The focus was on voluntariness, enabling individuals to choose their level of commitment and to stop at any time without fear of consequences. Information on resources and support services that were available to help participants was included in the post-study debriefing. The instrument was presented using Google Forms and was expressed in 2 languages, such as English and the native language Tagalog, for the respondents' convenience. To guarantee that the research complied with ethical norms, ethical approval from the appropriate institutional review of the self-structured questionnaires was sought before the study's commencement, highlighting the significance of maintaining participants' rights and well-being.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the discussion and analysis of the data gathered from the respondents.

3.1 Extent of contribution of the factors to the recurrence of criminal offenses of criminal offenders

A. Societal Factor. Table 4 presented an assessment of respondents' perceptions regarding various societal factors and their influence on the recurrence of criminal

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offenses. The data were categorized by gender, with both male and female respondents providing their insights. The influence of these factors was measured on a scale, and the results indicated that all factors were considered "Moderately Influential" (MI) overall.

The highest-rated factor for both males and females was the community's involvement and awareness of social support services and intervention programs, with scores of 3.18 for males and 3.22 for females.

The lowest-rated factor for males was stigma and prejudice toward individuals with criminal records, with a mean score of 2.49. For females, the lowest rated factor was also stigma and prejudice towards individuals with criminal records, with a mean score of 2.68.

The average scores across all societal factors were 3.03 for males and 3.11 for females, resulting in an overall mean influence score of 3.05, offenses.

Table 4. An assessment of the respondents in terms of Societal factor

Societal Factors	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Med	Int	Med	Int	Med	Int
Lack of social support and After-Care programs from LGUs, NGOs, and NGOS contributes to the recurrence of criminal offenses	2.73	MI	3.20	MI	2.83	MI
Negative or deplorable community conditions (such as high crime rates and low levels of community involvement).	2.76	MI	2.81	MI	2.81	MI
Social services, work opportunities, and education accessibility	2.77	MI	2.85	MI	2.58	MI
Stigma and prejudice in society towards people with criminal records	2.49	MI	2.68	MI	2.68	MI
Community's involvement and awareness to social support services and intervention programs	3.18	MI	3.22	MI	3.22	MI
Community-focused police initiatives and services	3.10	MI	3.09	MI	3.09	MI
Exemplary role models in the community	2.98	MI	2.94	MI	2.94	MI
Trust and confidence in law enforcement agencies	2.93	MI	3.00	MI	3.00	MI
Programs for community engagement	23.14	MI	3.08	MI	3.08	MI
Imagery of crime and criminal activity in media and different social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, etc.)	2.84	MI	2.92	MI	2.92	MI
TOTAL		**MI**		**MI**		**MI**

*Legend: LI – Least Influential, SI – Slightly Influential, MI – Moderately Influential, VI – Very Influential

Table 4 Examined societal factors influencing criminal recidivism, rated as "Moderately Influential" (MI). Community involvement in social support services was the highest-rated factor (3.18 for males, 3.22 for females), while stigma towards individuals with criminal records was the lowest (2.49 for males, 2.68 for females). Studies by Rodolfa et al. (2020) and Walters (2020) emphasized addressing societal factors like poverty and social exclusion, advocating for a holistic approach to crime prevention and offender reintegration. The findings underscored the importance of enhancing community support and reducing stigma to mitigate recidivism.

Table 5 Assessed economic factors influencing recidivism, also rated as "Moderately Influential" (MI). For males, program accessibility for education and career training was the highest-rated factor (2.85), while financial resource availability was the highest for females and the only factor rated as "Very Influential" (3.44). Instability in the economy was the lowest-rated factor for both genders (2.61 for males, 2.83 for females). The overall mean influence scores were 2.82 for males and 3.03 for females, averaging 2.87, indicating moderate economic influence on recidivism.

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Table 5 An assessment of the respondents in terms of Economical factor

Economic Factors	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Med	Int	Med	Int	Med	Int
Instability in the economy	2.61	MI	2.83	MI	2.66	MI
Limited and/or restricted ability to find steady work	2.81	MI	3.03	MI	2.86	MI
Financial resource availability (e.g.. income, savings)	2.77	MI	3.44	MI	2.94	MI
Disparities in communities' economies	2.78	MI	2.97	MI	2.82	MI
Stable living arrangements and housing	2.69	MI	3.14	MI	2.81	MI
Program accessibility for education and career training	2.85	MI	3.23	MI	2.94	MI
Availability of medical services	2.83	MI	3.34	MI	2.97	MI
Financial obligations and indebtedness	2.74	MI	3.00	MI	2.80	MI
Programs for economic empowerment (such as livelihood, skills development. Job training and support for entrepreneurship	2.68	MI	3.18	MI	2.88	MI
Degree of support one receives from family members is influenced by economic stability.	2.78	MI	3.19	MI	2.88	MI
	2.82	**MI**	**3.03**	**MI**	**2.87**	**MI**

*Legend: LI – Least Influential, SI – Slightly Influential, MI – Moderately Influential, VI – Very Influential

The findings supported Tegeng and Abadi's (2018) study, which identified economic problems like poverty, unemployment, and poor living conditions, as well as family and psychological issues, as major contributors to recidivism. Table 5 evaluated economic factors, rated "Moderately Influential" (MI). Medical service availability was the highest-rated factor for males, while financial resources were the highest for females (3.44, "Very Influential" - VI). Economic instability (2.61) concerned males most, and limited steady work (3.03) was a key concern for females. The combined average score was 2.87, highlighting economic stability as a critical area for intervention.

Expósito-Álvarez et al. (2021) and Jonathan et al. (2021) echoed these findings, emphasizing interventions like cognitive-behavioral therapy and economic support to address root causes like poverty and unemployment. Expanding access to financial resources, healthcare, and secure employment was essential to reduce recidivism.

Table 6 assessed psychological factors influencing recidivism, rated "Moderately Influential" (MI). Mental health and well-being were the highest-rated factors for both males (3.04) and females (3.29), while self-esteem (2.78) was the lowest for males and drug misuse (2.85) for females. The combined average score of 3.00 reinforced the moderate influence of psychological factors, highlighting the need for mental health support and addiction treatment to mitigate reoffending risks.

Table 6 An assessment of the respondents in terms of Psychological factor

Psychological Factors	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Med	Int	Med	Int	Med	Int
Well-being and Mental Health	3.04	MI	3.29	MI	3.11	MI
Drug misuse and addiction	2.87	MI	2.81	MI	2.86	MI
Effective and efficient Coping mechanism for handling stress and anger management	2.86	MI	3.15	MI	2.93	MI
Unresolved traumatic events and histories	2.85	MI	2.86	MI	2.85	MI
Strong sense of worth and self-esteem	2.78	MI	3.09	MI	2.85	MI
Negative cognitive behavioral patterns	2.91	MI	3.92	MI	2.91	MI
Drive and preparedness of the individual for constructive change	2.99	MI	3.16	MI	3.03	MI
Social network and the influence of peers	2.96	MI	3.12	MI	3.00	MI
Efficacy of treatment plans and therapeutic interventions	2.87	MI	3.00	MI	2.90	MI
Religious, Counseling, Sports and Recreation and intervention programs for welfare and development	2.92	MI	3.17	MI	2.98	MI
OVERALL	**2.98**	**MI**	**3.08**	**MI**	**3.00**	**MI**

*Legend: LI – Least Influential, SI – Slightly Influential, MI – Moderately Influential, VI – Very Influential

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The findings highlighted the importance of psychological well-being and coping mechanisms in reducing criminal behavior. Studies suggested that addressing mental health, addiction, and trauma could significantly contribute to welfare and development while lowering reoffending rates. This aligned with **Table 6**, which rated psychological factors as "Moderately Influential" (MI).

For males, mental health and well-being scored highest (3.04), while for females, self-esteem was rated highest (3.09). Unresolved traumatic events were rated lowest by both genders (2.85). The combined average score of 3.00 reinforced the moderate influence of psychological factors. Research by Huang et al. (2020) and Frankham et al. (2020) linked psychological resilience and social support to improved mental health and highlighted the impact of financial hardship on stress, anxiety, and depression.

The results underscored the critical role of psychological factors influencing criminal recidivism. Effective intervention programs should have focused on improving mental health, developing effective coping mechanisms, and addressing unresolved traumatic experiences. The studies by Huang et al.

3.2 Significant difference on the extent of contribution of the factors to the recurrence of criminal offenses of criminal offenders

Table 7 presents the comparative analysis of the recurrence of criminal offenses by criminal offenders and the extent of the contribution of various factors. These factors included societal, economic, and psychological factors, and the frequency of commitment for PDLs ranged from 2 times to 5 or more times.To determine if there was a significant difference between the number of recurrences by criminal offenders and the various factors, a non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted. When assessing socioeconomic factors, a Kruskal-Wallis value of 0.517 and a p-value of 0.915 indicated that there was no significant difference between the factors and frequency of commitment.

Table 7 Comparative Analysis in the Extent of Contribution of Frequency of Commitment Along Various Factors

Factors	Frequency of Commitment								Kruskal-Wallis Value	p-Value
	2 Times		3 Times		4 Times		5 Or More			
	Med	Int	Med	Int	Med	Int	Med	Int		
Societal	3.07	MI	3.04	MI	3.05	MI	2.99	MI	0.517	0.915
Economic	2.81	MI	2.87	MI	2.94	MI	2.95	MI	2.795	0.424
Psychological	2.98	MI	3.07	MI	2.89	MI	3.04	MI	2.236	0.525

*significant @ ≤ 0.05

The assessment of economic factors yielded a Kruskal-Wallis value of 2.795 and a p-value of 0.424, while psychological factors had a value of 2.236 and a p-value of 0.525. Both indicated significant differences between these factors and the frequency of criminal commitment. The data suggested that economic, societal, and psychological factors were all moderately influential in recidivism, regardless of the frequency of offenses committed.

These findings aligned with Dwivedi (2022), who identified social, psychological, and neurological variables as key contributors to criminal recidivism. These factors influenced both the treatment of offenders and the opportunities for reoffending. The study emphasized the importance of comprehensive support systems addressing societal, economic, and psychological factors to reduce their influence on recidivism rates. It also underscored that offenders remain heavily affected by these factors regardless of the number of offenses committed.

3.3 Level of seriousness of the challenges encountered by the repeat offenders upon release in the community

Societal Factors. Table 8 outlined the challenges faced by repeat offenders upon their release into the community, categorized by societal factors and gender. Overall, these challenges were rated as "moderately serious" (MS). The data revealed that both males and females encountered significant difficulties in several areas, including limited family or community support networks (3.00 for females), finding supportive peer groups (3.29 for females), and social stigma and discrimination (3.09 for females).

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Table 8 Level of Seriousness of Challenges Encountered by Repeat Offenders Upon Release in the Community Based on Societal Factors

Societal Factors	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Med	Int	Med	Int	Med	Int
Limited and/or restricted networks of family or community support for each person after release	2.93	MS	3.18	MS	3.00	MS
Finding supportive peer groups or mentors who can offer advice and encouragement can be challenging	2.99	MS	3.29	MS	3.08	MS
Social stigma and discrimination	2.91	MS	3.09	MS	2.96	MS
Inability to access resources and community-based programs for people going through a transition	2.79	MS	3.20	MS	2.89	MS
Limited opportunities for participation in community activities or events due to social isolation	2.64	MS	3.24	MS	2.77	MS
Exposure to neighborhoods with a high crime rate or places where criminal activity is common	2.59	MS	3.16	MS	2.71	MS
Inadequate availability of community resources, including parks, schools, and job training initiatives	2.63	MS	3.09	MS	2.74	MS
Absence of outreach programs and community involvement to assist people in their transition	2.61	MS	3.17	MS	2.75	MS
Fewer opportunities to engage with law-abiding community members and have positive social interactions	2.69	MS	3.17	MS	2.80	MS
Presence of negative influences or criminal associations within the community that may lead to reoffending	2.61	MS	2.73	MS	2.63	MS
OVERALL	**2.85**	**MS**	**2.97**	**MS**	**2.88**	**MS**

* Legend: NS - Not Serious, SS - Slightly Serious, MS - Moderately Serious, VS - Very Serious

Other notable challenges for reintegration post-incarceration, including limited access to resources and community-based programs (3.20 for females), social isolation impacting participation in community activities (3.24 for females), and exposure to high-crime neighborhoods (3.16 for females). These barriers underscored the need for supportive community structures to facilitate successful reentry and reduce recidivism. Programs such as mentorship, community outreach, and enhanced access to resources were essential to fostering positive social interactions and supporting former offenders.

Yukhnenko, Blackwood, and Fazel (2020) identified dynamic (modifiable) risk factors for recidivism in their systematic review and meta-analysis. Factors included mental health needs, substance misuse, antisocial associations, employment difficulties, and low income. The researchers emphasized integrating mental health, substance misuse, and criminal justice services to address these risks, aligning with Table 8's findings and reinforcing the need for targeted interventions.

Table 9 examined economic challenges faced by repeat offenders post-release, rated as "Moderately Serious" (MS). For females, discrimination in obtaining stable work (3.53, "Very Serious" - VI), limited education and vocational training programs (3.27, VI), and housing discrimination (3.04, MI) were significant issues. For males, unequal economic opportunities (2.87, MI), maintaining employment (3.27, VI), and limited housing assistance (3.34, VI) were critical challenges. These findings emphasized the need for comprehensive economic support to address disparities and promote reintegration.

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Table 9 Level of Seriousness of Challenges Encountered by Repeat Offenders Upon Release in the Community based on Economical Factors

Economical Factors	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Med	Int	Med	Int	Med	Int
Inability and discrimination to obtain stable work because of a criminal record	2.96	MS	3.53	MS	3.12	MS
Limited and/or restricted availability of education and vocational job training that can improve programs employability	2.91	MS	3.27	MS	3.00	MS
Unequal opportunities for economic advancement, which causes instability in finances	2.87	MS	3.23	MS	2.95	MS
Insufficient availability of resources and skills to establish or grow small enterprises for independent contractors	2.88	MS	3.38	MS	3.02	MS
Challenges in maintaining employment due to gaps in skills or education	2.89	MS	3.27	MS	2.98	MS
Difficulty of accommodation and obtaining reasonably priced housing after release	2.84	MS	3.03	MS	2.88	MS
Programs for housing assistance are less accessible to people with criminal records.	2.79	MS	3.34	MS	2.94	MS
Discrimination based on criminal history by property owners or landlords, which causes instability in the housing market.	2.73	MS	3.04	MS	2.78	MS
Insufficient assistance is provided to those who experience homelessness or unstable housing after being released	2.71	MS	3.21	MS	2.81	MS
Insufficient resources to deal with potential legal problems or obstacles pertaining to housing	2.85	MS	3.44	MS	3.01	MS
OVERALL	**2.97**	**MS**	**3.09**	**MS**	**2.99**	**MS**

*Legend: NS - Not Serious, SS - Slightly Serious, MS - Moderately Serious, VS - Very Serious

Economic factors profoundly influenced the reintegration of former offenders, emphasizing the need for policies addressing unemployment, education, housing, and discrimination. Petrich et al. (2022) identified unemployment, unstable housing, and financial instability as major recidivism risks. Effective strategies included job training, transitional housing, and financial literacy programs to support reintegration and long-term desistance from crime. Jones et al. (2023) highlighted restorative justice as a cost-effective intervention to reduce reoffending and foster behavior change.

Table 10 assessed psychological challenges, rated as "Moderately Serious" (2.98 MS). Females faced severe barriers, including limited mental health services (3.31, VS), addiction stigma (3.21, MS), and managing symptoms (3.22, MS). Males struggled with trauma effects (2.47, MS) and integrating into supportive social networks (3.18, MS). Addressing these challenges was crucial for successful reentry and reduced recidivism.

These results highlight the critical need for improved post-release mental health and addiction rehabilitation care. Improving access to services, lowering stigma, and creating supportive environments should be the top priorities of effective interventions in order to promote successful community reintegration and lower recidivism.

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Table 10 Level of Seriousness of Challenges Encountered by Repeat Offenders Upon Release in the Community based on Psychological Factors

Psychological Factors	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	Med	Int	Med	Int	Med	Int
People with untreated mental health conditions have restricted access to mental health services and treatment.	2.91	MS	3.31	MS	3.03	MS
Social stigma and judgment around mental health make it challenging for people to get treatment.	2.83	MS	3.19	MS	2.93	MS
Difficulties in managing mental health symptoms in the absence of appropriate resources or support.	2.88	MS	3.22	MS	2.97	MS
Barrier to getting the treatment or drugs required to address mental health issues	2.75	MS	3.35	MS	2.90	MS
Overcoming the psychological effects of traumatic events or other life events, which could lead to reoffending behaviors.	.2.47	MS	3.33	MS	2.65	MS
Limited and/or restricted availability of resources and programs for drug abuse treatment.	2.52	MS	3.29	MS	2.69	MS
Overcoming temptations and triggers for addiction in the community is difficult.	2.84	MS	3.39	MS	2.98	MS
Difficulties in reintegrating into drug-free, encouraging social networks after release.	2.87	MS	3.18	MS	2.94	MS
Social stigma and condemnation associated with substance abuse problems.	2.79	MS	3.21	MS	2.88	MS
Insufficient intervention programs to prevent relapses and provide continuous support recovery for addiction	2.90	MS	3.13	MS	2.95	MS
OVERALL	**2.95**	**MS**	**3.07**	**MS**	**2.98**	**MS**

*Legend: NS - Not Serious, SS - Slightly Serious, MS-Moderately Serious, VS - Very Serious

Pękala-Wojciechowska et al. (2021) found that mental and physical health issues were significant obstacles to the successful reintegration of ex-prisoners, with mental health problems particularly prevalent. Poor housing, harmful lifestyles, and inadequate medical services during incarceration contributed to poor physical health. Stigma and lack of institutional support further compounded reentry challenges.

The study emphasized integrating mental health, substance abuse, and medical services into reentry programs to address these issues. Improving access to care, reducing stigma, and supporting addiction recovery were essential for successful reintegration and reducing recidivism.

3.4 Significant Relationship Between the Extent of Contribution of Factors and the Level of Seriousness of the Challenges Encountered by Repeat Offenders

Table 11 shows the relationship between the various factors (societal, economic, and psychological) when examining them through the extent of their contribution to the recurrence of repeat offenses by repeat offenders and the seriousness of the challenges encountered by said offenders.

To determine if there was a significant relationship between the two similar factors, a non-parametric test Spearman-rho coefficient value was used. When examining the economic contribution and its relationship with psychological challenges faced by repeat criminal offenders, a Spearman-rho coefficient value of 0.310 was interpreted to have a weak relationship, and a p-value of 0.000 told us that this relationship was significant. What this indicated was that the economic contributions had a minimal effect on the psychological challenges that repeat criminals faced.

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Table 11 Significant Relationship Between the Extent of Contribution of Factors and the Level of Seriousness of the Challenges Encountered by Repeat Offenders

Predictor (Extent of Contribution)	Response (Seriousness of Challenges)	Spearman-rho p Coefficient Value	Interpretation	p-Value
Societal	Societal	0.147	Weak Relationship	0.008*
	Economical	0.163	Weak Relationship	0.003*
	Psychological	0.259	Weak Relationship	0.000*
Economical	Societal	0.419	Moderate Relationship	0.000*
	Economical	0.393	Weak Relationship	0.000*
	Psychological	0.310	Weak Relationship	0.000*
Psychological	Societal	0.376	Weak Relationship	0.000*
	Economical	0.403	Moderate Relationship	0.000*
	Psychological	0.403	Moderate Relationship	0.000*

*significant @ ≤0.05

Several factors may have influenced the relationship between economic and psychological challenges. Difficulty obtaining stable work due to a criminal record could have caused financial stress, worsening mental health issues. Unemployment and limited access to education and job training may have exacerbated feelings of hopelessness and anxiety, while economic struggles could lead to housing instability, worsening mental health. Addressing economic factors such as stable employment, housing, and financial resources could mitigate psychological challenges and aid reintegration, reducing reoffending. A Spearman-rho coefficient of 0.403 (p = 0.000) shows a moderate and significant relationship between psychological contributions and economic challenges. This relationship indicates that addressing both psychological and economic needs can help improve offenders' employability and stability, reducing recidivism and fostering a safer, more inclusive community.

Summary of the Findings

The study found that societal, economic, and psychological factors moderately influence the recurrence of criminal offenses. Community involvement in support services was the highest factor for both males (3.18) and females (3.22), with a median score of 3.05 for societal factors. Economic factors had a moderate impact, with program accessibility for males (2.85) and financial resource availability for females (3.44), resulting in a median score of 2.87. Psychological factors, including well-being and mental health, also moderately affected recidivism, with scores of 3.04 for males and 3.09 for females, giving a median score of 3.00. A Kruskal-Wallis test showed no significant difference (p = 0.915) between factors and frequency of criminal offenses, indicating that all factors moderately influence recidivism.

Challenges encountered by repeat offenders were moderately serious, with societal (median score 2.88), economic (median score 2.99), and psychological (median score 2.98) challenges rated as moderately serious. Significant relationships between factors and challenges were found, with societal factors weakly relating to societal and economic challenges, economic factors moderately relating to societal challenges, and psychological factors moderately relating to both economic and psychological challenges.

Based on the findings, no intervention program was proposed inside Manila City Jail. Instead, various external community-based intervention programs were designed, involving stakeholders such as the public, business sectors, employers, community leaders, educational institutions, and media outlets.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Societal, economic, and psychological challenges faced by repeat offenders are moderately serious. With these findings, the proponent concluded that to effectively mitigate the factors contributing to recidivism, addressing the moderate severity of societal, economic, and psychological challenges faced by repeat offenders requires a holistic approach that integrates improved support systems, improved access to education and vocational training, and comprehensive mental health services.The findings reveal that societal factors show a weak but significant relationship with societal and economic challenges. Economic factors have a moderate relationship with societal challenges and a weak relationship with psychological challenges. Psychological factors have a moderate relationship with both economic and psychological challenges. These results highlight how crucial it is to deal with psychological problems to increase economic stability and lower the likelihood that criminal offenses would recur. Given the moderate impact of psychological, sociological, and economic aspects on recidivism, comprehensive assistance programs that tackle these interrelated issues are necessary. Policymakers and practitioners can contribute to a decrease in recidivism and enhance the reintegration results of repeat offenders by tackling these issues. Overall, this study has shown that there is a relationship between the contribution of factors and challenges, such as societal, economic, and psychological factors, and that further research is necessary to find additional factors that could enhance the relationship between factors and challenges.

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From the findings of the study, the following conclusions are derived:With the moderate influence of the factors to the recurrence of criminal offenses, it is concluded that a multimodal strategy addressing these interrelated problems through enhanced community support, employment opportunities, and psychological treatment is necessary for effective intervention.Societal, economic, and psychological factors consistently play a moderately influential role in the recurrence of criminal offenses, but the influence does not significantly vary with the number of offenses committed. With this finding, the proponent concluded that interventions to reduce recidivism should focus on addressing these factors rather than merely targeting the number of offenses committed.

As to the Intervention Program for Manila City Jail, the researcher concluded that existing intervention programs by Welfare and Development like TCMP and KKDK were sufficient enough to reform the Persons Deprived ofLiberty. As such, different intervention programs were designed to address the identified stakeholders, such as the public, business sectors, employers,community leaders, educational institutions, and media outlets in the community outside Manila City Jail.

Recommendations

By addressing these societal, economic, and psychological challenges with targeted interventions, the reentry process for repeat offenders can be improved, ultimately reducing recidivism and fostering successful reintegration into the community. Considering the summary and conclusions provided, the researcher humbly recommends the following action plan presented in tabular format:1. As to the extent of the contribution of the factors to the recurrence of criminal offenses of criminal offenders, adoption of the intervention programs proposed are highly recommended. These programs are:

- Strengthening Community Support for Reintegration• Investing in Second Chances: Transform Lives and Reduce Recidivism
- Enhancing Mental Health and Well-Being Support for Former PDLs: Empowering Medical and Health Workers

2. As to the perceived level of seriousness of the challenges encountered by the repeat offenders upon release in the community, adoption of the intervention programs proposed are highly recommended. These programs are:

- Building Support Networks: Empowering Former PDL through Peer Groups and Mentorship
- Breaking Barriers: Overcoming Employment Discrimination for Former PDL
- Mental Health Access and Support for Former PDL

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