

Crime and Punishment in Malta:

A Political

**Economy Approach to Incarceration and Rehabilitation for
Drug and Alcohol-Related Crime**

**Submitted as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of Doctorate of Political Economy
SMC/UCN**

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2020**



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Economy Approach to Incarceration and Rehabilitation for Drug and
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Overview of the study



01

Purpose of this study : to analyse whether an alternative means of punishment can be considered as a way to decrease the rate of crime and recidivism within a socio-economic context.

02

Methodology: A qualitative design which entailed a phenomenological approach .
The researcher was the key instrument in this study, as the primary tool used to collect data through semi-structured interviews.

03

Research Analysis and Presentation of Results
Emergent themes from inmates, clients and management personnel of rehab agencies and prison

04

Conclusion
Results from the emergent themes highlight the benefits and rewards of Rehabilitation in a socio-economic context.

The Importance of this Study

Drug and Alcohol addiction can lead to crime and may cause detrimental effects in the life of individuals , their family and society. The decision on how to handle drug and alcohol-related crime is an issue of concern to Maltese legislators and society alike.

If we are to address the issue of recidivism then we must ensure that a addicts are provided with the all the necessary help they need together with adequate preparation on how to handle life post prison. A strong and effective post-prison policy should be in place

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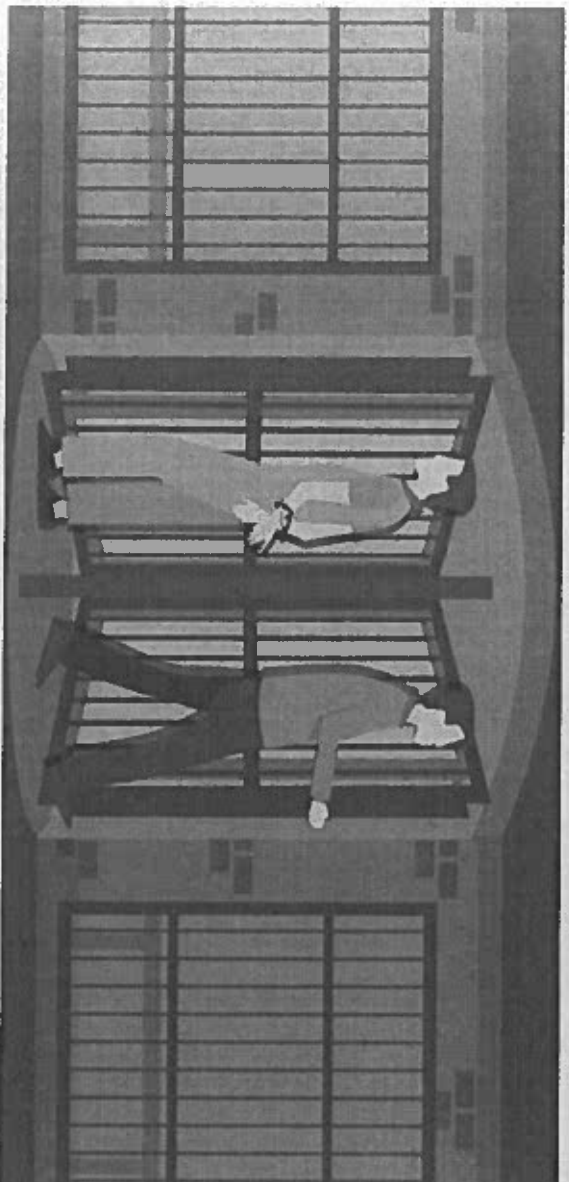
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first step

Research Questions



1. Who introduced the inmate to drugs and alcohol?
2. How can alternative means to incarceration educate the inmate?
3. How can rehabilitation reduce the rate of recidivism?
4. How can rehabilitation help the inmate to reintegrate into society in a healthy manner after release?
5. How does incarceration or rehabilitation affect children of prisoners?

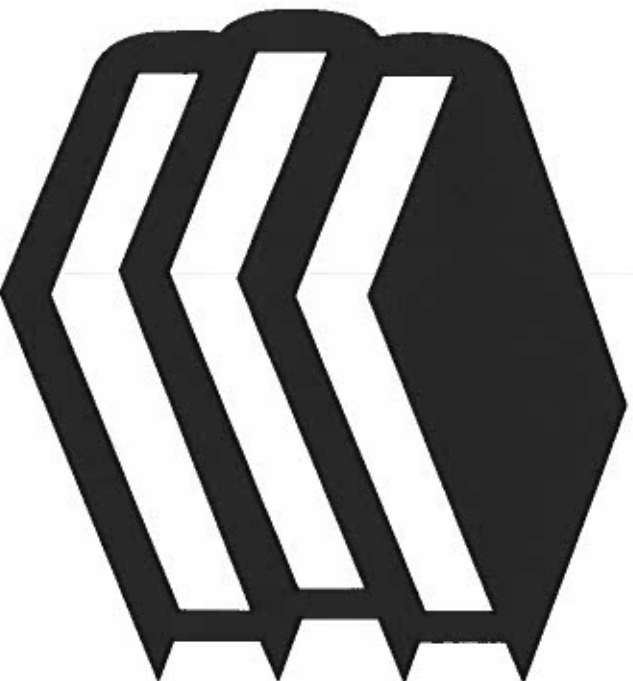


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OBJECTIVE:

To establish a clear picture of the crime and punishment system in Malta and to consider and determine whether alternative measures of detention can be a means of decreasing the rate of crime and recidivism within a socio-economic context.

LITERATURE REVIEW



THEORY A

Retributive Philosophy
Deprivation of Freedom
A punishment for the crime committed –
seeks to punish the offender as deserved
A way of deterring the person from
repeating the offense

REVIEW A

This form of punishment does not
educate the offender and there is a
high chance that the offender leaves
prison without reform and risks falling
into the cycle of addiction and
recidivism

THEORY B

Utilitarian Philosophy
Assesses the good and the bad in
a situation
Judgements are based on the
least harm possible to all
stakeholders

REVIEW B

This form of punishment advocates reform
and leaves room for considering
rehabilitation as an alternative
means of punishment

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH

Qualitative Design
Phenomenological Approach

Population

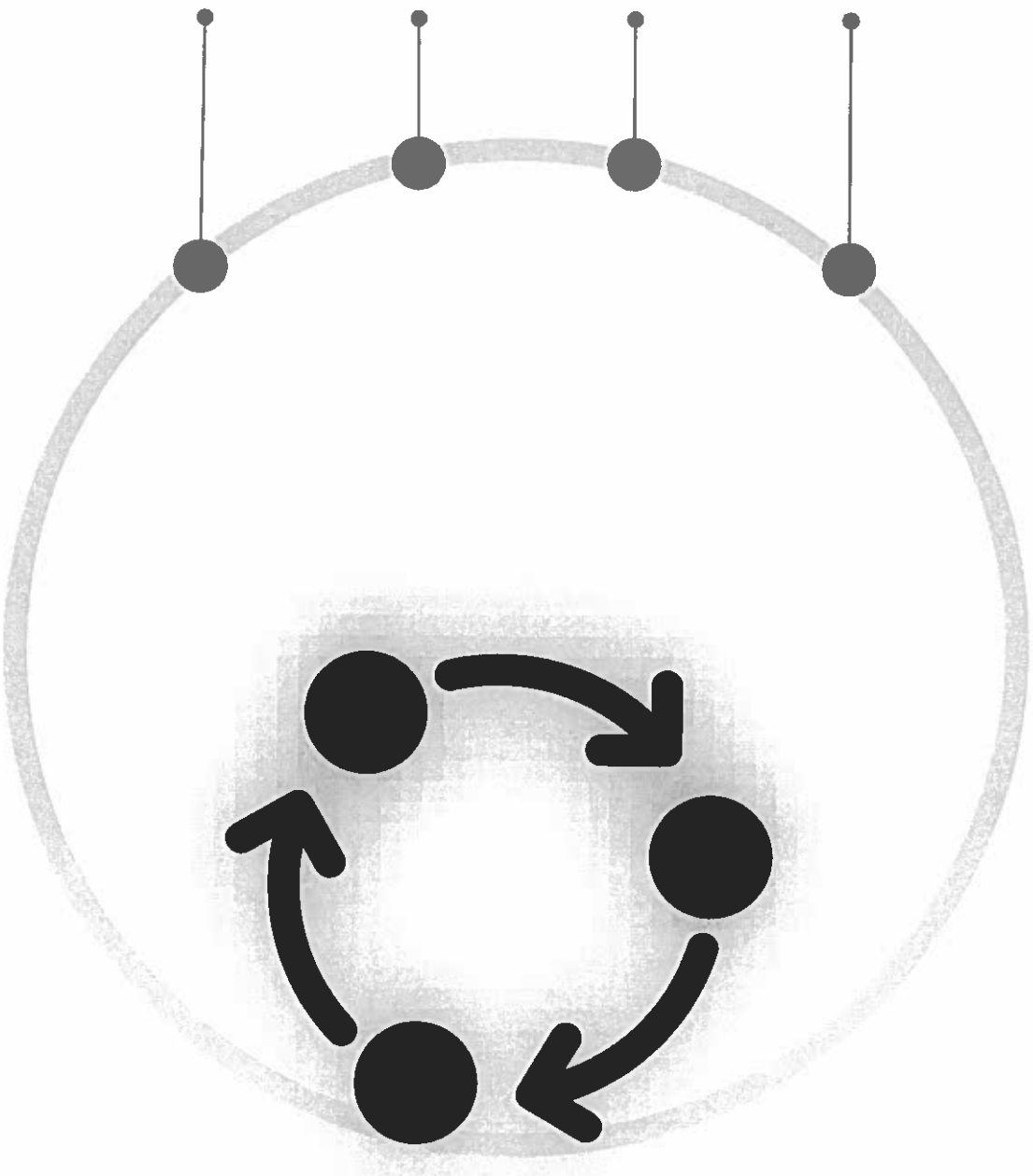
N=50
Homogenous Sampling

Research Instrument

The Researcher
Semi-Structured Interviews for
each target audience

Data Analysis

Open coding
Axial Coding
Emergent Themes



10 Emergent Themes

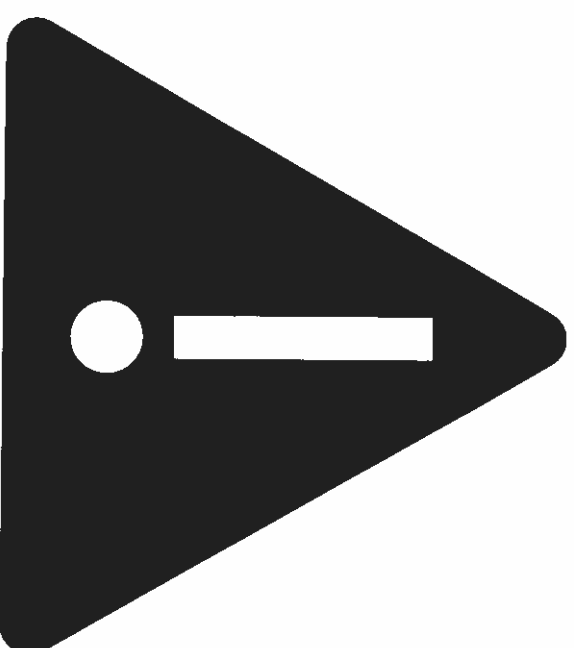
No	Themes	No	Sub Themes	Research Questions
1	Recidivism	1a	Reform Policy	R02
		1b	Addiction Support Group	R01/R04
		1c	Education	R02
		1d	Court System	R02
2	Awareness	2a	Awareness of Reality	R01/R05
		2b	Sense of Responsibility towards family and employment	R03/R04
3	Introduction to Drugs and Alcohol	3a	Drugs and Alcohol Problem among Teenageers	R04/R05
		3b	Education in Schools	R04/R05
4	Post-Release Plan	4a	Police Records	R03
		4b	Social Stigma and Housing Problems	R03
		4c	Housing / employment	R03
		4d	Relapse Prevention Programmes	R02
5	Effect of incarceration on Children and families	5a	Children and Trauma	R04
		5b	Education and Alternative Methods of Punishment	R01/R02/R03
		5c	Support for children	R04
6	Rehabilitation	6a	Support	R01
		6b	Rehabilitation Therapy	R01/R02
		6c	Relapse and Recidivism	R01/R02
7	Addiction	7a	Reform Policy	R01/R02
		7b	Education and Awareness	R01/R02
8	Teenageers	8a	Education in Schools	R01
9	Effects of addiction on Family and Children	9a	Trauma on Family and Children	R04
10	Employment	10a	Diminishing Social Status and Social Stigma	R03

Findings

- **Under the influence of Mind-altering substances different crimes can be committed**
- **All inmates are aware about the problem of recidivism and opt for a less prison-environment**
- **Inmates worry about the effects on children and the pain their families endure**
- **Employment is an issue of concern especially with regards to police conduct certificates**
- **The need for a reform and post-release policy is reiterated by all groups**
- **All inmates and clients opt for restorative justice**
- **Cost of prison and rehabilitation – cost calculated in terms of the benefits offered to the addict, his family and children and the investment in a healthier society**

Limitations of the Study

Respondents live in special and vulnerable circumstances
Respect for confidentiality
Special Permissions required
No permission to record interviews
Note taking method
No data available about drug and alcohol related crime



CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSION 1

Retributive Justice does not help to reduce the rate of recidivism nor does it help to reform the addict

CONCLUSION 2

Restorative Justice addresses the need of the addict and addresses addiction by way of investing in a healthier society



- **The need to address addiction and offer help and reform to addicts**
- **The need for rehabilitation institutions**
- **The need for education for children**
- **The need for legislators to get involved in reform policies**
- **The introduction of community work and alternative means of punishment**
- **Recommend further studies into how enforcement personnel handle criminals under the influence of drugs or alcohol**