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Behind Bars: Unveiling the Personal, Family, and Social Profiles of Prisoners

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of the present study was to identify the individual, psychological, personality, family, social, and religious profile of prisoners upon entering the prison in Qazvin province.

Methodology: The research method was descriptive, and the statistical population of the research was made up of all newly arrived prisoners, both accused and convicted, within a period of 3 months in all security and educational centers, including prisons, camps, and centers of the province. According to the census sampling method, the sample size for those who have been in prison for three months was 692 people. Data collection tools included GHQ-28, NEO-FFI Short Form, FAD, Stark and Glock CRS Questionnaire, and researcher-made questionnaires to collect personal data of prisoners.

Findings: The results of a general profile of the demographic characteristics, physical health, psychological problems, personality, judicial, occupational and religious characteristics of the prisoners showed that the description of these results is given in the main text.

Conclusion: It is suggested that the Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization use the results of this research to improve the quality of life of prisoners inside and outside the prison.

Keywords: Prisoners, Psychological Profile of Prisoners, Personality, Individual, Family, Social Characteristics.

1. Introduction

Prisons are places of pain, some of which are inherent in the experience of deprivation of liberty, and others are violations of human rights (Van der Valk et al., 2023). Prisons include temporary immigration centers, juvenile detention centers, and long-term correctional centers. Since 2000, the number of people imprisoned worldwide has increased by 24%, which is roughly consistent with the projected growth of the world population (Simpson et al., 2019). Prisons have adverse effects on physical health, so in many prisons, unhealthy conditions such as overcrowding and improper cleaning are common (Engdaw et al., 2023). Also, the percentage of mental disorders in prisoners is very high (Pagerols et al., 2023). Therefore, the inappropriate living conditions of people who are in prison show the huge burden of physical and mental health disorders in the prison population worldwide (Solbakken & Wynn, 2022). It should be said that about 95% of them eventually return to society, and half of them return to correctional systems after passing the necessary skills to work in society (Pagerols et al., 2023).

Most of the prisoners return to live with their families after release, but it is often temporary (Dickson, 2014). The reason for this behavior is one of the reasons for conducting this research, as a literature review of the research shows that there are various factors related to this problem. For example, the studies (Baćak et al., 2023; Gicharu et al., 2023; Hesselink, 2023; Ji, 2023; Jia Yun et al., 2023; Leban & Delacruz, 2023; Nam, 2023; Sekar & Bhuvaneshwari; Skowroński, 2022) in various ways have addressed the role of psychological factors and problems in the emergence of criminal and delinquent behaviors. Adverse childhood experiences are negative and powerful experiences that are associated with childhood trauma and can affect children's development at the individual level (antisocial personality characteristics), physical health level (general health, family level, dysfunctional families and family violence), social and economic level (low income and unemployment), peer level (antisocial and delinquent peers), school level (low academic problems) and neighborhood-society level (high crime level). Depending on the severity of the abuse that children experience, the inability to positively adjust emotions, guide attitudes and skills, and strengthen personal relationships, they may engage in maladaptive and antisocial, violent, and criminal behaviors (Hesselink, 2023; Leban & Delacruz, 2023).

On the other hand, some personality characteristics make people prone to commit crimes (Alemayehu et al., 2019;

Forrester et al., 2023; Gómez-Figueroa & Camino-Proañó, 2022). According to Brislin et al. (2019), neuroticism is one of the personality characteristics of prisoners; this characteristic is especially true for prisoners with a history. Neuroticism as a personality characteristic includes symptoms such as anxiety, restless mood, unstable emotions, vulnerability, and impulsivity (Brislin et al., 2019). According to Costa and McCrae, there are five major traits, including extroversion, introversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, and conscientiousness. Many studies (Aguilar et al., 2021; Brislin et al., 2019) have investigated these characteristics with criminal behaviors. The results of previous studies have also determined that some personality characteristics can distinguish delinquent people from non-delinquent peers (Jones et al., 2011).

On the other hand, social factors can be influential in the formation of violent and criminal behaviors in another way (Allen et al., 2018; Robson et al., 2023; Solbakken & Wynn, 2022; Sopromadze & Tsiskaridze, 2018). According to the findings of some studies, the reason for the occurrence of criminal behavior is the problem of social contagion. Criminals, as they see patterns in their social environment that act violent and criminal behaviors, also commit to breaking the law in similar situations (Ching et al., 2022; Martínez et al., 2023). Also, there is a relationship between the unmet social care needs of prisoners and depression (O'Hara et al., 2016) because sufficient levels of social support are positively related to health consequences (Solbakken & Wynn, 2022). Also, experiences such as social exclusion, poor educational progress, unemployment, poverty, housing instability, and poor access to health care are among the determining social factors. Based on the social disorganization theory, physical and social environments, and even the media affect people's behavior (Kang & Hureau, 2023).

The strongest predictors of general crime are family dimensions (Markson et al., 2016; Thorne et al., 2023). Family problems lead to the continuation of the criminal behavior of prisoners (Basto-Pereira & Farrington, 2022). Factors such as the family's economic challenges, academic indifference, pleasure-seeking, differentiation from the other self, and family disorganization have an effect on the occurrence of criminal and violent behaviors in adolescents. High closeness to the parent-adolescent in early adolescence predicts less antisocial behavior for adolescents and less dependence on deviant peer groups. The father's personality traits and his presence also played a key role in antisocial and criminal behaviors (Robson et al., 2023; Teneyck et al.,

2023). In addition, lack of interference from parents, separation of parents, pressure from peers, membership in a criminal gang, and parental participation in crime are important factors in the criminal behavior of inmates (Zakaria et al., 2022).

Another variable that is related to criminal behavior is religiosity (Ghossoub et al., 2022; Salas-Wright et al., 2018) and beliefs (Martin et al., 2017). Religiosity is defined as belief in and respect for God or a deity, as well as participation in activities related to that religion, such as regular attendance at worship services and participation in other social activities with the religious community (Adeyemo & Adeleye, 2008). Religiosity affects a person's way of thinking, taste judgment, and behavior (Falikah et al., 2022). It can be said that people's beliefs and religiosity play a major role in preventing criminal behavior (Martin et al., 2017) and increasing self-control (Salas-Wright et al., 2018).

On the other hand, experimental criminological studies show that delinquent behaviors are related to some demographic characteristics, such as age (Chalfin et al., 2023; Farrington et al., 2023; Kang & Hureau, 2023; Lehmann, 2023), gender, and marital status. For example, Farrington et al. showed that age is related to committing delinquent acts. In his opinion, the probability of committing a crime is high between the ages of 19 and 29.

In this way, although many theories and studies have been carried out to understand crime and its causes, in the light of global rapid modernization, the complexity of social life and increasing transformations in the current world, and the fluidity of social identities, there is a need for continuous experimental studies. In addition, with social changes, new crimes are created and the practices of the criminals become more complex. Therefore, the study of the criminology of prisoners is of special importance both in terms of planning for their return to a crime-free social life and for reforming and controlling them in prison and their return to society. For this reason, this research tries to present the profile of newly arrived prisoners with the help of design and correctional planning for crime prevention and to answer this question. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to know the individual, psychological, personality, family, social and religious characteristics of prisoners.

2. Methods and Materials

2.1. Study Design and Participants

The method of this research is a descriptive type, cross-sectional, and survey study, its statistical population was

formed by all newly arrived prisoners, both accused and convicted, within a period of 3 months in all centers of security and corrective measures, such as prisons, camps, and centers of the province. The sample of this research included all newly arrived prisoners who met inclusion criteria such as 1- Accused and convicted, 2- Mental and psychological health, and 3- They entered prison within three months and are still staying in prison after 48 hours. Then, the sample size was determined to be equal to 700 people by the census sampling method; after calculating the losses and incompletely completed questionnaires, 692 people were selected as the research sample.

2.2. Instruments

NEO Personality Inventory: This model, which is known as the five factors model of personality, was created by Costa & McCrae (1995) to examine personality characteristics such as extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness to experience through factor analysis. This questionnaire measures five main factors of personality and six characteristics in each factor or 30 characteristics in general. The reliability of this tool was reported by Cronbach's alpha for the five variables of extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness, conscientiousness, and 0.7, 0.726, 0.75, 0.82, and 0.717, respectively. The reliability coefficients of this Inventory in this research have been obtained between 0.75 and 0.83 (Jones et al., 2011; Robson et al., 2023).

Family Assessment Device (FAD): This questionnaire was prepared by Epstein, Baldwin, and Mansfield (1983). This questionnaire has 60 questions, and its purpose is to measure family function based on the McMaster model. This tool determines structural and occupational characteristics and measures six dimensions of family functioning, including problem-solving, relationship of roles, emotional companionship, emotional intercourse, and behavioral control. Another sub-scale related to family functioning is also measured. These sub-scales are measured by a four-point Likert scale from completely agree (1) to completely disagree (4). To get the average score of each scale, the average scores of the items of that scale are calculated, and then the scores of the items of each sub-scale are collected together and divided by the number of materials of that scale. It should be noted that positive sentences are scored in reverse. A high score in this tool means family dysfunction. Cronbach's alpha internal consistency estimates for the subscales are problem-solving: 0.74, relationship: 0.75,

roles: 0.71, emotional responsiveness: 0.83, emotional involvement: 0.78, behavior-ethics control: 0.72, and general function: 0.92. Seven scales had a moderate correlation (0.4 to 0.6) (Epstein et al., 1983).

Centrality of Religiosity Scale (CRS): To measure religiosity, Glock and Stark scale (1965) was used (Glock and Stark, 1968). This scale was made to measure attitudes, religious beliefs, and religiosity. This scale has 26 questions and four dimensions of religious (7 items), experiential or emotional (6 items), consequence (6 items), and rituals (7 items). The internal validity of the whole scale was reported to be 0.84, and its Cronbach's alpha was 0.84 (Glock & Stark, 1968).

General Health Questionnaire (GHQ): The short form of this questionnaire was created by Goldberg & Hillier (1979), and its purpose is to check the mental health of a person in the last month. This tool has 28 questions and four subscales, including 1- physical symptoms (items 1 to 7), 2- anxiety symptoms (items 8 to 14), 3- social functioning (items 15 to 21), 4- psychological depression symptoms (items 22 to 28), each scale has seven questions. The scoring method is a 4-point Likert scale; based on this method, the test options are scored as (1, 2, 3, 4). A score of 0 to 6 is considered a low score, 7 to 13 as a medium score, and 14 to 21 as a severe level, and the total score of a person will vary from 0 to 84. A low score indicates better mental health (Goldberg & Hillier, 1979). Its retest reliability in different sample groups was between 0.51 and 0.90, and split-half reliability was shown as 0.95. Also, GHQ-28 has construct, content, and concurrent validity (Goldberg & Hillier, 1979). The personal and sociological general information questionnaire was used to measure sociological variables, including demographic, family, occupational, cultural, and physical dimensions, from a researcher-made questionnaire that has formal and analytical validity.

2.3. Procedure

After obtaining permission and necessary coordination from the Prisons and Security and Corrective Measures Organization in all centers according to the inclusion criteria of the research, a census was carried out, then 700 prisoners were selected as a sample, and after the implementation of the questionnaires and data cleaning, 692 prisoners were selected as the main sample. In addition to demographic and judicial information, including the criminal records of oneself and family and friends, the reason for the crime, and being convicted, the sample 5 days were filled with the

personal and sociological general information questionnaire (first day), the psychological questionnaire (second day), the personality questionnaire (third day), the family questionnaire (fourth day), the religiosity questionnaire (fifth day). Finally, the research data was analyzed by one-sample t-test with SPSS-24 software.

3. Findings and Results

Based on the main question of the research of how individual, personality, psychological, social, family, and religious profiles of prisoners upon entering the prison in the province, secondary questions are examined.

Question 1: What are the demographic variables (gender, age, education, etc.) of prisoners upon entering?

In terms of age, it can be said that the frequency and percentage were 12 and 1.7 for ages under 20, as well 236 and 24.1 for ages 21-30, 288 and 41.6 for ages 31-40, and 116 and 16.8 for ages 41-50, respectively. Also, the frequency and percentage of prisoners' education were 40 and 5.8 for illiterates, 156 and 22.5 for primary education, 246 and 38.2 for middle school education, 168 and 24.6 for diploma, and 56 and 8.1 for bachelor's degree, respectively. In addition, the frequency and percentage for the educational field of the prisoners were 48 and 6.9 for humanities, 76 and 11 for conservatory, 20 and 2.9 for experimental, and 4 and 0.6 for mathematics, respectively. Also, the frequency and percentage for the region where the prisoners live were 32 and 4.6 for the prosperous region, 376 and 54.3 for the intermediate region, 232 and 33.5 for the weak region, and 32 and 97.1 for the poor region, respectively. The frequency and percentage for marital status of the prisoners were 288 and 41.6 for singles, 360 and 52 for married, 36 and 5.2 for divorces, and 4 and 0.6 for remarried, respectively.

Question 2: What is the health state of the prisoners upon entering?

The results for the second question (what is the health state of the prisoners upon entering?) are as follows:

The frequency and percentage of disease history were 8 and 1.2 for cardiovascular disease, 4 and 0.6 for lung disease, 4 and 0.6 for neurological disease, 4 and 0.6 for skin disease, and 4 and 0.6 for allergy, respectively. Also, the frequency and percentage of the smoking status of the prisoners included 36 and 5.2 for never non-smoked, 552 and 79.5 for currently smoking, and 80 and 11.6 for non-smoked so far. In addition, the frequency and percentage of hospitalization for the disease included 268 and 38.7 for those without history and 292 and 42.2 for those with history. For the

history of the number of hospitalizations, the frequency, and percentage included 180 and 26 for one time, 56 and 8.1 for two times, 40 and 5.8 for three times, 32 and 4.6 for four times, 16 and 2.3 for five times, 8 and 1.2 for six times and 4 and 0.6 for ten times, respectively. For the history of high-risk behaviors, the frequency and percentage of prisoners were 56 and 1.8 for injecting drug addiction, 104 and 15 for unprotected or unmarried sex, 8 and 1.2 for receiving blood and blood products, 8 and 1.2 for shared razors, 60 and 8.7 for cupping, and 156 and 22.5 for tattooing, respectively. Also, the frequency and percentage of prisoners with addiction were 492 and 71.1 for those with addiction, 168 and 24.3 for those without addiction, and 8 and 1.2 for no previous history, respectively. For the status of the type of drug used, the frequency and its percentage were 68 and 9.8 for opium, 376 and 54.3 for heroin, 44 and 6.4 for crystal, and 12 and 1.7 for methadone, respectively. Also, the frequency and percentage for the consumption method of prisoners included 472 and 68.2 for the smoking method and 20 and 2.9 for the injection method, respectively. In addition, the frequency and percentage of the history of alcohol consumption were 356 and 51.4 for those with a history and

256 and 37 for those without a history, respectively. In terms of the appearance condition of the prisoners, the frequency and percentage of the prisoners were 348 and 50.3 for good, 312 and 45.1 for intermediate, and 12 and 1.7 for bad, respectively. Also, in the condition of the deprivation signs of prisoners, the frequency and percentage included 116 and 16.8 for those with deprivation signs and 272 and 56.1 for those without deprivation signs, respectively. Finally, in the condition of the prisoners' line symptoms, the frequency and percentage included 32 and 4.6 for cough, 32 and 4.6 for phlegm, 4 and 0.6 for weight loss, and 4 and 0.6 for night sweats, respectively.

Question 3: What are the mental characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?

The results for the third question (what are the mental characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?) are as follows:

Based on the opinion of the Dadsetan and Palahang, score 21 was used as a standard score to measure the mental health performance of prisoners. Table 1 shows the descriptive characteristics of the general health of prisoners based on the GHQ-28 test among prisoners.

Table 1

Descriptive one sample t-test of mental health of prisoners

Variable	f	M	SD	SE
Physical symptoms	691	5.98	3.277	0.125
Anxiety symptoms and sleep disorder	691	6.9	4.278	0.163
Social function	691	6.9	3.693	0.14
Mental depression symptoms	691	5.86	4.342	0.165
Total general health score	691	25.66	11.633	0.443

As the table shows, anxiety symptoms and sleep disorder, along with social functioning with a mean of 6.9, had the highest mean, and mental depression symptoms and physical symptoms had the lowest mean among the components of

general health. Also, the total general health score shows that it is more than the standard score for health in general health. Table 2 shows one sample t-test of the mental health of prisoners.

Table 2

One sample t-test of the mental health of prisoners

Variable	Standard score	t	Degrees of freedom	Sig. (2-tailed)	Difference of means
Physical symptoms	6	-0.139	690	0.889	-0.17
Anxiety symptoms and sleep disorder	6	5.531	690	0.000	0.9
Social function	6	6.377	690	0.000	0.896
Mental depression symptoms	6	-0.850	690	0.396	-0.14
Total general health score	21	10.52	690	0.000	4.656

According to Table 2, one-sample t-test was used to assess the mental health of prisoners in several different

ways. The results show that there are big gaps in some parts of mental health. The average number for physical signs was

6, which gave us a t-value of -0.139 and 690 degrees of freedom. The two-tailed significance was 0.889, which means there was no significant change from the mean because the p-value was higher than the 0.05 level. Since the mean difference was -0.17, it seems that prisoners did not report any major physical problems. Anxiety symptoms and sleep problems, on the other hand, had a t-value of 5.531 ($p < 0.001$) and a mean difference of 0.9. Based on this, it seems that criminals have a lot more worry and trouble sleeping than the average person. Also, there were important results for social performance, with a t-value of 6.377 ($p < 0.001$) and a mean difference of 0.896. This shows that criminals have a lot of trouble interacting with others. When looking at signs of mental sadness, the t-value was -0.850 ($p =$

0.396), which also means there isn't a big change from the mean (-0.14). Last but not least, the overall health score had a t-value of 10.52 ($p < 0.001$) and a mean difference of 4.656. This makes it seem like inmates' general health is being seriously harmed, pointing out an important area where help is needed. Overall, physical symptoms and signs of mental depression did not show any major problems. However, worry, sleep problems, and social skills are issues that need more attention in how inmates' mental health is managed.

Question 4: What are the personality characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?

The results for the fourth question (what are personality characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?) are as follows:

Table 3

Descriptive personality characteristics of the prisoners

Variable	f	Domain	Min	Max	M	SD
Neuroticism	691	30	12	42	23.98	5.334
Extroversion	691	51	4	55	25.55	5.834
Openness to experience	691	30	10	40	24.28	4.946
Agreeableness	691	36	4	40	28.47	5.718
Conscientiousness	691	40	8	48	33.94	7.231

Table 3 shows summary data for five personality categories that were tested on a group of 691 people. Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to Experience, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness are some of the areas that are tested. Neuroticism had a mean score of 23.98 (SD = 5.33), which means that the people in the group had a modest amount of neurotic traits. A skewness number of 0.457 means that there is a small positive skew, which means that some of the participants scored lower on this trait. A kurtosis number of 0.69 means that the scores are spread out in a pretty normal way. When it came to extraversion, the mean score was 25.55 (SD = 5.83), and the numbers ranged from 4 to 55. The positive skewness (0.488) means that more of the people who took the test scored low on the extraversion scale. A kurtosis number of 3.352 means that the distribution is slightly peaked, which means that there are more points close to the mean than in a normal distribution. The range for Openness to Experience scores was 10 to 40, with 24.28 as the mean and 4.95 as the standard deviation. A skewness value of -0.35 means there is a small negative skew, which could mean that people tended to score higher on openness. A flatter distribution is likely than a normal curve, as shown by the kurtosis number of -0.153. It ranged from 4 to 40 and had a mean of 28.47 (SD = 5.72).

With a skewness of -0.60, there is a modest negative skew, which means that more people scored higher on the agreeableness scale. The kurtosis number of 1.06 shows that the distribution has a bit of a peak. Finally, the mean score for conscientiousness was 33.94 (SD = 7.23), and the range of scores was from 8 to 48. The skewness of -0.52 shows that people were more likely to score higher on the conscientiousness question, and the kurtosis of 0.451 shows that the distribution is a little more skewed than usual. Overall, these results show that the subjects had a range of personality traits. There were also patterns in the groups that may be worth looking into further in relation to other psychological concepts or outcomes.

Question 5: What are the family characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?

The results for the fifth question (what are the family characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?) are as follows:

Mirenayat research is related to the single and married Iranian students for the components of problem-solving (15.8), relationship (14.6), emotional companionship (17.8), relationship of roles (22.58), emotional intercourse (18.7), behavior control (20.56), the overall performance (28.94), and the total scale (138.63), which was used as a standard

score to measure the performance of the prisoners' families in the present study. Table 4 shows one sample t-test of the performance of the prisoners' families.

Table 4

One sample t-test of the performance of the prisoners' families

Variable	f	M	SD	SE
Problem-solving	691	11.25	2.854	0.109
Relationship	691	14.65	2.611	0.099
Emotional companionship	691	17.98	3.825	0.145
Relationship of roles	691	20.12	3.913	0.149
Emotional intercourse	691	18.54	4.806	0.183
Behavioral control	691	23.34	5.342	0.203
Overall performance	691	27.72	4.867	0.185
Total scale	691	133.61	18.656	0.71

According to Table 4, the overall performance of 27.72 is the highest mean, and problem-solving with a mean of 11.25

is the lowest mean. Table 5 shows one sample t-test of the performance of the prisoners' families.

Table 5

One sample t-test of the performance of the prisoners' families

Variable	Standard score	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Difference of means
Problem-solving	15.8	-41.907	690	0.000	-4.550
Relationship	14.6	0.530	690	0.596	0.053
Emotional companionship	17.8	1.265	690	0.206	0.184
Relationship of roles	22.5	-16.523	690	0.000	-2.460
Emotional intercourse	18.7	-0.868	690	0.386	-0.0159
Behavioral control	2.56	13.7	690	0.000	2.784
Overall performance	28.94	-6.609	690	0.000	-1.224
Total scale	138.6	-7.074	690	0.000	-5.021

Table 5 shows the results of the one-sample t-tests for different emotional and social factors. For problem-solving, the average score of 15.8 led to a t-value of -41.907, which was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) and showed a -4.550-point drop in the means. This means that the participants got a lot lower on problem-solving skills than the standard group. For the relationship variable, on the other hand, the standard score was 14.6, and the t-value was 0.530 ($p = 0.596$), which means that there was no significant difference in means (difference of means = 0.053). Again, there was no significant difference between the groups for the emotional friendship measure (difference of means = 0.184), which had a standard score of 17.8 and a t-value of 1.265 ($p = 0.206$). A t-value of -16.523 and a standard score of 22.5 for the link of jobs showed that there was a significant negative difference in means of -2.460. This was shown by $p < 0.001$. This means that the people who took part thought there was a big problem with job relationships. The mean score for emotional interaction was 18.7, and the t-value was -0.868

($p = 0.386$), which means there wasn't a significant difference (difference of means = -0.0159). Behavioral control, on the other hand, had a standard score of 2.56 and a t-value of 13.7 ($p < 0.001$), which means there was a significant positive difference in means of 2.784, which means that subjects had better behavioral control. The overall performance measure had a mean score of 28.94 and a t-value of -6.609 ($p < 0.001$). This means that there was a significant negative difference in means of -1.224, which means that overall performance was lower than the reference group. In the end, the total scale score of 138.6 showed a t-value of -7.074 ($p < 0.001$) and a significant negative difference in means of -5.021, which added to the idea that the measured constructs were generally lacking.

To sum up, there were big problems with problem-solving, job relationships, general performance, and the whole scale. But there were no big problems with relationship quality, emotional companionship, or emotional

intercourse. Behavioral control stood out as an important exception, showing that subjects were good at it.

Question 6: What are the judicial characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?

Table 6

The status of prisoners' imprisonment history

Prison history	f	p (%)	Acceptable percentage	Cumulative percentage
With history	344	49.7	54.4	54.4
Without history	288	41.6	45.6	100
Total	632	91.3	100	
Missing data	60	8.70		
Total	692	100		

In **Table 6**, the state of inmates' previous imprisonment history is shown, along with the numbers and percentages of those who have and have not been in prison before. Four hundred and eighty-two of the 692 prisoners who took part in the study said they had been in jail before, while two hundred and sixty-six said they had not. It is said that 54.4% is an acceptable number for people who have been in jail in the past, adding up to a total of 54.4%. People without a background, on the other hand, make up a reasonable 45.6% of the total, which adds up to 100% when added to the previous group. Out of the whole group, 60 cases (8.70%) were found to be missing data, so they were not used in the study of the prison history. There were a total of 632 valid answers, which is 91.3% of the sample. There were also 870 comments that were missing data. In short, almost half of the criminals in this study had been in jail before. This shows that recidivism is very common in this subject group. The fact that people's jail histories are spread out shows how important it is to focus interventions and provide help for people who have been in prison before.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

The purpose of this research was to examine the demographic, health, and personality characteristics of prisoners, and the general profile of prisoners is presented according to 6 questions.

Question 1: What are the demographic variables (gender, age, education, etc.) of prisoners upon entering?

According to the findings of the research, the age of 40 is the age when people commit the most crimes. This finding is consistent with the research of Farrington et al. (2023) regarding the probability of committing a crime in men up to the age of 40 (Farrington et al., 2023), and Lehmann (2023) regarding the probability of committing a crime in

The results for the sixth question (What are the judicial characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?) are as follows:

men up to the age of 19 20 29 (Leban & Delacruz, 2023), and Kang and Hureau (2022) that the older population (55 years) had higher arrest rates than the younger population in most years (Kang & Hureau, 2023). The research finding is inconsistent with Chalfin et al. (2023) regarding criminal victimization—for both violent and property crimes—significantly increases at age 21 (Chalfin et al., 2023). In explaining this finding, it can be said that based on the age-crime curve, the crime rate increases gradually at a certain age, then reaches its peak in late adolescence, and then decreases with age. Therefore, criminologists in America believe that the relationship between age and crime is inverse, but the present study showed that it is also possible that older people and people in their 40s commit more crimes than other ages. One of the reasons for this change is the cultural and social conditions that cause a change in the age of committing a crime and its frequency (Kang & Hureau, 2023). Also, according to Stefensmeier et al. (2020), the interaction of roles and age positions in specific social and cultural contexts leads to different patterns of age of crime in countries (Stefensmeier et al., 2020). The increase in problems such as poverty and unemployment, especially at the age when people assume the role of family head, can help clarify this result. This result is confirmed by the fact that this research showed that the most frequent residence status of the prisoners was renters. The economic components are considered one of the psychological pressure factors for the individual and increase the vulnerability of the individual against the problems of daily life; the lack of problem-solving skills, resilience, and toughness against stress leads a person to commit criminal acts. Also, based on the situation of the area where the prisoners live, it can be said that the prisoners with average residences accounted for the highest amount, which means that living in average or poor

neighborhoods creates an unsuitable environment for the social and cultural development of a person.

Question 2: What is the health state of the prisoners upon entering?

As the results showed, the prisoners of the present study were facing physical diseases such as cardiovascular, pulmonary, nervous, mental, skin, and allergy diseases. Also, about 48% of the prisoners had a history of hospitalization at least once, 83% of them smoked, and 74% had a history of addiction, so heroin was the most consumed substance among the prisoners (75.2). Another harmful thing to the health of the prisoners was the tattooing with unsanitary needles. Finally, prisoners who had unprotected sexual contact or non-spouses are considered another risky behavior among prisoners with 26.5%. In general, 50% of prisoners have a good physical condition, and 46% have an average appearance.

Question 3: What are the mental characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?

One of the major problems of prisoners in this research was anxiety symptoms, sleep disorder, and social functioning disorder as components of general health among prisoners. Also, the total general health score of the prisoners had a significant difference from the standard scores. The findings of this research are consistent with Forrester et al. (2023), Gomez et al. (2021), Pan et al., 2023, and Alemayehu et al. (2019) regarding the existence of depression and mental health problems among prisoners (Alemayehu et al., 2019; Forrester et al., 2023; Pan et al., 2024). In the explanation of this finding, based on Alemayehu et al. (2019), it can be said that the greater vulnerability of people with depression is due to the imprisonment and the chronicity of depression in prison environments or a combination of these mechanisms. In addition, since the prisoners are adapting to the prison environment, which is different from their usual living conditions, therefore, in the course of this adaptation, they show symptoms of depression, which in the absence of intervention can lead to drug abuse disorders (Gómez-Figueroa & Camino-Proañó, 2022). On the other hand, prisoners convicted of violent crimes are more likely to have at least one mental disorder, such as severe depression, which could mean that the prisoners are prone to mental disorders upon entering the prison and even have these disorders.

Question 4: What are the personality characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?

According to the results of the research, it can be said that conscientiousness has the highest mean, with a mean of 33.94; on the other hand, neuroticism has the lowest mean, with a mean of 23.98. Also, extroversion and openness have the same level with almost equal means. This finding is consistent with the research results of Brislin et al. (2019) and Aquiar et al. (2021) that neuroticism is one of the personality characteristics of prisoners, especially prisoners with a history (Aguiar et al., 2021; Brislin et al., 2019). According to the conducted research, neuroticism is related to committing crimes, especially to sins, but contrary to this finding, the results of the present study showed that this characteristic is low in prisoners. In the explanation of this result, it can be said that the prisoners' use of defense mechanisms such as the reverse reaction, denial, or suppression is the cause of this result, or the prison environment may have created a calm atmosphere for them and shelter for their intertwining and anxieties. As a result, we can see the low level of neuroticism in the prisoners of the present study, but since the opposite of neuroticism is a calm mood, stable emotions, and the ability to face and control stressful situations, and considering that the depression score of the prisoners was high and depression, impulsive anxiety are among the characteristics of neurotic people (Brislin et al., 2019). This result needs further investigation. Finally, this evaluation was for the last one month of the prisoners and the prisoners may have found a calmer mood and experienced less neurotic symptoms during this period in order to adapt to the prison environment.

Question 5: What are the family characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?

According to the findings of the research, problem solving, the relationship of roles, behavior control, overall performance, and the total score of the scale have a significant difference with the standard scores, and the rest of the components did not have a significant difference. This finding is consistent with prior results (Markson et al., 2016). In explaining this result, it can be said that parental support relationships, shared responsibility, and mother-child intimacy are potential moderators of the relationship between cumulative risks and behavioral outcomes in prisoners. Also, the presence of positive family relationships and emotional security has a protective effect that somewhat reduces the negative effect of risk on positive behavioral development. In addition, the categories such as the parent-child relationship of the prisoner, including facilitators and barriers to maintaining a relationship in the family, family

structure, children's emotions, recognition, emotional regulation, and resilience, prison stigma for the family, and structural disadvantages, including poverty and race/ethnicity are effective on children's health and risk prevention (Thorne et al., 2023) Finally, it can be said that the role of the family in creating motivation is very important and penetrating because motivation causes effective decisions in the delinquent person, and when he has enough spirit to achieve the goal, he tries in a determined way and with double perseverance to stand up against the pressures and achieve his predicted goal by resisting. The internalization of accepted values and norms in a society is done by the family; therefore, a family that has not internalized respect for the law in its children, and where it is common to engage in risky behavior and imprisonment, or for whom imprisonment is not considered a stigma, will facilitate the children's criminal behavior.

Question 6: What are the judicial characteristics of the prisoners upon entering?

According to the findings and according to the status of the imprisonment history of the prisoners, the prisoners with history was 54.4 % among prisoners. Prisoners with a history have different imprisonment terms, for example, prisoners with two times of imprisonment history (25.7%) then prisoners with 7, 13, and 18 times of imprisonment history (0.6). It should be noted that the history of prisoners with a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 18 indicates a large range of history among prisoners. According to the situation of the type of crime of the prisoners, it can be said that the prisoners with a history of drugs are the highest (39.6%), then the prisoners with a history of theft (24.3%), and finally, murder with a frequency of 4 and a percentage of 0.6% is the lowest.

According to the status of the type of conviction of the prisoners, it can be said that the convicted prisoners are the highest (56.4%), then the prisoners under probation (39.9%), and finally, the convicts with an open case (1.2%) accounted for the lowest rate.

This research was only conducted among the prisoners of Qazvin province, so it should be cautious to generalize it to the prisoners of other cities. Also, one of the main limitations of this research is the use of a descriptive method, with which it was not possible to determine the degree of correlation and to predict the criterion variables based on the predictor variables. The use of self-reporting tools and lack of trust in the researcher is another limitation of this research because people may not have answered the items honestly, and finally, the unwanted effect of some disturbing

variables, the presence of mediating and moderating variables, and their lack of control can be mentioned.

It is suggested that this research be repeated in other cities in order to increase the generalizability, and since most of the prisoners were in the adult group, it is suggested that it be done in other age groups who are in prison. In addition to the questionnaire, it is suggested to use methods such as observation and questionnaires to collect accurate data in future studies. In future studies, other research methods, such as correlation and structural equations, should be used to determine the relationship between variables and to identify mediating and moderating variables. Finally, it is suggested that the personality characteristics of prisoners be examined upon entering, and the classification of prisoners is done based on that to provide interactive conditions, and educational and cultural programs for them in the prison environment and for leaving the prison after passing the term of sentence.

Authors' Contributions

All authors significantly contributed to this study.

Declaration

In order to correct and improve the academic writing of our paper, we have used the language model ChatGPT.

Transparency Statement

Data are available for research purposes upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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Declaration of Interest

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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Ethical Considerations

In this study, to observe ethical considerations, participants were informed about the goals and importance

of the research before the start of the interview and participated in the research with informed consent.

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