

Exploring the Relationship Between Probation Practice and Desistance from Crime in Bangladesh

An Assessment of Government Probation Programs

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Exploring the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in Bangladesh: an assessment of government probation programs

Abstract

The study explored the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in Bangladesh and identified underlying challenges in probation services in the country. It utilized a mixed-methods research design, where the quantitative data were collected through a survey among probationers, and qualitative data were collected from probation officers, judges, lawyers, parents of the probationers, and community representatives using Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Regarding the extent and nature of desistance from crime among probationers, the study found a generally positive trend (with an average score of 97.4 on a possible score of 23-138) in desistance from crime, with significant challenges in attitudes and behaviors toward rehabilitation. The probationers rated components of probation services provided differently, indicating significant gaps in areas such as engaging family and community in the desistance process and providing support in skill development and job placement. It also found a significant positive relationship between five service interventions (probation officers' roles in the assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior records, in providing guidance and capacity building, in motivating and supervising probationers, and in engaging family and community in the desistance process) and desistance from crime among probationers. Finally, the study identified several programmatic and policy-level challenges faced by probation services in Bangladesh and put forward some recommendations to overcome those challenges and improve the program further.

Exploring the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in Bangladesh: an assessment of government probation programs

Executive summary

In Bangladesh, like many places around the world, crime is a big problem that affects everyone's safety and well-being. From theft and violence to cybercrimes, these issues are growing, making people feel unsafe and looking for ways to address the problem. One way to help people stop committing crimes is through probation programs, which are special provisions that allow people to stay out of jail under certain conditions, hoping they will change their behavior. Probation serves as an essential element of criminal justice systems globally, to reintegrate offenders into society and reduce crime rates. Serving as an alternative to incarceration, probation programs are designed to tackle the root causes of criminal behavior by providing probationers with support, guidance, counseling, and rehabilitation while they remain within their communities. These programs, implemented in various countries around the world, have proven effective in encouraging offenders to abstain from crime. In Bangladesh, probation services stand as significant components of the government's social service initiatives, primarily overseen by the Judiciary and the Department of Social Services (DSS). Faced with challenges such as prison overcrowding, judicial delays, and high rates of recidivism, the criminal justice system in Bangladesh views probation programs as potentially beneficial tools for mitigating these issues.

However, in Bangladesh, probation programs have yet to gain much attention both in academia and in the social welfare paradigm. The programs face multiple challenges ranging from a lack of systemic working guidelines for probation officers to acute scarcity of staff and budgeting. To our knowledge, there are few studies conducted on probation programs in Bangladesh. More specifically, there is no previous study that explored the relationship between probation services and desistance from crime in the context of Bangladesh. The study titled "Exploring the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in Bangladesh: an assessment of government probation programs" will address the gap and contribute to the knowledge base to develop the program further. It aims to explore the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in Bangladesh and assess the effectiveness of different interventions of government probation programs. Using a quantitative method, it identified the degree and extent of desistance from crime among probationers and then gathered information on the nature and types of services they receive from the probation officers. Subsequently, it measured the relationship between different aspects of probation services and the degree of desistance from crime among the probationers. The study also collected and analyzed qualitative data on the challenges of the programs both from the perspectives of probation officers and probationers. The paper finally suggested some programmatic and policy recommendations that are required to enhance the program's effectiveness in fostering desistance from crime.

The study on the demographic and socioeconomic status of probationers in Bangladesh reveals a predominantly male (93.2%) and Muslim (91.9%) composition, with most respondents being

married (68.2%) and originating from nuclear families (62.8%). The educational background of probationers is varied, with a notable portion having completed up to class 10 (40.6%), while there are also significant numbers of illiterate individuals (16.4%) and those with higher education (16.9%). Financially, most probationers' families fall within the middle-income bracket, earning between 11,000 to 20,000 Tk monthly (58.4%). Probation durations mostly range from 7 to 12 months (54.8%), and about half of the respondents (51.6%) report experiencing a new sense of identity since starting probation. Despite a majority indicating no involvement in offending by family (78.5%) or violent activities by friends (73.3%), psychosocial challenges are prevalent, including prohibited drug use (14.9%), feelings of depression or loneliness (23.2%), and victimization (38.6%).

In terms of the extent and nature of desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh, the study reveals a broad range of desistance scores among probationers in Bangladesh, with an average score of 97.4 on a possible score of 23-138, indicating a generally positive trend in their journey away from crime. Despite this positive average, the detailed findings underscore significant challenges and variances in the probationers' attitudes and behaviors toward desistance. Only a small fraction of probationers showed awareness of their past actions or court conditions, and less than a quarter believe in their ability to transform and lead a law-abiding life. Encouragingly, a majority are engaged in personal development, recognize their strengths and weaknesses, and receive support from families and probation agencies. However, a considerable number still justify past actions, lack regret, and do not actively refrain from unlawful activities. Furthermore, while a significant majority draws inspiration from positive events for change and actively work on behavioral problems, many still face challenges in developing coping strategies for social stigma and asserting control over their behavior. This highlights both progress and areas needing further support and intervention.

The findings on the extent and nature of probation services received by probationers in Bangladesh highlight varying perceptions of effectiveness across different service interventions provided by probation officers. Probationers were asked to rate the different services provided by the probation officers. Out of possible 72, the mean score for probation officers' role in assessing the behavior of the probationers was 45.27 and for the role in promoting probationers' capacity was 37.91. The mean score for probation officers' ways of motivating probationers was 42.0709 out of possible 66. The mean scores for the probation officers' ways of supervision and family and community engagement in the desistance process were 38.62 and 29.65 respectively out of possible 54. The findings further illustrate that a substantial 69.7% of probationers felt their past offenses were not thoroughly examined, and 51.6% noted that officers took account of the nature of their committed offenses. When it comes to rehabilitation efforts, a promising 83.6% of probationers reported that officers helped them identify problems and involve them in the decision-making process. However, areas such as vocational training and job placement support reflect significant gaps, with only 22.7% and 15.4% of probationers respectively reporting receipt of such support. Motivation strategies employed by probation officers seem effective, with a noteworthy 92.9% of probationers

feeling motivated to engage in community-based activities. Yet, there's a noted deficiency in promoting probationers' values and aspirations, with only 21.5% reporting such encouragement. Supervision aspects show that 92.9% of probationers were introduced to court conditions by their officers, but only 32.5% had personal contact discussing their progress. The engagement of family and community highlights a potential area for significant improvement, with only 21.5% of probationers experiencing home visits by probation officers and a mere 13.9% noting an increase in family interaction facilitated by the probation services. These findings underscore the necessity for enhancing certain aspects of probation services in Bangladesh, especially in areas of personal growth support, familial and community engagement, and tailored supervision, to enhance the overall efficacy and impact of probation in the desistance process.

The findings on the assessment of the relationship between probation services and desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh demonstrate moderate positive correlations between various aspects of probation services and desistance scores. Notably, probation officers' roles in the assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior records, in providing guidance and capacity building, in motivating and supervising probationers, and in engaging family and community in the desistance process are all moderately positively correlated with desistance scores, highlighting the significant influence of comprehensive probation services on desisting from crime. In contrast, demographic factors like age, sex, religion, marital status, and family patterns show very weak correlations with desistance scores, suggesting these aspects have a minimal direct impact on the desistance process. Regression analyses further substantiate these findings, with Model 1 explaining approximately 58.1% of the variance in desistance scores through demographic variables. Model 2, focusing on probation program variables, shows that about 69.4% of the variance in desistance scores can be attributed to these factors, indicating a strong positive relationship between probation services and desistance from crime. Notable coefficients from Model 3 indicate significant positive impacts from the probation officers' roles in guidance, capacity building, and motivation strategies, as well as negative impacts from factors like the feeling of being victimized by others or arrested by police during probation. These analyses reveal the critical role of comprehensive probation services, particularly those focusing on motivation, guidance, and community engagement, in facilitating desistance from crime.

The study also aimed to explore the multifaceted challenges faced by probation services in Bangladesh, revealing that the system is hindered by various structural, logistical, and policy-related issues. These challenges encompass a wide range of problems, including a critical shortage of skilled manpower, limited awareness among stakeholders about the probation services' potential, gaps in communication and legal guidance, financial and logistical limitations, and insufficient infrastructure and coordination efforts. Moreover, the probation services struggle with the lack of specialized training and professional development opportunities for their staff, an absence of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, minimal collaboration with non-government organizations (NGOs), and a general undervaluation of their role within the broader social welfare and criminal justice systems. The study identified these challenges as significant

barriers to the effectiveness of probation services in Bangladesh, impacting their ability to facilitate rehabilitation and reduce recidivism among offenders. The probation system's limitations are particularly concerning given the growing recognition of probation services as a crucial component of a progressive and rehabilitative criminal justice approach, aiming to integrate offenders back into society successfully.

To address these challenges, the study proposed a comprehensive set of recommendations designed to strengthen probation services in Bangladesh. These recommendations include the development of systematic guidelines and standardized procedures for probation officers to enhance the consistency and quality of probation services. These guidelines should aim to improve probation officers' roles in the assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior records, in providing guidance and capacity building, in motivating and supervising probationers, and in engaging family and community in the desistance process, as they are found to be significantly associated with desistance from crime among probationers. The study also suggests a thorough review of the staffing strategy and an increase in the personnel in the probation offices to ensure that the probation services are equipped with sufficient and skilled personnel. Awareness-raising initiatives are highlighted as a priority to improve understanding and support for probation services among the judiciary, law enforcement, the media, and the public. Such initiatives could facilitate better collaboration and communication between the courts and probation offices, thereby streamlining the referral and supervision processes. The study advocates for increased budget allocations to support the logistical needs of the probation services, including transportation, office space, and technological resources, to enable probation officers to perform their duties more effectively. Moreover, it calls for probation offices to be strategically located near court buildings to improve accessibility and coordination.

Professional development and continuous training programs for probation officers and judges are recommended to ensure that they are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills in probation management, rehabilitation strategies, and criminological research. The establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system is also suggested to assess the effectiveness of probation interventions and identify areas for improvement. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the importance of fostering partnerships with NGOs and other community organizations to extend the reach and impact of probation services. By working collaboratively, probation services can leverage additional resources and expertise to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. Elevating the status of probation services within the Department of Social Services and reforming existing probation legislation are also identified as crucial steps to enhance the operational framework and legal foundation of probation in Bangladesh. The study proposes the preparation of guidelines for professional interventions aimed at promoting desistance among probationers, advocating for a more individualized and evidence-based approach to probation management. In conclusion, the study's findings highlight the pressing need for comprehensive reforms to address the challenges facing probation services in Bangladesh. By implementing the recommended measures, Bangladesh can strengthen its probation system, making it more effective

in rehabilitating offenders, reducing recidivism, and contributing to the overall improvement of public safety and social welfare. These reforms would not only enhance the operational capacity and effectiveness of the probation services but also underscore Bangladesh's commitment to a more humane, rehabilitative approach to criminal justice.

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Chapter One

Introduction and Background of the Study

1. Introduction and Background of the Study

1.1. Introduction

Crime is a global issue that governments all over the world face, as it results in the injury and death of many innocent people, posing a significant human security problem for people worldwide (Ukoji & Okolie-Osemene, 2016; Au & Wong, 2022). Criminal activities come in various forms, such as armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, drug trafficking, traffic offenses, rape, murder, drugs abuse, corruption, assault, and stalking, among others (Tretter, 2013; Ayodele & Adeyinka, 2014). Crime shatters our sense of safety, leaving us feeling unsafe, insecure, vulnerable, helpless, and powerless, leading to feelings of anger and outrage (Jonathan et al., 2021). In Bangladesh, crime rates have been on the rise, with a 6.79% increase in the crime rate and statistics for 2018 from the previous year (Crime Rate and Statistics, 2023). Crimes against individuals, property, and the state are prevalent in Bangladesh, regardless of rural or urban areas. Incidents such as hijackings, theft, cheating, human trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime, rape, murder, and killing affect our daily socio-economic life (Kader & Hussain, 2008). Investigating desistance from crime provides a guide for new initiatives in evidence-based correctional policy and practice for probation officers and policymakers (Maruna, 2001). The desistance theory can help the criminal justice system (CJS) identify potential ways of reducing reoffending in the community through the adoption of community-based sentences. This approach has the potential to reduce the number of people detained within the prison system. The role of criminal justice interventions in desistance processes has been extensively researched. There are now valuable findings on the influence of probation on behavioral change (Farrall et al., 2014; King, 2013; McCulloch, 2005; Villeneuve et al., 2020). Probation service or intervention has the potential to create conditions that make behavioral change more likely (Healy, 2012; King, 2013). The work completed during probation can have a long-lasting impact (Farrall et al., 2014), and the quality of the supervisory relationship has been cited as crucial in promoting change (Shapland et al., 2012). Researchers have recommended desistance-focused probation practices, to enhance behavioral change (McNeill, 2006).

Bangladesh has introduced several preventive and protective social and administrative measures and correctional initiatives to mitigate crime rates, such as probation, parole, aftercare services, conditional discharge, child development centers, and diversion services for children. However, the provision of probation services is not sufficient to cope with the increased size of probation orders and crime rates in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, the crime rate was 2.37 per 100,000 persons in 2018, which marks a 6.79% increase from the previous year. Additionally, the number of probation orders issued by courts has risen from 4,893 between 2015 and 2021 to 3,659 in 2022 alone, indicating the need for more comprehensive measures to prevent probationers from committing crimes. Unfortunately, the probation services have not kept pace with the growing number of probationers, as there are only 72 probation officers in the country, which is insufficient considering the needs of the services. Desistance from crime through probation requires participatory relationships and a foundation of trust and respect between probation providers and probationers (Phillips, Albertson, Collinson B, & Fowler, 2020; Albertson, Phillips, Fowler & Collinson, 2022). The case assessment, supervision process, building of social capital, family and community engagement by probation officers, networks of relationships among probation officers,

probationers, and other stakeholders, and socioeconomic support from probation services are all factors that influence the correction or desistance process from crimes (Morash et al., 2014). However, in Bangladesh, probationers often have weak networks of relationships with different social groups and organizations (BLAST & PRI, 2013). As the number of probation orders continues to increase, probation officers, families, community members, the Department of Social Services (DSS), and private-sector organizations will face significant challenges in finding solutions to the issues of correction and desistance. Additionally, the management of probation appears to be problematic, as most probation offices are not attached to the courts that grant probation orders, and there is no clear policy regarding how many probationers a single probation officer should supervise. Without proper policies, granting more probation orders will only increase the pressure on the existing management and administration of the probation system in Bangladesh (BLAST & PRI, 2013). There is no additional budget allocation for the implementation of the program, particularly to arrange training and educational programs for the probationers and their communities. Given the increasing number of probationers, insufficient staff and logistics support, and lack of people's awareness of the probation services, the probation practice in Bangladesh is facing significant challenges in providing effective services (Sarker, 1989; Rahim; 2017, July 4).

Since much is already known about the relationship between probation intervention in different countries globally, for instance, France (Fernando, 2021) England and Wales (Robinson, 2016b; Tidmarsh, 2020), and its impact on desistance processes (Farrall et al., 2014; King, 2013; Segev, 2020; Shapland et al., 2012), little is known on the role of probation in desistance processes in the Bangladesh context. While desistance from crime is a popular topic in global criminological literature (Au & Wong, 2022), relatively few studies have focused on desistance among offenders, particularly in non-Western societies such as Bangladesh (Au & Wong, 2022). This study aims to address these gaps in the literature, by providing a cross-sectional study on probationers' desistance process and perspectives of probation intervention. Considering these issues, it is essential to thoroughly assess the effectiveness of government probation programs and explore the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in Bangladesh. This study aims to fulfill these pressing needs while providing insights into the challenges facing probation programs in Bangladesh and identifying potential solutions to enhance their effectiveness. Ultimately, this research will contribute to developing and redesigning more effective probation programs in Bangladesh and thus promoting desistance from crime. Researching desistance is essential as it explores critical questions related to the process of individuals ceasing criminal activities. The desistance process is significantly associated with demographic and socio-economic factors (Healy, 2010; Jamieson, McIvor & Murray, 1999; Warr, 1998; MacDonald, Webster, Shildrick & Simpson, 2010). The systematic interventions of probation such as assessment, supervision, motivation, etc. are significantly associated with the desistance process from crimes (Healy, 2010; Calverley, 2013; Calverley, 2013). Research on desistance can help to conceptualize and measure desistance, as well as offer innovative ways of using desistance-focused approaches in criminal justice practice, policy, and research (Maruna, 2001).

1.2. Concept of Desistance from Crime

Desistance from criminal behavior, also known as the process of ceasing to offend and "going straight," is a topic that is frequently discussed in criminology, but remains poorly understood (Mulvey, Steinberg, Fagan, Cauffman, Piquero, & Chassin, 2004). Criminal history data indicates that most offenders experience spontaneous remission, where criminal behavior simply stops, at some point in their life, typically before the age of 35, as described by Wolfgang et al. (1972). Fagan (1989) was the first to recognize this phenomenon and differentiate it from the event of quitting crime, defining desistance as the reduction in the frequency and severity of offending. Le Blanc and Fréchette (1989) also referred to desistance as a set of processes that lead to the cessation of criminal activity, using the term "deceleration" to describe the reduction in the frequency of offending before cessation. Desistance is the process of abstaining from crime amongst those who previously had engaged in a sustained pattern of offending (Maruna, 2001). Desistance means "the voluntary termination of serious criminal participation" (Shover, 1996). Desistance may be of two types-primary desistance and secondary desistance. Primary desistance would take the term desistance at its most basic and literal level to refer to any lull or crime-free gap (West, 1982) during a criminal career. Secondary desistance is the movement from the behavior of non-offending to the assumption of a role or identity of a non-offender or 'changed person' (Maruna & Farrall, 2004). Laub and Sampson (2001) continued the dialogue by explicitly separating the process of desistance from the termination of offending, which they viewed as the outcome of desistance. Desistance requires engagement with families, communities, civil society, and the state itself. All these parties must be involved if rehabilitation in all of its forms (judicial, social, psychological, and moral) is to be possible. Desistance from crime, the long-term abstinence from criminal behavior among those for whom offending had become a pattern of behavior, is something of an enigma (McNeill et al., 2012).

Early studies of desistance often conceptualized desistance in vague or arbitrary terms or failed to provide an operational definition of desistance, making it difficult to draw generalizations from the desistance literature (Laub and Sampson, 2001). Further, some studies defined desistance as a permanent static event, where offending is presumed to be terminated indefinitely (Kazemian, 2007). For example, Farrall and Bowling (1999) defined desistance as the moment that a criminal career ends. Likewise, Shover (1996) defined desistance as the voluntary termination of serious criminal behavior with termination defined as the time when the criminal or delinquent behavior stops permanently. The concern with static definitions such as these is that criminal behavior is often too sporadic to identify absolute termination (Maruna, 2001). Contemporary definitions of desistance tend to emphasize its dynamic nature. Desistance is not viewed as a singular moment or event. Rather, it is conceptualized as a gradual process that unfolds over time. Desistance is defined as the process that supports the eventual termination of crime as well as the maintenance of law-abiding behavior. Fagan (1989) was one of the first scholars to conceptualize desistance as a process of reduction in the frequency and severity [of offending behavior], leading to its eventual end when 'true desistance' or 'quitting' occurs (p. 380). More recently, Bushway, Piquero, Broidy, Cauffman, and Mazerolle (2001) conceptualized desistance as a process of reduction in the rate of offending from a nonzero level to a stable rate empirically indistinguishable from zero (p. 500).

As noted by Ezell (2007), conceptualizing desistance as a gradual process emphasizes the importance of examining covariates and causal factors that influence the acceleration or intensity of the desistance process (p. 29). Desistance, then, may be best understood as the causal process that supports the termination of offending (Laub and Sampson, 2001:11).

There is also the question of how to measure desistance. While Kazemian (2007) finds that most desistance studies rely on official data, Maruna (2001) makes the argument for the use of self-report data, stating that criminal behavior may go unnoticed by law enforcement. Data lend support to this argument. Nagin, Farrington, & Moffitt (1995) examined desistance using both types of data collected from the same sample. Using official records, they found that 62% of their sample had desisted from crime, while only 11% of the sample had desisted according to self-report data. In the current study, we follow the lead of contemporary desistance theorists and conceptualize desistance as a process that unfolds over time, with a special focus on the factors that reduce overall involvement in serious criminal offending (e.g., Monahan, Steinberg, Cauffman, & Mulvey, 2009; Mulvey, et al., 2010) with the intervention of probation service in Bangladesh. In addition, we rely on self-reports to measure overall criminal involvement.

1.3. Concept of Probation Services

Probation is simply viewed as a suspension of sentence by the court, in which the offender remained in the community until the length of sentence expired unless of course in the meantime he had engaged in any conduct that would warrant carrying out of the sentence. This system left everything on to the probationer and made probation a simple policing procedure. It implies two things to the probationer: a) another chance; and b) a threat of punishment, yet he fails to improve his conduct (Chui, 2016). Probation services refer to both institutional and community-based services or sentences for juvenile and adult offenders to rehabilitate them, encourage their pro-social behaviors and equip them with necessary skills to deal with life demands and help them reintegrate into the community as law-abiding citizens through proper supervision, counseling, and academic, pre-vocational and social skills training (Bhui, 2002; Chui, 2016).

Registered social workers are employed to supervise all offenders on probation and community service orders (Chui & Nellis, 2003). Whilst proponents of the criminal justice social work intervention for offenders firmly believe that a highly motivated individual can change into a productive and law-abiding citizen if he or she is given the right counseling (non-judgmental, empathetic, confrontative, reality-oriented, strengths-based, and cognitive-behavioral), as well as academic, vocational, and social education opportunities' (Brownell and Roberts, 2002; Fitzgibbon, 2008, Robinson, 2001)), others believe that the state should be tough on the convicted and they should be deterred and incapacitated from further offending by imposing heavy penalties on them. For instance, in England and Wales, to give community sentences a new face, the probation order and community service order were once named the community rehabilitation order and community punishment order, respectively (Nellis, 2004).

1.4. Probation Programs in Bangladesh

Probation is a crucial component of criminal justice systems worldwide, aiming to reintegrate offenders into society and reduce crime rates. As an alternative to incarceration, probation programs are designed to address the underlying causes of crime by providing support, guidance, counseling, and rehabilitation to offenders by keeping them in their communities. Those programs have been introduced in various countries worldwide and are effective in promoting desistance from crime. In Bangladesh, the Probation Service is one of the major components of the government's social services programs. The probation practice is mainly administered by the Judiciary and the Department of Social Services (DSS) in Bangladesh. The government has taken significant steps to develop probation services and improve their effectiveness in recent years. The Department of Social Services (DSS) established the program in 1960 through the enactment of 'the Probation of Offenders Ordinance 1960'. Currently, this program operates in 70 units across 64 districts, including six Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Courts. The program implements several laws, including the Probation of Offenders Ordinance of 1960 (amended in 1964), the Children Act of 2013 (amended in 2018), and the Special Privileges for Convicted Women Act of 2006, along with their corresponding rules. District-level Probation Officers are mainly in charge of implementing probation services in Bangladesh, while Upazila Social Services Officers and Urban Social Services Officers from divisional districts also play roles as Probation Officers (Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust [BLAST] & Penal Reform International [PRI], 2013). It is argued that the success of probation programs is often measured by their effectiveness in reducing recidivism rates and promoting desistance from crime. Probation programs are designed to provide offenders with the necessary support and guidance to promote desistance from crime. Given the challenges facing the criminal justice system in Bangladesh, including overcrowding in prisons, delays in the judicial process, and high recidivism rates, probation programs have the potential to be a valuable tool in addressing these challenges. However, there is limited research available to assess the effectiveness of probation programs in Bangladesh, making it essential to explore the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in this context. Therefore, this study aims to explore the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in Bangladesh and assess the effectiveness of government probation programs. Using a quantitative method, it will first identify the degree and extent of desistance from crime among probationers, then gather information on the nature and types of services the probationers receive from the probation officers. Subsequently, it will measure the relationship between probation services and the degree of desistance from crime among the probationers. However, the study will also collect and analyze qualitative data on the challenges of the programs both from the perspectives of probation officers and probationers. The study will finally suggest effective policies and strategies that are required to enhance the effectiveness of the program in fostering desistance from crime.

1.5. Research Questions

The proposed study will address the following research questions:

1. What are the demographic and socioeconomic conditions of probationers in Bangladesh?
2. What are the levels of desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh?

3. What amount and types of services do the probationers in Bangladesh receive from probation programs?
4. Is there any relationship between probation services with desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh, and what are the factors that influence the process of desistance from crime?
5. What are the major challenges faced by probation officers and probationers in implementing and receiving government probation services in Bangladesh?

1.6. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess the effectiveness of government probation programs in Bangladesh and to find out the strengths and weaknesses of those programs in terms of achieving their goals. However, the study aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. To collect the demographic and socioeconomic data of probationers in Bangladesh
2. To identify the extent and nature of desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh
3. To identify the extent and nature of probation services received by the probationers in Bangladesh.
4. To measure the relationship of probation services with desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh
5. To understand the major challenges faced by probation officers and probationers in implementing and receiving probation services in Bangladesh.

1.7. Significance of the Study

The current literature review indicates that there is no available study conducted in Bangladesh that explores the association between probation interventions and probationers' desistance from crimes, and how these findings correspond to previous academic conceptualizations and studies conducted in other countries. Examining desistance from crime provides a guide for new initiatives in evidence-based correctional policy and practice research (Maruna, 2001). In a global context, various qualitative and quantitative studies linked the desistance from crime with supervision, building social capital, family and community engagement, and other factors (e.g., Farrall & Calverley, 2005; Barry, 2010; Healy, 2010; Au & Wong, 2022; Mwangangi, 2019). However, studies conducted in Bangladesh (e.g., Khatun and Islam, 2018; Haque and Muniruzzaman, 2020; Haque, Haque & Muniruzzaman, 2020; Islam, Jannath, Moona, & Islam, 2021) have mainly explored the driving factors of young people's involvement in positive and negative behavioral outcomes, such as family relationships, engagement, parenting, supervision, psychological distress, peer associations, and love affairs. Unfortunately, these studies did not examine how different factors of probation interventions are associated with desistance from crime. Thus, there

is an acute scarcity of studies conducted in the Bangladesh context that define, conceptualize, and theorize desistance from crime regarding probation interventions. To address this gap in the literature, the present study will be conducted within the theoretical framework of both the theory of desistance and the theory of probation to promote desistance and probation processes. The study aims to produce a conceptual model for desistance from crime and probation intervention in Bangladesh. To address the methodological gap, the study will use mixed methods including both rigorous statistical models (bivariate, multivariate analysis, logistic regression analysis) and thematic analysis.

The research findings are expected to have significant implications for policymakers and organizations involved in providing probation services in Bangladesh. The Department of Social Services (DSS) and other agencies involved in the program could utilize the findings in formulating policies and redesigning the programs to enhance the effectiveness of probation practice in Bangladesh. Measuring correlations between probation factors and the desistance process can provide insights into how probation officers can enhance their services to promote the probationers' understanding and participation in the desistance process. The statistical models will provide a picture of which services are contributing more and which programs are less significant in terms of effectiveness. It will also allow the concerned authorities to consider all the factors that are influencing more in fostering desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh. The qualitative data on challenges facing probation officers and probationers, and on the strengths and weaknesses of the program will also help delve deeper into the issue and find more effective strategies to be considered. Moreover, the theoretical contributions of the study lie in enhancing knowledge of the conceptualization and functions of probation services in the context of Bangladesh. This would lead to more desistance from criminal behavior among probationers and thus reduce crimes in society. Since the study will examine the effectiveness of probation services in Bangladesh in promoting desistance from crime, the findings will primarily benefit the organizations that are carrying out the services. The Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Judiciary of Bangladesh could use the findings to improve existing programs and policies and undertake new strategies to make the program more effective. The probation officers, who are directly involved in providing probation services will get further insights from the study to provide the maximum services. The study will, above all, benefit the probationers who are expected to desist from crime, ultimately resulting in a reduction in crime rates and benefiting society. Furthermore, this study can also benefit researchers and scholars interested in the field of criminal justice, probation practice, and desistance from crime. The study findings can be used to inform further research and analysis in these areas and to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on effective criminal justice interventions. Finally, the findings can also be of interest to practitioners and other Non-government Organizations (NGOs) working in the field of probation and criminal justice in Bangladesh, as well as in other countries facing similar challenges.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The proposed study is designed to investigate the relationship between probation services received by probationers and their desistance from crime in Bangladesh. The desistance from the crime of probationers is measured with twenty-three factors based on their self-reported belief in

redeemability (Maruna & King, 2004, 2009; O'Sullivan, Levin, Bright, & Kemp, 2016), resilience (self-belief, control of self, control of self, willingness to adapt, new skills and knowledge learnt, resources available to cope, socially supportive) (Block & Kremen, 1996; Carver 1998; Park, Cohen, and Murch 1998; Collins, 2007), and reduction in the frequency of reoffending during the probation period. Several studies (e.g., Shapland et al., 2011; Burnett and McNeill, 2005; Fernando, 2021; Farrall 2002; McNeill, Farrall, Lightowler, & Maruna, 2014), find that different factors of probation practices or community-based correction services, such as criminal history assessment, guidance and capacity building, motivation, supervision, and engagement of family and community are strongly associated with desistance from crime. These factors and their association with desistance from crime have been examined to the extent of the relationship of this program with the desistance process in the Bangladesh context. The prior studies (Maruna, 2001; Laub & Sampson, 2003; Farrall & Calverley, 2005; Healy, 2010; Coleman & Vander Laenan, 2012) find that demographic and socioeconomic factors (e.g., age, marital status, parenthood, family income, education, duration of probation period, etc.) can influence desistance from crime, this study has included this sociodemographic issues of probationers to examine the relationship of these issues of existing probationers of Bangladesh with their desistance process. Additionally, this study finds out the major challenges faced by probation officers and probationers in implementing and receiving probation services. Exploring the issues is expected to contribute to the policies and strategies to implement and enhance the effectiveness of probation programs in Bangladesh.

Chapter Two

Literature Review: Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

2. Literature Review: Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

2.1. Theoretical Framework of the Study

The present research attempts to explore and explain the relationship of probation services with desistance from crime within the framework of criminological theories, such as the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990), the redemption theory or the good lives model of offender rehabilitation (Maruna, 2001) and Age-Graded Theory of Informal Social Control (Sampson & Laub, 1993). The criminological theories all posit that social structure, neighborhood ecology, social support, etc. have a strong influence on the desistance process from crime hence directly or indirectly on the physical, mental, and behavioral development of individuals (Barry, 2007; Farrall, 2002; Maruna, 2001; Sampson and Laub, 1993; Shapland et al., 2012). Since the desistance process is aligned with the redemption theory proposed by Shadd Maruna in 2001, and the Good Lives Model (GLM) proposed by Ward and Brown (2004) it has been explained within the framework of this theory. However, the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model perhaps most effectively assesses and treats offenders (Blanchette & Brown, 2006; Ward, Mesler & Yates, 2007). The RNR model was first formalized in 1990 (Andrews, Bonta & Hoge, 1990) and has been elaborated upon and contextualized within a general personality and cognitive social learning theory of criminal conduct (Andrews & Bonta, 2006).

The redemption theory, also known as the Good Lives Model (GLM) of offender rehabilitation explains desistance from crime. It focuses on the broader concept of desistance as a process of positive identity transformation and the pursuit of a "good life" rather than simply ceasing criminal behavior. The theory suggests that desistance involves a process of positive identity transformation. According to the model, individuals engage in criminal behavior because they have a deficit in achieving their personal goals and fulfilling their needs for a meaningful and satisfying life. Desistance occurs when individuals experience a shift in their identity, moving away from a criminal self-concept and adopting a new positive self-identity. This transformation involves developing a sense of personal agency, self-worth, and purpose in life outside of criminal activities. Moreover, the model emphasizes that desistance is driven by the pursuit of a "good life" rather than solely focusing on avoiding criminal behavior. It suggests that offenders are more likely to desist when they have a clear vision of what a good life means to them and when they develop the necessary skills, resources, and opportunities to achieve their goals. The good life encompasses various domains, including personal relationships, education, employment, housing, health, and community engagement. By pursuing and achieving these positive life goals, individuals are more likely to disengage from criminal behavior. The GLM emphasizes the role of protective factors and the fulfillment of human needs in facilitating desistance. Protective factors can include supportive relationships, access to resources, opportunities for positive social integration, and the presence of prosocial role models. The model suggests that addressing and fulfilling human needs, such as the need for autonomy, competence, relatedness, and meaning, is crucial in sustaining desistance. By providing individuals with the necessary support and opportunities to meet these needs, the GLM argues that the likelihood of desistance increases. Similarly, the GLM recognizes the importance of storytelling and the construction of a redemptive narrative in the desistance process. Individuals who have desisted from crime often construct a coherent and meaningful

narrative that emphasizes personal growth, transformation, and the overcoming of past mistakes. This narrative helps individuals make sense of their past experiences, provides a source of motivation and inspiration, and facilitates the transition into a new non-criminal identity. The redemption theory, or the Good Lives Model, highlights the significance of positive identity transformation, the pursuit of a good life, the fulfillment of human needs, and the construction of a redemptive narrative in explaining desistance from crime. By addressing the underlying deficits and facilitating the development of a positive self-identity and a meaningful life, the model offers insights into the processes and factors that contribute to sustained desistance.

By contrast, the extensive study and understanding suggest that the present study variables, such as assessment of probationers' criminal behavior, guidance and capacity building, motivation, supervision, and family and community engagement in the desistance process are related to and aligned with the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model (It has three interacting components, such as Risk Component, Need Component, and Responsivity Component) to explore and explain their relationship with desistance from crime. The RNR Model emphasizes the importance of assessing individuals' risk levels and criminogenic needs. This component involves evaluating individuals' risk levels for reoffending based on various factors such as criminal history, prior convictions, and other relevant risk factors. This means that the assessment of probationers' criminal behavior aligns with the risk assessment component of the RNR Model. However, by evaluating the nature and severity of their past criminal behavior, along with other risk factors, probation officers can determine the appropriate level of intervention and supervision needed for everyone. This assessment helps identify the specific criminogenic needs that should be targeted in the intervention process. Similarly, the RNR Model addresses criminogenic needs through targeted interventions. Guidance and capacity-building interventions align with this aspect (need component) of the model. These interventions aim to provide probationers with the guidance, skills, and resources necessary to address their criminogenic needs. This could involve cognitive-behavioral interventions, substance abuse treatment, anger management programs, vocational training, or other forms of skill-building that target specific areas contributing to criminal behavior. Likewise, motivation is a critical factor in the RNR Model. The motivation aligns with the responsivity component of the RNR Model. This component emphasizes tailoring interventions to individuals' unique characteristics and needs. Motivation interventions focus on enhancing individuals' readiness and commitment to change by addressing their attitudes, values, and beliefs related to criminal behavior. This could involve techniques such as motivational interviewing, goal setting, and providing incentives to increase individuals' intrinsic motivation and engagement in the desistance process. Furthermore, the model emphasizes the importance of effective supervision in reducing recidivism. Supervision involves monitoring probationers' compliance with conditions, providing guidance and support, and holding them accountable for their behavior. Effective supervision practices align with the responsivity component of the RNR Model, as they should be tailored to probationers' strengths, weaknesses, and learning styles. By providing structured and supportive supervision, probation officers can help probationers develop pro-social skills, address criminogenic needs, and maintain their motivation for desistance. Similarly, Family and community engagement align with the responsivity component of the RNR Model. The RNR Model recognizes the role of social support systems in promoting desistance. Involving families

and communities in the intervention process is consistent with the responsivity component of the RNR Model. Family and community engagement can provide additional support, resources, and opportunities for social integration, which are important factors in reducing recidivism. Family and community engagement initiatives facilitate the development of positive relationships, access to supportive networks, and the provision of community-based services that can enhance desistance outcomes (Barry, 2006; Cid & Martí, 2012; Farrall & Calverley, 2006; Maruna, 2001). The probation interventions can adhere practitioners to the principles of the RNR Model and enhance the effectiveness of their interventions in promoting desistance from crime.

On the other hand, the redemption theory, or the good lives model of offender rehabilitation (Maruna, 2001) contributes to our understanding of the desistance process. This theory, along with other desistance theories, offers valuable insights into the factors and processes that facilitate individuals' transition away from criminality. Maruna's desistance theory emphasizes the importance of personal transformation, agency, and positive aspirations in the desistance process. It highlights the significance of individuals constructing new narratives about their past, present, and future selves, which shape their self-identity and guide their behavior. This theory recognizes the potential for individuals to experience redemption and actively strive to live a law-abiding and fulfilling life. In conjunction with Maruna's theory, other desistance theories have also contributed to our understanding of the complex nature of desistance. For instance, the age-graded theory of informal social control proposed by Sampson and Laub (1993) where identified the turning points in individuals' lives, such as marriage, employment, and parenthood, can contribute to the decline of criminal behavior. The "Age-Graded Theory of Informal Social Control" focuses on the role of social bonds, life events, and turning points in promoting the desistance process. This theory emphasizes the role of social bonds and informal social control mechanisms in desistance. The social bonds component highlights the importance of social relationships and attachments in influencing individuals' involvement in criminal behavior. It suggests that strong and positive bonds to significant others, such as family, friends, and institutions (e.g., school, and work), serve as protective factors against delinquency and crime. These bonds promote prosocial behavior, provide social support, and create social control mechanisms that discourage criminal involvement. Moreover, Sampson and Laub (1993) propose 'Life Events', which refer to significant changes and experiences that individuals encounter throughout their lives. They claim that certain life events, such as marriage, employment, and educational attainment, can act as turning points that redirect individuals away from criminal behavior. These events provide new opportunities, social roles, and responsibilities that motivate individuals to desist from crime. Likewise, Sampson and Laub (1993) propose 'turning points', which indicate critical events or transitions marked as changes in an individual's life trajectory. They can be positive or negative and may include personal, social, or structural factors. Examples of turning points may include getting a job, entering into a committed relationship, or experiencing a major life crisis. These turning points have the potential to disrupt criminal behavior patterns and redirect individuals towards a more prosocial path. Moreover, they claim cumulative disadvantage (it refers to the accumulation of social and economic disadvantages over time) that individuals who face early life disadvantages, such as poverty, family instability, or neighborhood disadvantage, are more likely to experience ongoing challenges and limited opportunities that increase their risk of continued

criminal involvement. Cumulative disadvantage can hinder desistance by maintaining individuals in criminogenic environments and limiting their access to positive social resources. These components interact and shape individuals' trajectories of involvement in crime. Social bonds, life events, turning points, and cumulative disadvantage are seen as key factors that influence the likelihood of desistance or persistence in criminal behavior over the life course.

However, the process of desistance from criminal behavior and the successful reintegration of individuals into society have been the subject of extensive research and theoretical development within the field of criminology (Barry, 2007; Farrall, 2002; Shapland et al., 2012). Research in criminology has examined the role of community-based probation interventions in facilitating desistance. Several studies (Burnett & McNeill, 2005; Farrall, 2002; Shapland et al., 2012) have indicated that the relationships between probation officers and probationers can significantly influence the desistance process in various ways. Specifically, probationers' perceptions of their probation officers hold the potential to promote desistance when characterized by active engagement and genuine concern for the individuals under supervision (Rex, 1999). The establishment of a positive rapport with probation officers has been identified as a crucial component of effective practice, likely to encourage behavioral change (Barry, 2007). One critical aspect is the recognition of the diverse factors that influence desistance, including individual characteristics, social support networks, and structural opportunities. Moreover, the interplay between internal motivations and external factors, such as interventions and social policies, shapes the desistance journey.

2.2. Conceptual Models for the Study

This study used two principal concepts such as desistance and probation services. This section first clarifies these concepts from the prior literature and then offers a brief highlight of the theoretical framework. The role of criminal justice interventions in desistance processes has been extensively studied globally. The widespread and valuable findings on the influence of probation on behavioral change are available in several studies (e.g., Villeneuve & Dufour, 2020; Fernando, 2021). Probation supervision contributes to creating conditions that bring about changes in behavioral outcomes more likely (e.g., McNeill, Farrall, Lightowler, & Maruna, 2014; Fernando, 2021). The services provided and completed during the probation period can have long-lasting effects and the quality of the supervisory relationship is identified as crucial in promoting positive change (Shapland, Robinson & Sorsby, 2011). Similarly, the working relationship between probation officers and probationers has been identified as central to the efficacy of probation work and promotes the desistance process (Burnett and McNeill, 2005; Fernando, 2021). On the other hand, Farrall (2002) claimed that individual motivation promotes the desistance process from offending. The role of community supervision and interventions in supporting desistance has been explored in criminological research as well where a positive association was found (McNeill, Farrall, Lightowler, & Maruna, 2014). Several studies (e.g., Burnett and McNeill, 2005; McCulloch, 2005; Rex, 1999; Shapland et al., 2011) demonstrate the potential of probation to support behavioral change, notably that relational aspects of probation supervision can increase the likelihood of behavioral change.

The systematic interventions of probation, such as assessment, supervision, motivation, etc. are significantly associated with the desistance process from crimes (Healy, 2010; Calverley, 2013). Therefore, the conceptual framework of this study represents the relationships and interactions between the probationers' desistance from crime and criminal behavior assessment, guidance and capacity building, motivation, supervision, and family and community engagement. It has provided a foundation for understanding probation and other factors influencing probationers' desistance journeys. Probationers' criminal history or behavior assessment involves the assessment of their criminal history, substance abuse history, social networks and associations, gang affiliations, attitudes toward offenses and authority, and willingness to participate in treatment programs. It serves as a self-assessment mechanism and contributes to self-awareness, which is crucial for initiating and sustaining the desistance process (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990; Andrews & Bonta, 2006).

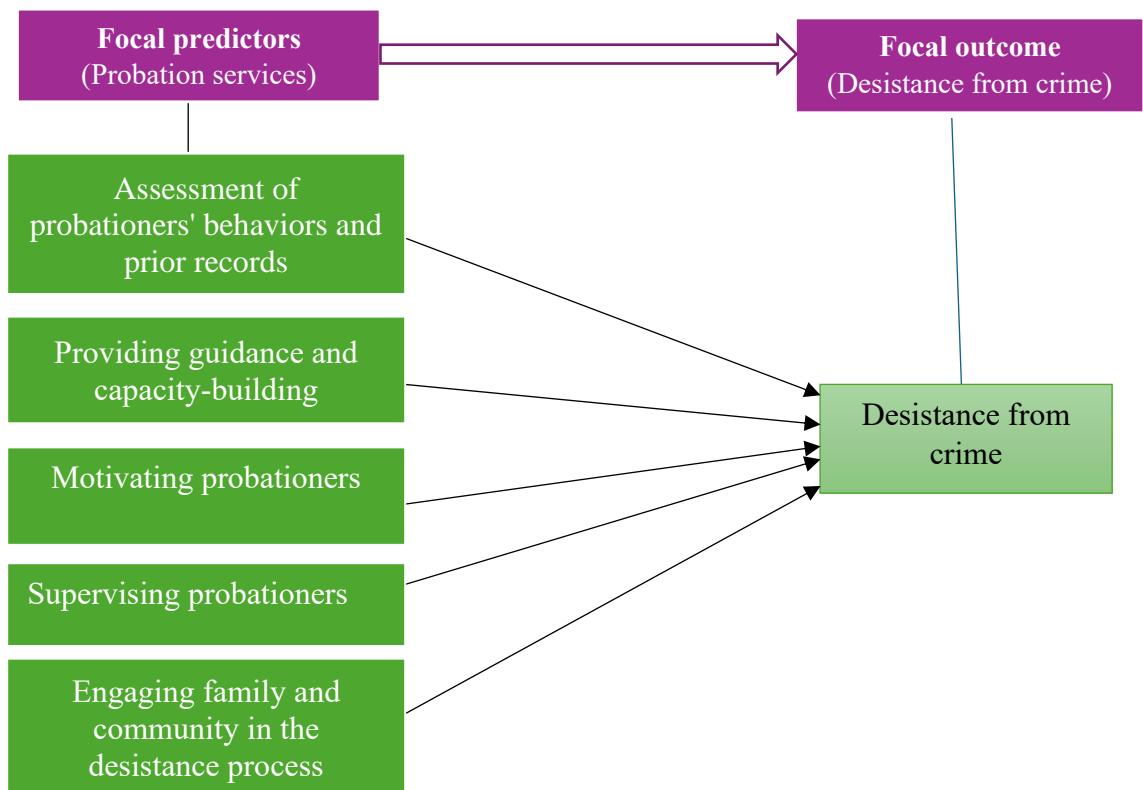


Figure 1. Conceptual model on the relationship of probation services with desistance from crimes

Understanding these factors helps probation officers tailor interventions and identify potential risks and needs for effective supervision and guidance to deter probationers from criminal offenses. Similarly, the areas of guidance and capacity building for change focus on the strategies employed by probation officers to guide and build the capacity of probationers in Bangladesh. It includes establishing a supportive relationship with probationers, involving them in decision-making, identifying and managing risks, considering their distinct strengths and needs, facilitating skill development and education, and providing information and resources for their progress. Moreover,

capacity-building efforts aimed at equipping individuals with the necessary skills, knowledge, and strategies to address setbacks, cope with social stigma, and develop a positive and pro-social identity and providing probationers/offenders with guidance, support, and resources to facilitate their behavior change, which promotes probationers' desistance process (Maguire & Carr, 2016; Phelps, 2017; McNeill, 2019). Several studies (e.g., Brown & Ross, 2010; Buck, 2017, 2020; Schinkel and Whyte, 2012; Singh, Cale, & Armstrong, 2018; Thelwall et al., 2010) conducted globally, explored the outcome-based relationship of mentoring in the form of providing practical assistance, guidance and building capacity of offenders on their desistance process, which consistently emphasized the importance of the nature of the mentoring relationship, guidance, capacity building highlighting the value of mentors being non-judgmental, available, caring, trusting and listening. Moreover, motivation serves as an important driver in the desistance process (Kirkwood, 2023). The areas of motivation as a treatment served by probation officers highlight the role of probation officers in motivating probationers. Motivational measures promote the desistance process from reoffending. Raynor and Vanstone (2015) suggest that probation officers with a high level of individual skill and a commitment to practice that is evidence-based, are more likely to have a positive impact on an individual's motivation to change. Farrall (2002) claimed that individual motivation promotes the desistance process from offending. To desist, individuals needed to acquire positive testimony, one at odds with their label of 'high risk' (King, 2013a). Through fostering and encouraging identity reconstruction, self-esteem, and motivation, practitioners may overcome some critical barriers to achieving desistance (Beck and McGinnis, 2022). This variable explores probationers/offenders' levels of motivation to change and lead a law-abiding life. It encompasses to what extent probation officers promote community engagement and social participation, builds positive relationships, provide recognition and reinforcement, fosters internal motivation and self-reflection, promotes responsibility and values, and offer guidance for behavioral improvement and identity change, which triggers their desistance process (Buck, 2017; Kirkwood, 2023; Mulholland et al., 2016).

However, supervision refers to the oversight and monitoring of probationers/offenders' progress during the desistance process. This study focuses on the role of supervisory mechanisms and their relationship to probationers' compliance with court conditions, refraining from unlawful activities, reducing bad deeds and habits, and maintaining control over their activities and behavior. Likewise, it involves the communication and explanation of court conditions, regular monitoring, and assessment of progress, adopting an appropriate supervision style, and ensuring compliance with conditions. Effective supervision helps probationers/offenders stay on track and fulfill their obligations, thereby supporting the desistance process (Farrell, Betsinger, Flath, & Irvine, 2020). By contrast, higher levels of intensive probation supervision have not been found to reduce reoffending (Hyatt & Barnes, 2017). Probation supervision contributes to creating conditions that bring about changes in behavioral outcomes more likely (e.g., McNeill et al., 2014; Fernando, 2021). The services provided and completed during the probation period can have long-lasting effects and the quality of the supervisory relationship is identified as crucial in promoting positive change (Shapland et al., 2011). Similarly, the working relationship between probation officers and probationers has been identified as central to the efficacy of probation work and promotes the desistance process (Burnett and McNeill, 2005; Fernando, 2021). The process of probation

supervision is identified as all processes commonplace within the monitoring of community-based impositions (Durnescu, 2016). Desistance from crime through probation requires participatory relationships and a foundation of trust and respect between probation providers and probationers (Phillips et al., 2020; Albertson et al., 2022). Supervision offers an opportunity to create a new identity, one distanced from a past marred by offending (Beck and McGinnis, 2022). Where supervisory relationships are perceived as supportive, these are more beneficial to the change process; Probation Officers can be instrumental in enabling efforts to desist from offending (Farrall et al., 2014; Rowe and Soppitt, 2014). Anderson (2016) maintains the value of ‘bearing witness to desistance’ in practice, and professional supervision in probation practice is recognized as integral to promoting good outcomes in supporting individuals to desist from offending (Forbes, 2010; Salyers et al., 2015; Raynor, 2019). Supervision premised on social interaction can support an individual to desist from offending through recognition of changes to social identity (Beck and McGinnis, 2022). The process of creating an identity opposed to offending may promote desistance, and the supervisory relationship seems critical in supporting this (Järveläinen and Rantanen, 2019). Supervision deters people from reoffending, but after the supervision period expires, it does not have long-lasting effects (Ostermann, 2013). Wan et al. (2015) showed that those supervised post-release reoffended at 22 percent lower rates than their unsupervised counterparts. Chamberlain et al. (2017), findings, suggested that probationers under supervision at least once a month were 47 percent less likely to re-offend. The study conducted by Doekhie et al (2018) supports that those under intensive supervision (a frequency of once per week) 87 percent are less likely to re-offend. ‘Supportive supervisory relationships, as opposed to non-supportive/surveillance-orientated relationships, appear most conducive to fostering desistance. Perhaps predictably, a surveillance approach is considered essential where the objective is risk management in protecting the public from further harm’ (Beck and McGinnis, 2022). Moreover, Family involvement can provide a support system for probationers, creating a sense of accountability and encouragement. Probation officers’ regular home visits and meetings can provide a platform for open communication, and collaboration, and strengthen goal-setting between the probationer, their family, and the officer, ensuring everyone is informed and engaged in the desistance process. Regular and effective collaboration among the parties involved in the desistance process can address concerns, identify obstacles, and develop strategies together to foster a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the probationer’s desistance process. Probation officers’ frequent efforts to educate and counselling family members about the probation process enhance their knowledge about understanding of the expectations and requirements, which can enable them to provide appropriate support, monitor the probationer’s progress, and intervene effectively if needed. It can equip them with coping strategies, communication skills, and an understanding of how to provide a positive and stable environment, which contributes to the probationer’s success. to address concerns, identify obstacles, and develop strategies together. These meetings foster a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the probationer’s desistance process. Probation officers’ effort to increase probationers’ interaction and the amount of time spent with my family and community members can strengthen familial bonds, connection with community, social support, and positive relationships. This can reduce the likelihood of reoffending by providing a stable and supportive environment that promotes pro-social activities and discourages criminal behavior. Engaging with friends and community members allows the

probation officer to broaden the support network surrounding the probationer. Informing friends and community members about the court's terms and conditions creates awareness of the probationer's legal obligations. Influencing friends and community members to support the probationer reinforces positive help and creates a network of individuals who are invested in the probationer's success.

In a global context, various qualitative and quantitative studies linked the desistance from crime with supervision, building social capital, family and community engagement, and other factors (e.g., Farrall & Calverley, 2005; Barry, 2007; Healy, 2010; Au & Wong, 2022; Mwangangi, 2019). Studies conducted in Bangladesh (e.g., Khatun & Islam, 2018; Haque & Muniruzzaman, 2020; Islam, Jannath, et al., 2021) have mainly explored the driving factors of young people's involvement in positive and negative behavioral outcomes, such as family relationships, engagement, parenting, psychological distress, peer associations, and love affairs. age, negative social influences, and limited self-regulation are the predominant dynamic risk factors impacting desistance (Lussier and Gress, 2014). Raynor and Robinson (2009) have focused on the significance of relationships, prosocial modeling, and developing social capital in desisting. Probation officers' efforts to engage family and community in diverse areas of the desistance process include activities, such as home visits, making family members aware of the probation process, providing counseling and support to family members, scheduling family meetings, increasing interaction with family members, engaging with friends and community members, making them aware of court conditions, and collaborating with support networks. Social support and engagement play significant roles in facilitating desistance. The involvement of family members, probation agencies, and the broader community in providing support, encouragement, and resources to probationers/offenders. It acknowledges the positive influence of social networks and the belief in the effectiveness and necessity of probation services in promoting successful desistance. Several studies (e.g., Cid & Martí, 2012; Walker, Kazemian, Lussier, & Na, 2020) find that stable and sustained family support is significantly associated with reduced reoffending. Moreover, community engagement-based programs can promote the desistance process (Phillips, Albertson, Collinson, & Fowler, 2020; Ewson et al., 2023). Based on the literature review and discussions presented here, Figure 1 summarizes the conceptual frameworks employed in the study. This helps in understanding the relationships and processes explored, providing a clear and structured representation of the study's theoretical underpinnings.

Chapter Three

Methodology of the Study

3. Methodology of the Study

3.1. Study Area

The present study aimed to investigate the relationship between probation program interventions and probationers' desistance from crime in Bangladesh. To ensure representation of every geographical area of the country, the researchers randomly selected two districts from each division of Bangladesh. The findings of the study are generalizable to Bangladesh as the data has been collected from probationers and probation programs operating throughout the entire country. The methodology of the research is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: An overview of the research methodology

Research objectives/questions	Data collected on	Nature of data	Data collection methods	Data collection tools	Data analysis
1. To collect the demographic and socioeconomic data of probationers in Bangladesh	Data on different variables, such as age, gender, marital status, family income, education, duration under probation, new identity (marriage, parenthood), and mental health etc. are collected	Quantitative	Survey methods	Semi-structured interviews with both open-ended and closed-ended questions.	Descriptive statistics
2. To identify the extent and nature of desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh	A scale of 23 variables developed from previous studies was used to measure desistance from crime	Quantitative	Survey methods	Semi-structured interviews with both open-ended and closed-ended questions.	Descriptive statistics
3. To identify the amount and nature of probation services received by the probationers in Bangladesh	Five variables were identified to measure the amount and nature of services provided by probation officers: 1) criminal behavior assessment, 2) guidance and capacity building 3) motivation, 4) supervision, and 5). family and community engagement.	Quantitative	Survey methods	Semi-structured interviews with both open-ended and closed-ended questions.	Descriptive statistics
4. To measure the relationship of probation services with desistance from crime among probationers in Bangladesh	The study will examine the relationship of those six variables with the extent of desistance from crime found and with other demographic or socio-economic factors	Quantitative	Survey methods	Semi-structured interviews with both open-ended and closed-ended questions.	Multiple regression analysis
5. To understand the major challenges faced by probation officers and probationers in implementing and receiving probation services in Bangladesh.	Thematic data on 'challenges faced by both probationer and probation officers' will be collected	Qualitative	Key Informants Interview (KII)	Interview Guideline	Thematic analysis

3.2. Study Design

The study used a mixed-method approach, including cross-sectional survey research and in-depth interview methods, to answer the research questions. Mixed methods were followed because they can offer a better understanding of the connections or contradictions between qualitative and quantitative data (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011) regarding the relationship between probation services and desistance from crime. Additionally, mixed methods have provided opportunities for participants to share their experiences and stories regarding the strengths and weaknesses of probation services. Quantitative data were collected and analyzed to measure the relationship between probation services and desistance from crime among probationers, as well as to assess the effectiveness of the probation services. Qualitative data were collected and analyzed to identify challenges in the services from the perspectives of probation officers, judges, parents of the probationers, lawyers, and community representatives, and to find suggestive measures, policies, and strategies for improving the program's effectiveness.

3.3. Data Collection Methods and Instruments

Quantitative data have been collected from the probationers through survey methods using semi-structured interviews containing both closed-ended and open-ended questions, primarily in the form of a paper survey. Before conducting the final survey, a pilot survey was conducted to test the questions and responses for understandability, ease of response, and the amount of time required to participate. For probationers under 18 years of age, face-to-face interviews have been conducted to maintain ethical standards and accommodate any practical difficulties. Qualitative data were collected using the Key Informant Interviews (KII) method of data collection. An interview guideline has been developed for KII and used to collect qualitative findings. This method has allowed the participants to freely discuss exploratory issues regarding the problems and challenges of the desistance process and probation services (Riessman, 2002; Mishler, 1986). Furthermore, it has focused on the views of service providers and other key individuals on the challenges of the services and the policies and strategies required to improve the effectiveness of the services.

3.4. Sources of Data

The study mainly collected primary data directly from the probationers, probation officers, judges, parents of the probationers, lawyers, and community representatives. Secondary literature was also reviewed to establish a theoretical foundation and to compare the findings with previous studies.

3.5. Respondents and Sample

This study surveyed probationers in Bangladesh who have completed at least a six-month probation period. The study used a cross-sectional survey research method, and the sample size was determined using a margin of error calculation. For the quantitative survey, out of 7,028 probationers (807 children, 5,895 males, and 326 females) in Bangladesh, a sample size of 386 cases was initially selected, keeping the confidence level at 95% and a margin of error of 4.80%.

A margin of error within the range of 4-8% at the 95% confidence level is commonly acceptable. Since in the pilot study, nearly a nonresponse rate was found 12%, an additional 46 cases were added to the sample size to tackle the low response rate in the final survey. To identify the sample, a multistage sampling technique was followed. In the first stage, eight divisions were selected as the study area. In the second stage, two districts were randomly selected from each of the eight divisions. In the third stage, 432 respondents (27 from each district) were randomly selected from the list of probationers available in district probation offices.

Qualitative data were collected through Key Informant Interviews (KII). Sixteen respondents were purposively selected for KII following Creswell's (1998) suggestion of 20-30 cases and Bertaux's (1981, p.35) suggestion of 15 cases for acceptable and ideal qualitative sample size to establish data saturation or theoretical saturation. A total of sixteen respondents were selected for the key informant interviews (KII). 8 probation officers, 2 parents of the probationers, 2 community members (local representatives), 2 judges, and 2 lawyers were interviewed separately with an interview guideline to collect different views and opinions on concerns, challenges, opportunities, etc. regarding probation services and the desistance process. The sampling techniques used in the study have been summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Sampling for both qualitative and quantitative data

Division	Barishal		Chattogram		Dhaka		Khulna		Rajshahi		Rangpur		Mymensingh		Sylhet		Total
Randomly selected districts	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16
Number of samples (probationers) drawn randomly for the quantitative survey																	
Sample	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	432
Number of participants drawn purposively for the KII (qualitative data)																	
Sample	8 probation officers, 2 parents of the probationers, 2 community members (local representatives), 2 judges, and 2 lawyers																16

3.6. Measures/Operational Definitions

Dependent variable: desistance from crime

The current research created a measurement scale for assessing probationers' desistance from crime during their probation period. To form similar constructs, this study drew several items from

previous studies (e.g., Asencio, 2011; Bachman, Kerrison, Paternoster, & Smith, 2016; Walters, 2020) and scales (e.g., Shover & Thompson, 1992; Maruna, 2001; Farrington et al., 2001). Several scales, such as Desistance from Crime Scale (Shover & Thompson, 1992), Self-Change Scale (Maruna, 2001), Self-Reported Offending Scale (SROS) (Farrington et al., 2001), Life Course and Criminal Behavior Scale (Laub & Sampson, 2003), Probationer Adjustment to Supervision Scale (PASS) (Latessa & Smith, 2006) and Client Change Scale (CCS) developed by Serin and Lloyd (2018) were followed to develop the desistance scale in this study. While constructing the desistance scale for this study, six broad areas, such as Self-awareness and commitment to change, belief in change and positive transformation, coping with challenges and setbacks, support systems and recognition of the desistance process, challenges in behavioral changes, and coping mechanisms and self-control were adopted to make the change or correction related issues during their probation period, where Client Change Scale (CCS) developed by Serin and Lloyd (2018) worked as a very effective source. The present desistance scale was intended to be used to measure success in supervision and progress in treatment, providing a systematic description of probation officers' efforts during the probation program. In addition, while developing the present scale, socioeconomic, cultural, and probation provisions and contexts of Bangladesh have been considered rigorously. Based on the research questions and objectives the items were formed and selected with a thorough review of existing scales that measured similar constructs or concepts, which were tried to align closely with research goals and adaptation suitability. Necessary modifications and additions were ensured based on the characteristics of the target population and their socioeconomic and cultural context to make the scale relevant and appropriate. Language and response options of the scale were checked by experts to adjust the items, to enhance their relevance and comprehensibility. The experts' suggestions include rewriting items, and adding, and removing items. Moreover, a pilot test of the adapted scale of 32 items was conducted with a small sample (80 samples) from the target population. The results of the pilot test helped make the items clear, relevant, and appropriate for the overall scale. The internal consistency of the adapted scale was also checked. Necessary revisions, such as items excluded based on the pilot testing were incorporated to finalize the adapted scale. By checking the internal consistency and validity of the initial 32-item scale the 9 items were deleted and the final desistance scale was composed of 23 theoretically and empirically grounded items related to change, such as self-awareness and reflection, legal compliance and adherence, personal development, identity and social engagement, support systems, and beliefs and attitudes of probationers during their probation period. The responses of agreement or disagreement of individuals under the probation services were '1= completely disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Somewhat disagree, 4= Somewhat agree, 5= Agree, and 6= completely agree, which indicates higher values corresponding to higher levels of changes or corrections or desistance from crime. Moreover, desistance responses '1= completely disagree, 2= Disagree, and 3= Somewhat disagree' recoded into '0=No' and 4= Somewhat agree, 5= Agree, and 6= completely agree recoded into 1=Yes for descriptive analysis. Each item is scored on a six-point scale from 1-6; a score of 1 reflects a greater propensity for non-desistance or crime 2 and 3 reflect a relatively lower level of propensity for non-desistance or crime and a score of 4, 5, and 6 reflect a progressively greater propensity for desistance. Total scores range from 23 to 138, where higher total scores are expected to be related to more successful outcomes in the community setting. The measure of desistance from crime, this measure was created from 23 survey items in

which the probationers reported their agreement or disagreement in the following activities during their probation period. Since the probationers' desistance from crime is measured in Likert scales, are not designed to provide an accurate count measure of specific behaviors. Instead, they are used to capture respondents' attitudes, perceptions, or opinions regarding a particular construct. In the context of probationers and criminal behavior, Likert scales are more suited for assessing subjective experiences, attitudes toward change, or self-reported progress. For this reason, the desistance measure only captured whether individuals under probation reported being involved in bringing changes in any form of desistance items during their probation period. The present scale aims to systematically measure and re-measure the constructs and indicators relating to offender or probationers' correction or change. Additionally, it emphasizes both internal and external aspects of correction or change (Lloyd, & Serin, 2012; Serin, Lloyd, & Hanby, 2010) that are emphasized in the studies of crime desistance (Maruna, 2010; Serin & Lloyd, 2019).

It was projected that higher scores would relate to more positive or successful outcomes or desistance. The higher rates of desistance from crime during the probation period indicate lower rates of technical violations or recidivism and subsequent success of probation programs in Bangladesh. Hence, the desistance scale is used to assess probationers' desistance or correction process from offending activities and to what extent this desistance process is occurred by the successful implementation of probation treatment such as the contribution of probation officers or probation treatment in probationers' sociodemographic and personal issues and behavior assessment, guidance and capacity building, motivation, supervision, and engagement of family and community in the desistance process. This study used one measure of desistance from crime, which captured probationers' change or correction process during the probation period in community settings. In the present study, the individuals who were allowed probation services instead of imprisonment by the court were considered as the study sample. The desistance from crime scale involved in any of the changes or corrections in the probationers' self-awareness and reflection, legal compliance and adherence, personal development, identity and social engagement, support systems, and beliefs and attitudes, which includes 23 items, such as 'I am awareness about past life'; 'I abide by court conditions'; 'I am working to develop myself'; 'I know my strengths and weakness to change life'; 'It is possible for me to change and lead a law-abiding life'; 'I do not justify or rationalize my past actions'; 'I regret for my past actions'; 'I refrain myself from any unlawful activities'; 'I am trying to create a new identity and engage in pro-social activities'; 'I see some positive changes in my life'; 'I experience some positive event inspiring me to change my life'; 'I am aware of problems of behavior and working to change'; 'I face some setbacks while changing behavior'; 'I frequently receive support from family and probation agencies'; 'I try to do some good work and make positive contribution to society'; 'Number of bad deeds and bad habits has been reduced'; 'I need time and on-going effort to change'; 'I believe probation services are very effective and necessary'; 'I believe rehabilitation effort is important to promote change in life'; 'I am supported and encouraged by my family members and others'; 'I learnt new skills and knowledge to change my life'; 'I developed some strategies to cope with social stigma and exclusion'; and 'I have full control on my activities and behavior during the probation period' are considered as desistance from crime. However, this 23-item probationers' desistance measure was found to be reliable with its internal reliability assessed using the average inter-item correlation

(AIC) analysis and Cronbach's alpha. The AIC for desistance measure was 0.278 (0.022 to 0.546) and its Cronbach's alpha was 0.833 which indicates a high level of internal consistency for this measure in this specific sample.

Independent variable: Probation officers' roles in the assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior records

The items of this measure are comprehensive probation assessments, although they are not directly associated with a specific existing scale. Instead, these items have been developed based on eight domains related to a probationer's criminal behavior assessment, such as the history of offenses, substance abuse history, social networks, and criminal activities, gang affiliations, attitudes toward offenses, authority, and the law, willingness to participate in treatment programs, and offense details and associated factors. Several previous studies and scales, such as Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) (Miller & Lazowski, 2001), Correctional Program Assessment Inventory (CPAI) (Taxman & Bouffard, 2003), Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Re-entry (DRAOR) (Doren & Yates, 2008), and Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS) (Ministry of Justice, 2008) were considered while developing this scale.

Initially, 18 items were considered within this construct. By checking the internal consistency and validity of the initial 18 items of the criminal behavior assessment construct, the 6 items were deleted and the rest of the 12 items were used to measure how probation officers assess probationers' previous and existing engagement in offending behavior. The responses were based on probationers' self-reported perceptions of the extent to which probation officers assessed/assessed a detailed account of their past criminal offenses, /took a list of the nature of their committed offense, history of substance abuse, etc. These twelve items involved: 'Probation officers (POs) assess/assessed a detailed account of my past criminal offenses'; 'PO takes/took a list of the nature of my committed offense'; 'POs gathers/gathered my history of substance abuse'; 'POs identifies/identified my social networks and relationships'; 'PO asks/asked about any involvement in criminal activities or associations with individuals engaged in criminal behavior'; 'POs asks/asked about any affiliations with gangs'; 'POs assess/assessed my attitudes and beliefs regarding criminal offenses.'; 'POs assess/assessed my perceptions about authority figures and the legal system'; 'POs assess/assessed my willingness to engage in rehabilitation and treatment programs'; 'POs provide/provided insights into my commitment to interventions aimed at reducing criminal behavior'; 'POs assesses/assessed comprehensive information about the circumstances surrounding each offense'; 'POs assesses/assessed causes that may have contributed to or influenced my involvement in criminal activities.'

Responses to these items were 'Completely disagree=1', 'Disagree=2', 'Somewhat disagree=3', 'Somewhat agree=4', 'Agree=5' and 'Completely agree=6', where higher values correspond to higher perceived probationers' behaviors and sociodemographic and individual issues assessed by probation officers. Moreover, the responses to these items: '1= completely disagree, 2= Disagree, and 3= Somewhat disagree' were recoded into '0=No' and 4= Somewhat agree, 5= Agree, and 6= completely agree into 1=Yes for descriptive analysis. However, this 12-item probationers' behavior and personal issues assessment measure was found to be critically reliable with its

internal reliability assessed using the average inter-item correlation (AIC) analysis and Cronbach's alpha. The AIC for this measure was 0.297 (0.011 to 0.520) and its Cronbach's alpha was 0.771, which indicates an accepted level of internal consistency for this measure in this specific sample. Initially, 18 items were formed where six of them had Cronbach's alpha of below 0.70, and were deleted and excluded from this construct. The participants' responses to these thirteen items were then summed together to give a total score on their sociodemographic, individual, and behavioral issues. The criminal behavior assessed by these twelve items is closely associated with the intervention of probation program in probationers' desistance process, with researchers' findings that the rigorous offending behavior assessment is associated with offenders' desistance from crime (Eno Louden & Skeem, 2013; Serin & Lloyd, 2009).

Independent variable: Probation officers' roles in providing guidance and capacity building

The items are related to the guidance and capacity-building process for probationers within the probation settings at community levels. As there is no guidance and capacity building scale used in probation setting in Bangladesh, some similar items under this construct were adopted by following previous studies and scales. Moreover, these items are to some extent aligned with philosophies of operative probation guidance and offender reintegration. The Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model is found helpful source for this scale as this framework is often used in offender rehabilitation and supervision (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990). Several scales such as Correctional Program Assessment Inventory (CPAI) (Nesovic, A., 2003), Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model (Andrews & Bonta, 2010), Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) (Hsu, Caputi, & Byrne, 2011) were followed to develop the present construct of guidance and capacity building to assess to what extent the probation officers in Bangladesh guide and build capacity of probationers during their probation or change or correction period. Moreover, The LSI-R and CPAI are risk assessment tools, which include various domains related to an individual's risk and need factors, informing guidance and capacity-building interventions for probationers. This scale was developed based on seven broad areas, such as establishing a supportive relationship, probationers' involvement and empowerment, risk identification and management, skill development and education, and community connection and support networks. These areas incorporate various aspects of the guidance and capacity-building process for probationers, focusing on the importance of building a supportive relationship, involving the probationers in the decision-making process, dealing with risks, recognizing their strengths and needs, promoting skill development, providing information and resources, and connecting them with community support networks.

Initially, 16 items were considered within this construct. By checking the internal consistency and validity of the initial 16 items of guidance and capacity building, the 4 items were deleted and the rest of the 12 items were used to measure to what extent probation officers guide and build the capacity of probationers for promoting their desistance process. The responses were based on probationers' self-reported perceptions of the extent to which probation officers build rapport and establish a trusting relationship with probationers, help them identify their problems and involve them in the decision-making process, identify potential risks or threats that occur by them, show them empathy, respect, and listen to them carefully, etc. These twelve items involved: 'Probation

officers (POs) build rapport and establish a trusting relationship with probationers'; 'POs help probationers identify their problems and involve them in decision making process'; 'POs identify potential risks or threats occurred by probationers'; POs show probationers empathy, respect, and listen to them carefully'; 'POs help probationers set specific, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goal'; 'POs collaborate with probationers to create a roadmap for correction and rehabilitation'; 'POs provide probationers opportunities to acquire new skills or enhance existing ones'; While providing guidance, POs consider probationers' strengths and needs'; 'POs offer vocational training, educational programs, or workshops that can contribute to probationers' personal and professional growth'; 'POs inform probationers about available resources, treatment options, and opportunities for their personal progress'; 'POs connect probationers with support networks, such as mentors, support groups, or community organizations' and 'POs support probationers in finding a suitable job for them'.

Responses to these items were 'Completely disagree=1', 'Disagree=2', 'Somewhat disagree=3', 'Somewhat agree=4', 'Agree=5' and 'Completely agree=6', where higher values correspond to higher perceived probationers' guidance provided and capacity built by probation officers. Moreover, the responses to these items: '1= completely disagree, 2= Disagree, and 3= Somewhat disagree' were recoded into '0=No' and 4= Somewhat agree, 5= Agree, and 6= completely agree into 1=Yes for descriptive analysis. This 12-item guidance and capacity-building measure was found to be reliable with its internal reliability assessed using the average inter-item correlation (AIC) analysis and Cronbach's alpha. The AIC for this measure was 0.286 (0.194 to 0.681) and its Cronbach's alpha was 0.701, which indicates an accepted level of internal consistency for this measure in this specific sample. Initially, 16 items were formed where four of them had Cronbach's alpha of below 0.50, and were deleted and excluded from this construct. The participants' responses to these twelve items were then summed together to give a total score on their guidance and capacity building by probation officers.

Independent variable: Probation officers' roles in motivating probationers

The items are related to the ways the probation officers motivate probationers as a part of the desistance process from crimes within the probation settings at community levels. As there is no guideline for probation officers about how and in what ways to motivate probationers in probation programs in Bangladesh, some similar items under this construct were adopted by following previous studies and scales. Moreover, these items are to some extent aligned with philosophies of operative probation guidance and offender reintegration. To assess the motivational styles employed by probation officers, to examine the quality and effectiveness of probation officers' motivational interactions with probationers, and to measure the extent to which probation officers contribute to enhancing probationers' motivation for positive change during the desistance process, this scale has been developed. This scale was created to evaluate the specific strategies probation officers use to motivate probationers and assess the level of motivational support provided by probation officers in fostering probationers' commitment to positive change. To develop a valid and reliable scale for the ways probation officers motivate the items were carefully considered to form the motivational constructs to measure, which were formed based on community engagement and social participation, building positive relationships, recognition and reinforcement, internal

motivation and self-reflection, responsibility and values promotion, guidance for behavioral improvement, and identity and image change. The Motivation to Change Questionnaire (MCQ) (Gard, Rivano, & Grahn, 2005) was followed to develop the present construct of motivation for change or correction to assess to what extent probation officers motivate probationers to desist from criminal activities during their probation or change or correction period.

Initially, 15 items were used to form this construct. By checking the internal consistency and validity of the initial 15 items of motivation for change, the 4 items were deleted and the rest of the 11 items were used to measure to what extent probation officers motivate probationers to desist them from criminal activities. The responses were based on probationers' self-reported perceptions of the extent to which probation officers motivate them to participate in community-based programs, volunteer work, or socio-cultural activities, encourage them to build good relationships and become trustworthy with people, provide them verbal praise and recognition for their good efforts and accomplishments, etc. These eleven items involved: 'Probation officers (POs) motivate them to participate in community-based programs, volunteer work, or socio-cultural activities'; 'POs encourage them to build good relationships and become trustworthy with people around'; 'POs provide them verbal praise and recognition for their good efforts and accomplishments'; 'POs use tangible rewards or incentives as motivating factors for meeting goals or adhering to court conditions'; 'POs arouse their reason for change'; 'POs help them identify my intrinsic motivation'; 'POs encourage them to be more responsible towards society'; 'POs motivate them to be optimistic and valued person'; 'POs motivate them to take specific steps towards improvement or correction of their behavior'; 'POs promote their honesty, integrity, values, and aspirations' and 'POs motivate them to change their criminal identity and bad images'.

Responses to these items were 'Completely disagree=1', 'Disagree=2', 'Somewhat disagree=3', 'Somewhat agree=4', 'Agree=5' and 'Completely agree=6', where higher values correspond to higher perceived probationers' motivation for change given by probation officers. Moreover, the responses to these items: '1= completely disagree, 2= Disagree, and 3= Somewhat disagree' were recoded into '0=No' and 4= Somewhat agree, 5= Agree, and 6= completely agree into 1=Yes for descriptive analysis. This 11-item motivation for change measure was found to be reliable with its internal reliability assessed using the average inter-item correlation (AIC) analysis and Cronbach's alpha. The AIC for this measure was 0.318 (0.176 to 0.684) and its Cronbach's alpha was 0.765, which indicates the acceptance level of internal consistency for this measure in this specific sample. Initially, 15 items were formed where four of them had Cronbach's alpha of below 0.60, and were deleted and excluded from this measure. The participants' responses to these eleven items were then summed together to give a total score on their motivation given by the probation officers.

Independent variable: Probation officers' roles in supervising probationers

While there is not a single extensively documented scale that precisely measures how probation officers supervise probationers in their desistance process during their probation period, several assessment tools and scales embrace some components pertinent to supervision and desistance. The present study follows several scales and assessment tools that are aligned with the aspects of

probation supervision and offender desistance, such as the Correctional Program Assessment Inventory (CPAI) (Nesovic, A., 2003), Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model (Andrews & Bonta, 2010), Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) (Hsu, Caputi, & Byrne, 2011). Since the scale found its statistical reliability and internal consistency, they are included to measure this.

Initially, 15 items were used to form this construct. By checking the internal consistency and validity of the initial 15 items of supervision for change, the six items were deleted and the rest of the 9 items were used to measure to what extent probation officers supervise probationers to desist them from criminal activities. The responses were based on probationers' self-reported perceptions of the extent to which probation officers introduce and explain to them the probation conditions imposed by the court, frequently remind them of the conditions and warn them about the consequences of violating the conditions, schedule regular group meetings to discuss their progress towards maintaining the court conditions, etc. These nine items involved: 'Probation officers (POs) introduce and explain to them the conditions imposed by the court'; 'POs frequently remind them the conditions and warn them about the consequences for violating the conditions'; 'POs schedule regular group meetings to discuss their progress towards maintaining the court conditions'; 'POs contact them personally to discuss their progress'; 'POs regularly assess their progress, needs, and challenges and provides feedback'; 'POs are watchful on probationers'; 'POs show authoritative attitudes to them if needed'; 'POs regularly monitor their activities to ensure their compliance with the conditions' and 'POs document their progress, compliance, and any incidents or concerns'. Responses to these items were 'Completely disagree=1', 'Disagree=2', 'Somewhat disagree=3', 'Somewhat agree=4', 'Agree=5' and 'Completely agree=6', where higher values correspond to higher perceived probationers' guidance provided and capacity built by probation officers. Moreover, the responses to these items: '1= completely disagree, 2= Disagree, and 3= Somewhat disagree' were recoded into '0=No' and '4= Somewhat agree, 5= Agree, and 6= completely agree' into '1=Yes' for descriptive analysis. This 12-item guidance and capacity-building measure was found to be reliable with its internal reliability assessed using the average inter-item correlation (AIC) analysis and Cronbach's alpha. The AIC for this measure was 0.311 (0.162 to 0.611) and its Cronbach's alpha was 0.711, which indicates an accepted level of internal consistency for this measure in this specific sample. Initially, 15 items were formed where four of which had Cronbach's alpha of below 0.55, and were deleted and excluded from this measure. The participants' responses to these nine items were then summed together to give a total score on to what extent they were supervised by the probation officers.

Independent variable: Probation officers' roles in engaging family and community in the desistance process

This measure was developed to assess the extent to which probation officers vigorously engage families and community members of probationers in the desistance process from crime. It measures the extent to which probation service providers collaborate with local leaders, organizations, and members to support probationers. While forming this measure, the alignment with the socioeconomic and legal context and objectives of measuring family and community engagement in the desistance process were prioritized. The items of this measure were identified based on some broad areas, such as home and family involvement, community engagement, and

collaboration and support network. Several studies (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, 2020; McNeill, Farrall, Lightowler, & Maruna, 2012; Phillips, Albertson, Collinson, & Fowler, 2020) and existing mechanism of probation officers to engage the community in the desistance process.

Initially, 12 items were used to form this construct. By checking the internal consistency and validity of the initial 12 items of involving family members and community in probationers' desistance process from crime, the three items were deleted and the rest of 9 items were used to measure to what extent probation officers engage family members and community in probationers' desistance process from crime. The responses were based on probationers' self-reported perceptions of the extent to which probation officers visit probationers' homes frequently to involve their family members in the probation process and promote their desistance process, make probationers' family members aware of the probation process, provide counseling to family members to support them throughout the probation period, etc. These nine items involved: 'Probation officers (POs) visit them home frequently to involve their family members in the probation process and to promote their desistance process'; 'POs make their family members aware about the probation process'; 'POs provide counseling to their family members to support them throughout the probation period'; 'POs schedule family meetings where probation officer, their family members, and probationers come together to discuss their progress, challenges, and goals'; 'POs help them increase their interaction and the amount of time probationers spend with their family members'; 'POs visit their friends and community people frequently to promote their desistance process'; 'POs make their friends and community people aware about the court's terms and conditions' and 'POs motivate and influence their friends and community people to support probationers throughout the probation period'.

Responses to these items were 'Completely disagree=1', 'Disagree=2', 'Somewhat disagree=3', 'Somewhat agree=4', 'Agree=5' and 'Completely agree=6', where higher values correspond to higher perceived probationers' guidance provided and capacity built by probation officers. Moreover, the responses to these items: '1= completely disagree, 2= Disagree, and 3= Somewhat disagree' were recoded into '0=No' and 4= Somewhat agree, 5= Agree, and 6= completely agree into 1=Yes for descriptive analysis. This 9-item family and community engagement measure was found to be reliable with its internal reliability assessed using the average inter-item correlation (AIC) analysis and Cronbach's alpha. The AIC for this measure was 0.303 (0.112 to 0.603) and its Cronbach's alpha was 0.733, which indicates an accepted level of internal consistency for this measure in this specific sample. Initially, 12 items were formed where three of them had Cronbach's alpha of below 0.60 and were deleted and excluded from this measure. The participants' responses to these nine items were then summed together to give a total score on to what extent the family and community in the desistance process are engaged by the probation officers.

Covariate: Gender

A wide range of past studies suggests that gender can influence the desistance process, with females being more likely to desist from crimes than males (e.g.,). For this reason, gender was

included in the analysis as a control variable. Gender was coded as 1 female and 2 =male in the present study.

Covariate: Age

Past research has found an association between age and the desistance process (e.g., Kazemian & Farrington, 2006, 2018). For this reason, age was also included in the analysis as a control variable. In the present study, the age of the respondents was measured in years.

Covariate: Marital status

The probationers were also asked if they were married or unmarried. Responses are coded as '1=married' and '0=unmarried' in the present study. Marital status is included as a possible confounding factor as it is a factor for desisting probationers or individuals from crime (e.g., Bersani, Laub, & Nieuwbeerta, 2009; Doherty & Ensminger, 2013; Farrington & West, 1995; Sampson & Laub, 2003).

Covariate: Religious identity

The religious identity of the participants is included in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '1=Islam' and '0=Hindu and others' in the present study.

Covariate: Educational status

Research has also pointed out that previous experiences in education can impact future successes. For example, those who achieve post-secondary education are more likely to experience more positive desistance outcomes than those who do not (Bloomberg et al, 2011; Lockwood, Nully, Holt, & Knutsen, 2012). For this reason, the education status of the participants has been included to find its relationship with desistance from crime. Responses are coded as '1= Illiterate', '2= Class 1 to 5', '3= Class 6 to 10', and '4=HSC and above in the present study. For the multiple regression analysis, this categorical variable is converted into dummy variables with binary digits (0 and 1) for better analysis.

Covariate: Income level

The income level of the family of the participants as a categorical variable is included in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '1= BDT. 1000 - 10,000.', '2= BDT. 11000 – 20000', and '3= BDT. 20001. – Above' in the present study. For the multiple regression analysis, this categorical variable is converted into dummy variables with binary digits (0 and 1) for better analysis.

Covariate: Recent new identity of the participants

The recent new identity of the participant such as starting a romantic relationship, getting married, becoming a parent, starting a new job or business, etc. are important factors that influence the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Family members involved in crimes

Other Family members of the participants involved in crimes are included in the present study to find whether it is related to the desistance process or not. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Duration under probation (in Months)

This variable is incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '1=1 to 6 Months', '2=7 to 12 Months', and '3=13 -20 Months', and '4=21 Months and Above' in the present study. For the multiple regression analysis, this categorical variable is converted into dummy variables with binary digits (0 and 1) for better analysis.

Covariate: Any friends involved in violent activities

This variable is also incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Taking any type of prohibited drug

This variable is also incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Feel depressed or lonely

This variable is also incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Feel discriminated against or neglected

This variable is also incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Started practicing religious rules

This variable is also incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Any cases against the participants during the probation period

This variable is also incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Arrested by the police during probation period

This variable is also incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

Covariate: Participants victimized by others

This variable is also incorporated in the present study to find its relationship pattern with the desistance process. Responses are coded as '0=No' and '1=Yes' in the present study.

3.7. Data Analysis Techniques

For quantitative data, the present study used both descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. The data were computerized, analyzed, and interpreted using SPSS-22 software. Descriptive statistics and inferential tests were run to analyze and interpret the collected data. To examine the extent to which factors of probation services can predict the probationers' self-reported desistance process during the probation period while controlling for possible confounding factors, a multiple regression analysis was used (Mallik-Kane & Visher, 2008). As the outcome variable was continuous, a multiple regression analysis was found to be the most appropriate form of regression analysis to use. Multiple regression analysis models were used as they allowed the researchers to model the relationship between the dependent variable (desistance from crime) and probation service factors (independent variables) (Hosmer & Lemeshow, 2000). However, before conducting a multiple regression analysis, all the assumptions for conducting this regression have been checked to ensure that the data met all these. As a part of preliminary analyses to meet the assumptions of this regression, a correlation matrix was conducted to check for issues of multicollinearity (Field, 2013). Moreover, a thematic approach was used for analyzing qualitative data by forming a thematic framework matrix or using NVivo software because it is believed to be the foundational (Holloway & Todres, 2003) and most common (Guest, Bunce, and Johnson, 2006) method of analyzing qualitative data. Thematic analysis helps with structured and systematic management, integration, and development. It also helps to synthesize and index the qualitative data (Ritchie and Lewis, 2003). As per the suggestion of Neuman (2007), qualitative data were organized into different categories based on different themes, concepts, or similar features.

3.8. Ethical Consideration

The proposed study considered all ethical issues to ensure the protection of respondents' rights, dignity, and privacy. The research title, purposes, potential harms, and risks associated with providing sensitive data, and the benefits of the research were clearly explained to the participants to enhance their understanding as a part of respecting their voluntary participation (Clarke 1991; Armiger 1997). Participants were assured that anonymity and confidentiality of personal information would be strictly maintained by keeping their names confidential, and all data would be stored electronically on a password-protected computer file without significant risks associated

with participation. An ethical form was provided to participants as part of the researcher's commitment to uphold their rights and dignity, and in the event of any harm, they had the right to take legal action against the researchers. An Informed Consent Form was developed to verify participants' understanding of their rights related to this research. Recognizing that participants below 18 years are typically not capable of making fully autonomous decisions about their participation, informed consent from guardians or legal permission from the concerned authority was obtained before conducting the research. Questions that could negatively impact participants' personal lives, psychological well-being, or socioeconomic status were avoided (Carr, 1994). Objectivity and reflexivity were maintained throughout the research process, allowing respondents to speak more freely during case studies. Interview questionnaires and checklists were carefully designed and detailed, and then reviewed by senior researchers to ensure validity and reliability (Jameton, 1984). Furthermore, the methodology and findings were open to critique, and the addition of new ideas was welcomed. Finally, intellectual property, unpublished methods, and data were not used without permission.

3.9. Limitations of the Study

This study identifies multiple limitations of the study in terms of its methodology and operation. All variables were derived from participant self-reports, potentially leading to mono-operational bias and inflated path coefficients due to shared method variance (Shadish et al., 2002). Since the probationers were asked to rate and provide information on the services provided by the probation officer, they may provide data fearing the termination of services, though the data collectors make it clear to them before collecting data. Additionally, the scarcity of research, books, and expert insights on the nexus between probation services and desistance in Bangladesh's context limited pre-existing knowledge. Budget constraints, relative to the study's scope, along with a constrained timeline, posed challenges. Other limitations of the study have been discussed below:

Generalizability

The study's findings may have limited generalizability beyond the specific context of Bangladesh. Cultural, social, and legal factors unique to Bangladesh could influence the effectiveness of probation programs and the desistance process. Therefore, caution should be exercised when applying these findings to other countries or contexts.

Sample Size and Representativeness

The study's sample size may have been limited, potentially affecting the representativeness of the findings. If the sample does not adequately represent the broader population of probationers in Bangladesh, the results may not accurately reflect the experiences and outcomes of all probationers in the country.

Self-Reporting Bias

The study relies on self-reported data from probationers, probation officers, and other stakeholders. Self-reporting is susceptible to biases, such as social desirability bias or recall bias, which may

impact the accuracy and reliability of the collected data. Participants may provide responses that they believe are expected or desirable, leading to potential inaccuracies in the findings.

Causality and Directionality

The study employs a correlational design, limiting the ability to establish causality or determine the direction of the relationship between probation intervention and desistance. Other uncontrolled variables or third factors could influence both probation intervention and desistance, making it difficult to attribute changes solely to probation programs.

Data Collection Methods

The study utilizes surveys and interviews as data collection methods. While these methods provide valuable insights, they have inherent limitations. Surveys and interviews rely on participants' self-perception and may not capture the full complexity of their experiences.

Long-Term Effects

The study's focus on a specific time frame may limit understanding of the long-term effects of probation intervention on desistance. Desistance from crime is a complex and dynamic process that may extend beyond the study's timeframe, requiring further investigation to understand the long-term impact of probation programs.

External Factors

The study may not account for external factors that could influence desistance, such as community support networks, access to employment or education, or broader societal changes. These factors play a crucial role in the desistance process and may interact with probation intervention, but their influence may not be fully captured in the study.

Chapter Four

Findings of the Study

4. Findings of the study

4.1. Demographic and Socioeconomic Status of Probationers in Bangladesh

Table 3 shows the demographic and psychosocial characteristics of the probationers sampled for this study. The demographic and psychosocial profile of probationers offers a comprehensive overview of the socio-economic and personal backgrounds of the individuals under probation, which is crucial for understanding their needs and tailoring rehabilitation efforts accordingly.

Table 3. Respondents' demographic and psychosocial characteristics

Variable Name	Categories	Percent (%)
1. Gender	Female	6.8
	Male	93.2
2. Religion	Islam	91.9
	Hindu and others	8.1
3. Marital status	Married	68.2
	Unmarried	31.8
4. Family pattern of the participant	Nuclear	62.8
	Joint	37.2
5. Educational status of the participant	Illiterate	16.4
	Class 1 to 5	26.2
	Class 6 to 10	40.6
	HSC and above	16.9
	1000 - 10,000 Tk	27.6
6. Monthly family income	11000 - 20000 Tk	58.4
	21000-above	13.9
	1 to 6 Months	22.7
7. Duration under probation (in Month)	7 to 12 Months	54.8
	13 -20 Months	8.3
	above 20 Months	14.2
8. The recent new identity of the participant	No	48.4
	Yes	51.6
9. Family members involved in offending	No	78.5
	Yes	21.5
10. Friends involved in violent activities	No	73.3
	Yes	26.7
11. Taking any type of prohibited drug	No	85.1
	Yes	14.9
12. Feel depressed or lonely	No	76.8
	Yes	23.2
13. Feel discriminated against or neglected	No	80.0
	Yes	20.0
14. Affiliated with any political party	No	82.2
	Yes	17.8
15. Started practicing religious rules recently	No	66.5
	Yes	33.5
16. Any cases during the probation period	No	90.5
	Yes	9.5
17. Arrested by police during probation period	No	88.5
	Yes	11.5
18. Victimized by others	No	61.4
	Yes	38.6

Gender Distribution

The overwhelming majority of respondents are male (93.2%), with females constituting a small minority (6.8%).

Age

The age of the participants in the study ranges from 18 to 70 years, with an average age of 46.06 years and a standard deviation of 14.646.

Religious Affiliation

A vast majority of the respondents identify with Islam (91.9%), with Hindu and other religions making up 8.1%.

Marital Status

Most respondents are married (68.2%), indicating that familial responsibilities could influence their rehabilitation process. The unmarried probationers (31.8%) may have different support systems and challenges.

Family Pattern

A majority of the probationers come from nuclear families (62.8%), compared to those from joint families (37.2%). This information is pertinent for understanding the social support structures available to probationers.

Educational Status

There is a notable diversity in educational attainment among probationers, with a significant portion having education up to class 10 (40.6%). The presence of illiterate probationers (16.4%) and those with higher secondary education and above (16.9%) suggests varying needs for educational and vocational training programs.

Monthly Family Income

The majority of probationers' families earn between 11,000 to 20,000 Tk (58.4%), with smaller segments in the lower (27.6%) and higher (13.9%) income brackets. This indicates a primarily middle-income demographic, with some experiencing financial vulnerability.

Duration under Probation

Most respondents have been under probation for 7 to 12 months (54.8%), with shorter (22.7%) and longer durations (22.5%) also represented. This variation underscores the importance of monitoring and support throughout and beyond the probation period.

Recent New Identity

About half of the respondents (51.6%) have adopted a new identity since beginning probation, possibly reflecting changes in social roles or personal transformation efforts.

Involvement in Offending and Violent Activities

A majority report no family involvement in offending (78.5%) and no friends involved in violent activities (73.3%), suggesting a potential distinction between the probationers' social environments and their offenses.

Psychosocial Factors

Notable portions of respondents have not engaged in prohibited drug use (85.1%), felt depressed or lonely (76.8%), or felt discriminated against or neglected (80.0%). These figures indicate prevalent psychosocial challenges among probationers that could impact their rehabilitation.

Political and Religious Affiliation

A minority of probationers are affiliated with a political party (17.8%) or have recently started practicing religious rules (33.5%), pointing to varied levels of social and religious engagement.

Victimization and Legal Issues

While most respondents reported no additional cases (90.5%) or arrests (88.5%) during the probation period, a significant minority reported being victimized by others (38.6%), highlighting the importance of addressing victimization and ensuring safety within rehabilitation efforts.

4.2. Extent and Nature of Desistance from Crime among Probationers in Bangladesh

The findings of the study show that the desistance process scores of probationers exhibit a considerable range from 43 to 123, reflecting a diverse spectrum of progress in the desistance process. The average desistance score is 97.4 on a scale of 23-138, indicating a generally positive trend among probationers. The mean score of 97.4 suggests that, on average, probationers have made substantial progress in their desistance journey. Table 4 reveals that merely 13.90% of probationers demonstrate an awareness of their past life, emphasizing a severe contrast with the significant majority (86.10%) that lacks such self-awareness.

Table 4. Descriptive statistics for desistance from crime (n=409) (item wise)

Desistance process items	Percent (%)	
	Yes	No
1. I am aware of my past life	13.90	86.10
2. I abide by court conditions	24.00	76.00
3. I am working to develop myself	56.20	43.80
4. I know my strengths and weaknesses to change my life	75.10	24.90
5. It is possible for me to change and lead a law-abiding life	16.10	83.90
6. I justify or rationalize my past actions	42.80	57.20
7. I regret for my past actions	22.00	78.00
8. I refrain from any unlawful activities	15.40	84.60
9. I trying to create a new identity and engage in pro-social activities	15.60	84.40
10. I see some positive changes in my life	19.10	80.90
11. I experienced some positive events that inspired me to change my life	83.10	16.90
12. I am aware of behavioral problems and working to change	83.10	16.90
13. I face some setbacks while changing my behavior	65.50	34.50
14. I frequently receive support from family and probation agencies	81.90	18.10
15. I try to do some good works and make positive contributions to society	80.00	20.00
16. The number of bad deeds and bad habits has been reduced	84.10	15.90
17. I need time and ongoing effort to change	85.80	14.20
18. I believe probation services are very effective and necessary	84.80	15.20
19. I believe rehabilitation efforts are important to promote change in life	83.90	16.10
20. I am supported and encouraged by my family members and others	70.90	29.10
21. I learned new skills and knowledge to change my life	34.50	65.50
22. I developed some strategies to cope with social stigma and exclusion	17.40	82.60
23. I have full control of my activities and behavior	7.30	92.70

A quarter of respondents (24.00%) assert adherence to court conditions, underscoring a notable divide with the substantial majority (76.00%) who do not comply with these stipulations. Moreover, a commendable 56.20% of probationers actively engage in personal development, showcasing a noteworthy commitment to growth. In tandem, a substantial 75.10% of respondents acknowledge their strengths and weaknesses, in stark contrast to the 24.90% lacking this fundamental self-awareness. Despite these positive indicators, a nuanced analysis reveals challenges in the desistance journey. A relatively meager 16.10% believe in the possibility of transformative change toward a law-abiding life, with the majority (83.90%) harboring doubts. Moreover, a concerning 42.80% still rationalize past actions, contrasting with 57.20% making conscious efforts to refrain from such justifications. Additionally, a mere 22.00% express remorse for past actions, emphasizing that a substantial majority (78.00%) may not harbor such sentiments. Remarkably, a marginal proportion (15.40%) refrains from unlawful activities, while most of the participants (84.60%) lack such restraint. Similarly, a modest 15.60% actively strive to create a new identity, juxtaposed with the 84.40% not actively pursuing these transformative changes. Furthermore, only 19.10% perceive positive changes in their lives, indicating potential challenges in recognizing and embracing positive transformations, with the majority (80.90%) lacking such perceptions. While a significant majority of the probationers (83.10%) draw inspiration from positive events for behavioral change, a noteworthy minority of the respondents (16.90%) remain untouched by such inspirations. The majority (83.10%) are cognizant of behavioral problems and

actively work to effect change, contrasting sharply with the 16.90% not engaging in this self-awareness and change process. Encouragingly, a significant 81.90% frequently receive support from family and probation agencies, delineating a positive support system, while 18.10% are not beneficiaries of such support. Furthermore, the majority (80.00%) endeavor to contribute positively to society, in contrast to the 20.00% potentially not engaging in such efforts. A substantial 84.10% report a reduction in negative behaviors, while 15.90% do not observe such reductions.

Recognizing the desistance process as an ongoing journey, a notable 85.80% acknowledge the need for time and continued effort to effect change, while 14.20% may not consider this a requisite. Moreover, an overwhelming 84.80% deem probation services effective and necessary, but 15.20% may not share this sentiment. Similarly, the majority (83.90%) perceive rehabilitation efforts as crucial for promoting change, while 16.10% may not hold this belief. In the realm of support, a substantial 70.90% feel supported and encouraged by family members and others, but 29.10% may not experience this level of support. Additionally, only 34.50% report actively learning new skills for personal change, while the majority (65.50%) may not have engaged in such learning.

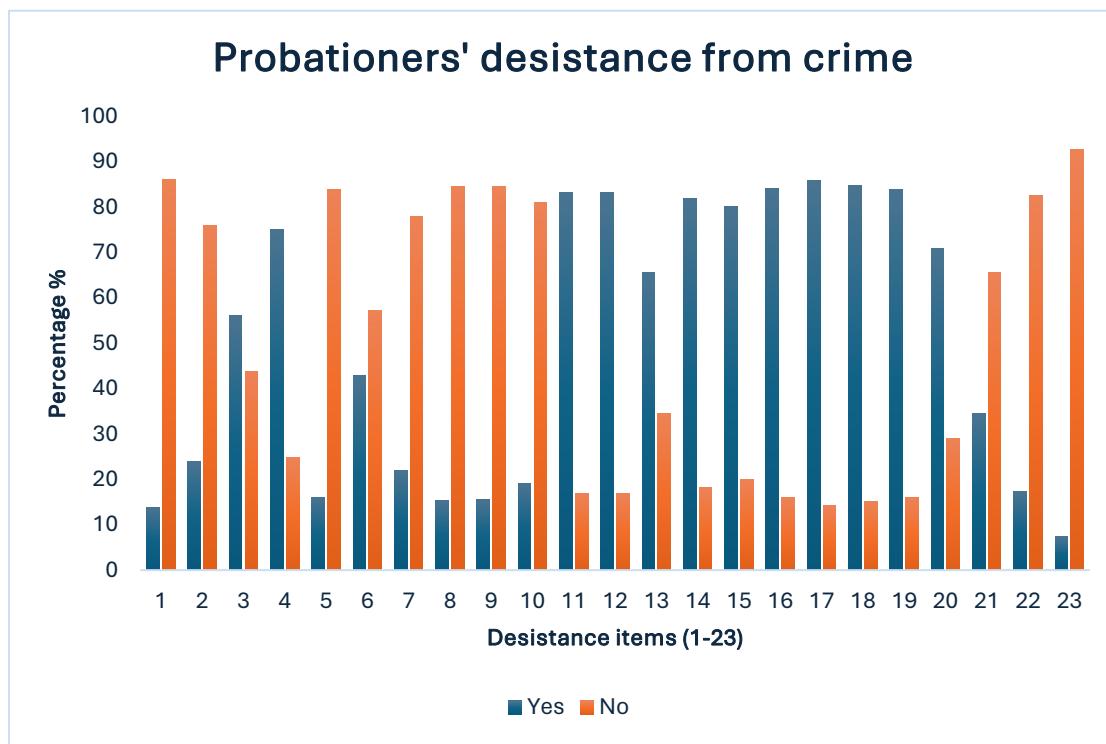


Figure 2. Probationers' responses on desistance from crime items

Furthermore, a minority (17.40%) developed strategies to cope with social stigma and exclusion, while the majority (82.60%) may not have established such coping mechanisms. Lastly, a small percentage (7.30%) claims full control over their activities and behavior, juxtaposed with the overwhelming majority (92.70%) not asserting such control.

4.3. Extent and Nature of Probation Services Received by the Probationers in Bangladesh

Table 5 presents descriptive statistics for probationers' ratings on various aspects of probation officers' roles and services. The mean scores across the five service interventions show varying levels of perceived effectiveness. On a scale of 12 to 72, the mean score for probation officers' role in assessing the behavior of the probationers was 45.2714 and the role in promoting probationers' capacity received mean scores of 37.9095. The mean score for Probation officers' ways of motivating probationers is 42.0709 on a scale of 11 to 66. Out of 9 to 54, the means for the probation officers' ways of supervision and family and community engagement in the desistance process were 38.6235 and 29.6455 respectively.

Table 5. Descriptive statistics for probationers' ratings on the role of probation officers across different aspects of their services

Variables	Original scales		Mean	Std. Deviation
	Min	Max		
1. Probation Officers' role in assessing the behavior of the probationers	12	72	45.2714	10.382
2. Probation officers' roles in promoting probationers' capacity	12	72	37.9095	11.158
3. Probation officers' ways of motivating probationers	11	66	42.0709	14.114
4. Probation officers' ways of supervision	9	54	38.6235	11.607
5. Family and community engagement in the desistance process	9	54	29.6455	12.561

The study collected data on probationers' ratings on various aspects of probation officers' roles and services, particularly in five intervention areas selected in advance. As rated by the probationers, the amount and nature of probation services provided by the probation officers in Bangladesh have been presented.

Probation officers' roles in the assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior records

Table 6 shows the roles of probation officers in assessing probationers' behaviors and previous records. In terms of evaluating past criminal offenses, most probationers (69.7%) stated that their probation officers did not conduct a thorough examination of their previous criminal activities, whereas a smaller portion (24.0%) confirmed that their officers did perform such an assessment. When it comes to gathering information about the nature of the committed offenses, slightly over half of the probationers (51.6%) indicated that their officers compiled a list, while a nearly equal percentage (48.2%) reported that their officers did not undertake this evaluation. Furthermore, in assessing substance abuse history, including the types of substances involved, the data demonstrates that a significant number of probationers (64.8%) had their history evaluated, while a smaller proportion (34.7%) did not receive this assessment.

Table 6. Probationers' views on whether probation officers assessed their behaviors and prior records.

	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1. The probation officer assessed a detailed account of my past criminal offenses	No	285	69.7
	Yes	98	24.0
	Total	383	93.6
	Missing	26	6.4
2. The probation officer took a list of the nature of my committed offense.	No	197	48.2
	Yes	211	51.6
	Total	408	99.8
	Missing	1	.2
3. He gathered my history of substance abuse, including types of substances.	No	142	34.7
	Yes	265	64.8
	Total	407	99.5
	Missing	2	.5
4. The probation officer identified my social networks and relationships with criminal networks.	No	91	22.2
	Yes	318	77.8
	Total	409	100.0
5. He asked about any involvement in criminal activities or associations with individuals engaged in criminal behavior	No	75	18.3
	Yes	334	81.7
	Total	409	100.0
6. He asked about any affiliations with gangs.	No	93	22.7
	Yes	314	76.8
	Total	407	99.5
	Missing	2	.5
7. He assessed my attitudes and beliefs regarding criminal offenses.	No	72	17.6
	Yes	335	81.9
	Total	407	99.5
	Missing	2	.5
8. He assessed my perceptions about authority figures and the legal system.	No	97	23.7
	Yes	311	76.0
	Total	408	99.8
	Missing	1	.2
9. He assessed my willingness to engage in rehabilitation and treatment programs.	No	78	19.1
	Yes	328	80.2
	Total	406	99.3
	Missing	3	.7
10. He provided insights into my commitment to interventions aimed at reducing criminal behavior	No	61	14.9
	Yes	348	85.1
	Total	409	100.0
11. He assessed comprehensive information about the circumstances surrounding each offense.	No	59	14.4
	Yes	350	85.6
	Total	409	100.0
12. He assessed causes that may have contributed to or influenced my involvement in criminal activities.	No	71	17.4
	Yes	338	82.6
	Total	409	100.0

Probation officers were more inclined to identify social networks and relationships with criminal networks, as reported by a substantial majority of respondents (77.8%), whereas a minority (22.2%) stated that their officers did not perform this assessment. Regarding the evaluation of involvement in criminal activities or associations with individuals engaged in criminal behavior, a significant majority of probationers (81.7%) reported that their probation officers inquired about it, while a smaller percentage (18.3%) stated otherwise. Similarly, a considerable portion of probationers (76.8%) reported that their officers asked about affiliations with gangs, while a smaller group (22.7%) indicated that this assessment was not conducted. Assessing attitudes and beliefs regarding criminal offenses, most respondents (81.9%) had their attitudes and beliefs

assessed by their probation officers, whereas a smaller proportion (17.6%) did not undergo this evaluation. In terms of assessing perceptions about authority figures and the legal system, a significant percentage of respondents (76.0%) reported that their officers examined such perceptions, while a smaller percentage (23.7%) did not have this assessment conducted.

Probation officers' roles in providing guidance and capacity building

Analyzing the data reported by the probationers, Table 7 provides insights into the roles of probation officers in providing guidance and capacity building for probationers. The data reveals that 77.51% of probationers reported that their probation officers made rapport and established a trusting relationship with them, while 22.49% stated otherwise. In terms of helping probationers identify their problems and involving them in the decision-making process, 83.6% of respondents reported that their officers provided this assistance, while 16.4% did not. Regarding the identification of potential risks or threats posed by probationers, 64.3% of respondents reported that their officers identified such risks, while 35.7% stated that this assessment was not conducted. When it comes to empathy, respect, and active listening, the data shows that 50.4% of probationers reported that their officers displayed these qualities, while 49.6% stated otherwise. In terms of helping probationers set specific, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals, 51.59% of respondents reported receiving this assistance from their officers, while 48.41% did not. Collaboration in creating a roadmap for correction and rehabilitation was reported by 61.61% of probationers, while 38.39% stated that their officers did not engage in this collaboration. Opportunities to acquire new skills or enhance existing ones were provided by probation officers for 57.46% of respondents, whereas 42.54% reported no such opportunities. Considering probationers' strengths and needs while providing guidance was reported by 70.2% of respondents, while 29.6% stated that their officers did not take this into account. There was one missing response in the data.

Offering vocational training, educational programs, or workshops that contribute to personal and professional growth was reported by 22.7% of probationers, while 72.3% stated that their officers did not provide such opportunities. Informing probationers about available resources, treatment options, and opportunities for personal progress was reported by 39.6% of respondents, while 60.4% stated that their officers did not offer this information. Connecting probationers with support networks such as mentors, support groups, or community organizations was reported by 23.5% of respondents, while 76.5% stated that their officers did not make these connections. Support in finding suitable employment was provided by probation officers for 15.4% of respondents, whereas 84.6% reported no such support. Based on probationers' self-reports, the findings provide valuable insights into the contributions of probation officers in providing guidance and capacity building. While there are areas where probation officers have shown positive involvement, such as establishing rapport and involving probationers in decision-making, there are also areas where improvements can be made, such as providing vocational training, connecting with support networks, and supporting job placement. Understanding these patterns

can inform efforts to enhance the effectiveness of probation officers' contributions and improve outcomes for probationers.

Table 7. Probation officers' contributions in providing guidance and capacity building

		Responses	Frequency	Percent
1. The probation officer made rapport and establishes/ established a trusting relationship with me.	No	92	22.49	
	Yes	317	77.51	
	Total	409	100.0	
2. The probation officer helped me identify my problems and involves/involved me in the decision-making process	No	67	16.4	
	Yes	342	83.6	
	Total	409	100.0	
3. The probation officer identified potential risks or threats that occurred to me	No	146	35.7	
	Yes	263	64.3	
	Total	409	100.0	
4. The probation officer showed me empathy, and respect, and listened to me carefully	No	203	49.6	
	Yes	206	50.4	
	Total	409	100.0	
5. The probation officer helped me set specific, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals.	No	198	48.41	
	Yes	211	51.59	
	Total	409	100.0	
6. The probation officer collaborated with me to create a roadmap for correction and rehabilitation	No	157	38.39	
	Yes	252	61.61	
	Total	409	100.0	
7. The probation officer provided me with opportunities to acquire new skills or enhance existing ones.	No	174	42.54	
	Yes	235	57.46	
	Total	409	100.0	
8. While providing guidance the probation officer considered my strengths and needs.	No	121	29.6	
	Yes	287	70.2	
	Total	408	99.8	
	System	1	.2	
9. Probation officer offered vocational training educational programs, or workshops that can contribute to their personal and professional growth.	No	316	72.3	
	Yes	93	22.7	
	Total	409	100.0	
10. The probation officer informed me about available resources, treatment options, and opportunities for my progress.	No	247	60.4	
	Yes	162	39.6	
	Total	409	100.0	
11. The probation officer connected me with support networks, such as mentors, support groups, or community organizations.	No	313	76.5	
	Yes	96	23.5	
	Total	409	100.0	
12. The probation officer supported me in finding a suitable job for me.	No	346	84.6	
	Yes	63	15.4	
	Total	409	100.0	

Probation officers' ways of motivating probationers

Analyzing the data reported by the probationers, Table 8 provides insights into the ways probation officers motivate probationers. The data reveals that 92.9% of probationers reported that their probation officers motivate them to participate in community-based programs, volunteer work, or socio-cultural activities, while 7.1% stated otherwise.

Table 8. Probation officers' ways of motivating probationers (n=409)

Variables	Responses	Frequency	Percent
1. The probation officer motivates me to participate in community-based programs, volunteer work, or socio-cultural activities.	No	29	7.1
	Yes	380	92.9
2. The probation officer encourages me to build good relationships and become trustworthy with people around me.	No	64	15.6
	Yes	345	84.4
3. The probation officer provides me verbal praise and recognition for my good efforts and accomplishments	No	197	48.2
	Yes	212	51.8
4. The probation officer uses tangible rewards or incentives as motivating factors for meeting goals or adhering to court conditions.	No	276	67.5
	Yes	133	32.5
5. The probation officer arouses my reason for the change.	No	281	68.7
	Yes	128	31.3
6. The probation officer helps me identify my intrinsic motivation.	No	277	67.7
	Yes	132	32.3
7. Probation officer encourages me to be more responsible towards society	No	242	59.2
	Yes	167	40.8
8. Probation officer motivates me to be an optimistic and valued person.	No	106	25.9
	Yes	303	74.1
9. The probation officer motivates me to take specific steps towards improvement or correction of my behavior.	No	152	37.2
	Yes	257	62.8
10. The probation officer promotes my honesty, integrity, values, and aspirations.	No	321	78.5
	Yes	88	21.5
11. The probation officer motivates/motivates me to change my criminal identity and bad image.	No	45	11.0
	Yes	364	89.0

In terms of encouraging probationers to build good relationships and become trustworthy with people around them, 84.4% of respondents reported receiving this encouragement from their probation officers, while 15.6% did not. Regarding verbal praise and recognition for good efforts and accomplishments, 51.8% of probationers reported that their officers provided such praise, while 48.2% stated otherwise. The use of tangible rewards or incentives as motivating factors for meeting goals or adhering to court conditions was reported by 32.5% of respondents, while 67.5% stated that their officers did not use such rewards. When it comes to arousing the probationers' reason for the change, 31.3% of respondents reported that their officers were successful in doing so, while 68.7% stated otherwise. In terms of helping probationers identify their intrinsic motivation, 32.3% of respondents reported receiving this assistance from their officers, while 67.7% did not receive this assistance. Encouragement to be more responsible towards society was reported by 40.8% of probationers, while 59.2% stated that their officers did not provide such encouragement. Motivating probationers to be optimistic and valued individuals was reported by 74.1% of respondents, while 25.9% stated otherwise. When it comes to motivating probationers to take specific steps towards improvement or correction of their behavior, 62.8% of respondents

reported receiving this motivation from their officers, while 37.2% did not. Promoting honesty, integrity, values, and aspirations was reported by 21.5% of probationers, while 78.5% stated that their officers did not emphasize these aspects. Motivating probationers to change their criminal identity and bad images was reported by 89.0% of respondents, while 11.0% stated otherwise. These findings, based on probationers' self-reports, provide valuable insights into the ways probation officers motivate probationers. The data indicates that probation officers play a significant role in motivating probationers through various strategies, including community involvement, encouragement, recognition, and fostering personal growth. However, there are areas where improvements can be made, such as the use of tangible rewards and promoting values and aspirations. Understanding these patterns can inform efforts to enhance the effectiveness of probation officers' motivation strategies and ultimately contribute to the success of probationers' rehabilitation and behavior change.

Probation officers' roles in supervising probationers

Table 9 provides information about how probationers view the ways probation officers supervise them. The data reveals that 92.9% of probationers reported that their probation officers introduced and explained to them the conditions imposed by the court, while 7.1% stated otherwise. In terms of reminding probationers of the conditions and warning them about the consequences of violating those conditions, 84.4% of respondents reported that their officers frequently provided such reminders and warnings, while 15.6% did not. Regarding the scheduling of regular group meetings to discuss probationers' progress in maintaining the court conditions, 51.8% of respondents reported that their officers organized these meetings, while 48.2% stated otherwise. When it comes to personal contact from probation officers to discuss probationers' progress, 32.5% of respondents reported receiving such contact, while 67.5% did not.

In terms of regularly assessing probationers' progress, needs, and challenges and providing feedback, 31.3% of respondents reported that their officers conducted these assessments, while 68.7% stated otherwise. The data shows that 32.3% of probationers reported that their officers were watchful of them, while 67.7% stated otherwise. Regarding probation officers showing authoritative attitudes when needed, 40.8% of respondents reported this behavior from their officers, while 59.2% stated otherwise. When it comes to regularly monitoring probationers' activities to ensure compliance with the conditions, 74.1% of respondents reported that their officers conducted such monitoring, while 25.9% did not. The data reveals that 62.8% of probationers reported that their officers documented their progress, compliance, and any incidents or concerns, while 37.2% stated otherwise. These findings, based on probationers' self-reports, provide valuable insights into the contributions of probation officers in the supervision of probationers. The data indicates that probation officers play a significant role in explaining court conditions, reminding probationers, scheduling meetings, and monitoring compliance. However, there are areas where improvements can be made, such as personal contact, regular assessments,

and documenting progress. Understanding these patterns can inform efforts to enhance the effectiveness of probation officers' supervision and improve outcomes for probationers.

Table 9. Probation officers' roles in supervising probationers

Variables		Responses	Frequency	Percent
1. The probation officer introduced and explained to me the conditions imposed by the court.	No	29	7.1	
	Yes	380	92.9	
2. He frequently reminded me of the conditions and warned me about the consequences of violating the conditions.	No	64	15.6	
	Yes	345	84.4	
3. The probation officer scheduled regular group meetings to discuss my progress toward maintaining the court conditions	No	197	48.2	
	Yes	212	51.8	
4. The probation officer contacted me personally to discuss my progress	No	276	67.5	
	Yes	133	32.5	
5. The probation officer regularly assessed my progress, needs, and challenges and provides feedback.	No	281	68.7	
	Yes	128	31.3	
	Total	409	100	
6. The probation officer was watchful of me.	No	277	67.7	
	Yes	132	32.3	
	Total	409	100	
7. The probation officer showed an authoritative attitude to me if needed.	No	242	59.2	
	Yes	167	40.8	
	Total	409	100	
8. The probation officer regularly monitored my activities to ensure my compliance with the conditions	No	106	25.9	
	Yes	303	74.1	
	Total	409	100	
9. The probation officer documented my progress, compliance, and any incidents or concerns	No	152	37.2	
	Yes	257	62.8	
	Total	409	100	

Probation officers' roles in engaging family and community in the desistance process

Table 10 offers valuable insights into the roles of probation officers in engaging the family and community during the desistance process of probationers. The data indicates that a minority, 21.5% of probationers, reported that their probation officers frequently visited their homes to engage their family members and promote desistance, while the majority, 78.5%, did not have this experience. Similarly, 89% of respondents reported that their probation officers made their family members aware of the probation process, while 11% stated otherwise.

In terms of providing counseling to probationers' family members for support throughout the probation period, 85.6% of respondents reported that their officers offered such counseling, while 14.4% did not receive it. Family meetings, where probation officers, family members, and probationers discuss progress, challenges, and goals, were scheduled for 21.8% of respondents,

while 78.2% did not have these meetings facilitated by their officers. Assisting probationers in increasing their interaction and time spent with family members was reported by only 13.9% of respondents, while the vast majority, 86.1%, did not receive such assistance. Furthermore, probation officers visiting friends and community members frequently to promote the probationers' desistance process was reported by 12.7% of respondents, with 87.3% stating otherwise. Similarly, making friends and community members aware of the court's terms and conditions was accomplished by probation officers for 13.7% of respondents, while 86.3% did not have this experience.

Table 10. Probation officers' roles in engaging family and community in the desistance process

Variables		Responses	Frequency	Percent (%)
1. The probation officer frequently visited my homes	No	321	78.5	
	Yes	88	21.5	
2. The probation officer made my family members aware of the probation process.	No	45	11	
	Yes	364	89	
3. The probation officer provided counseling to my family members to support me throughout the probation period.	No	59	14.4	
	Yes	350	85.6	
4. The probation officer scheduled family meetings where the probation officer, my family members, and I came together to discuss my progress, challenges, and goals.	No	320	78.2	
	Yes	89	21.8	
5. The probation officer helped me increase my interaction and the amount of time I spent with my family members.	No	352	86.1	
	Yes	57	13.9	
6. The probation officer visited my friends and community people frequently to promote my desistance process.	No	357	87.3	
	Yes	52	12.7	
7. The probation officer made my friends and community people aware of the court's terms and conditions	No	353	86.3	
	Yes	56	13.7	
8. The probation officer motivated and influenced my friends and community people to support me throughout the probation period.	No	330	80.7	
	Yes	79	19.3	
9. The probation officer worked collaboratively with my family, friends, neighbors, local leaders, community members, and agencies to support me during the probation period.	No	272	66.5	
	Yes	137	33.5	

When it comes to motivating and influencing friends and community members to support probationers throughout the probation period, only 19.3% of respondents reported such efforts from their probation officers, while the majority, 80.7%, did not benefit from this support. Considering the self-reporting nature of the responses. The findings suggest that there is room for improvement in the extent to which probation officers engage with the family and community. The low percentages of probation officers visiting homes, scheduling family meetings, and providing assistance in increasing family interaction indicate potential areas for enhancement. Similarly, the limited efforts in engaging friends and community members and motivating their support suggest that further attention could be given to involving external networks in the probation process. These

findings emphasize the need to explore strategies for probation officers to actively engage the family and community, as research suggests that strong social support plays a crucial role in the desistance process. By strengthening these areas of engagement, probation officers can potentially enhance the probationers' support systems, promote positive outcomes, and contribute to successful rehabilitation and reintegration.

4.4. Relationship of Probation Services with Desistance from Crime among Probationers in Bangladesh

Table 11. Correlation matrix among the given variables

Items	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1 Desistance score	1																								
2 Probationers' criminal behavior assessment by probation officer	.685**	1																							
3 Probation officers roles for guidance and capacity building of probationers	.660**	.637**	1																						
4 Probation officers ways of motivating probationers	.657**	.605**	.636**	1																					
5 Probation officers ways of supervision	.660**	.635**	.618**	.616**	1																				
6 Family and community engagement in desistance process	.640**	.686**	.635**	.671**	.804**	1																			
7 Age of the participant	.084	.071	.078	.089	.067	.082	1																		
8 Sex of the participant	.064	.050	.067	.055	.111*	.076	-.080	1																	
9 Religion of the participant	-.051	-.088	-.033	-.031	-.028	-.035	-.016	-.043	1																
10 Marital status	-.076	-.108*	-.073	-.055	-.106*	-.056	-.445**	-.082	.088	1															
11 Family pattern of the participant	-.081	-.093	-.050	-.018	-.057	-.006	-.019	.002	.182**	.058	1														
12 Educational status of the participant	.007	-.033	-.011	-.047	.006	-.053	-.208**	.190**	.042	.150**	.002	1													
13 Probation duration	-.078	-.054	-.058	-.052	-.042	-.043	-.127**	.060	-.012	.065	.056	.160**	1												
14 Recent new identity of the participant	.394**	.290**	.340**	.410**	.375**	.379**	.092	.047	-.045	.060	.031	.047	.028	1											
15 Family members involved in Crimes	-.013	.001	-.046	-.043	.011	-.044	.073	.068	.043	-.029	.070	.078	-.021	-.005	1										
16 Duration under probation (in month)	.385**	.407**	.485**	.466**	.395**	.465**	.059	.020	.101*	-.028	.105*	.019	-.049	.193**	-.053	1									
17 Any friends involved in violent activities	.231**	-.195*	.238*	.226*	-.189*	-.247**	-.019	.054	.069	.008	.039	.028	-.055	-.124*	.095	-.121*	1								
18 Taking any type of prohibited drug	.305**	-.137**	-.153**	-.155**	-.229**	-.158*	-.065	.005	.010	.058	.126*	-.019	.013	-.103*	-.017	-.100*	.229**	1							
19 Feel depressed or lonely	.344**	-.188*	-.244*	-.261*	-.254*	-.268*	-.108*	.034	.007	.035	-.039	.006	.014	-.139**	.033	-.145*	.218**	.339**	1						
20 Feel discriminated or neglected	.330**	-.169**	-.192**	-.208**	-.208**	-.221**	.045	.015	.084	-.036	-.040	.065	.069	-.089	.089	-.102*	.182**	.253**	.491**	1					
21 Affiliated with any political party	.264**	-.154**	-.135**	-.133**	-.174**	-.118*	.048	-.051	.065	.043	-.023	-.051	.011	-.072	-.032	-.029	.051	.163**	.227**	.293**	1				
22 Practicing religious rules recently	.124*	.157*	.126*	.135*	.059	.148*	.094	-.013	.009	-.033	.094	.029	-.071	.055	.035	.106*	.065	-.064	-.108*	-.135*	-.074	1			
23 period	-.061	.006	.065	.050	.005	.062	-.022	.022	.087	.000	.009	-.002	.019	.031	.000	.059	.049	.144**	.097*	.129**	.262**	.034	1		
24 Arrested by police during probation	-.033	.056	.097	.096	.033	.088	.014	.007	-.052	.033	.005	.102*	.014	-.004	.111*	.112*	.172*	.129**	.183**	.293**	-.012	.562**	1		
25 Victimized by others	-.266**	-.219**	-.231**	-.244**	-.241**	-.244**	-.010	.076	-.004	.004	.107*	.115*	.029	-.055	-.013	-.081	.021	.091	.099*	.104*	.063	-.063	-.052	.013	1

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Correlation analysis

Table 11 shows that there is a moderate positive correlation between probationers' criminal behavior assessment and desistance score (correlation coefficient = 0.685, $p < 0.01$). There is a moderate positive correlation between probation officers' roles and desistance scores (correlation coefficient = 0.660, $p < 0.01$). Probation officers' ways of motivating probationers moderately positively correlated with desistance from crime (correlation coefficient = 0.657, $p < 0.01$). Likewise, there is a moderate positive correlation between probation officers' ways of supervision and desistance score (correlation coefficient = 0.660, $p < 0.01$). There is a moderate positive correlation between family and community engagement and desistance score (correlation coefficient = 0.640, $p < 0.01$). However, the age of the participant is very weakly and positively correlated with the desistance score (correlation coefficient = 0.084, not statistically significant). There is a very weak positive correlation between the sex of the participant and the desistance

score (correlation coefficient = 0.064, not statistically significant). There is a very weak negative correlation between the religion of the participant and the desistance score (correlation coefficient = -0.051, not statistically significant). There is a very weak negative correlation between marital status and desistance score (correlation coefficient = -0.076, not statistically significant). There is a very weak negative correlation between the family pattern of the participant and the desistance score (correlation coefficient = -0.081, not statistically significant). There is no significant correlation between the educational status of the participant and the desistance score (correlation coefficient = 0.007, not statistically significant).

Positive correlations

There is a moderate positive correlation between the probation officers' assessment of probationers' criminal behavior and the desistance score. This suggests that when probation officers rate probationers' behavior more positively, it is associated with higher desistance scores, indicating a greater likelihood of discontinuing criminal behavior. Moreover, how probation officers guide, motivate, and supervise probationers is moderately positively correlated with the desistance score. This implies that effective guidance, motivation, and supervision by probation officers are associated with higher desistance scores, indicating a stronger likelihood of desisting from criminal activities. Similarly, the engagement of family and community in the desistance process shows a moderate positive correlation with the desistance score. This suggests that when family and community are actively involved in supporting individuals in their efforts to stop criminal behavior, it is associated with higher desistance scores.

Weak correlations

Age, sex, religion, marital status, family pattern, and educational status: These variables show weak correlations with the desistance score. This indicates that the associations between these factors and desistance are minimal and not statistically significant based on the provided data.

Negative correlations

Probation duration, recent new identity, friends involved in violent activities, taking prohibited drugs, and feeling depressed were found to be negatively correlated with the desistance score. This implies that longer probation duration, adopting a recent new identity, having friends involved in violent activities, using prohibited drugs, and experiencing depression is associated with lower desistance scores, indicating a reduced likelihood of desisting from criminal behavior.

Model analysis: model 1 with demographic variables

Table 12 provides a model summary for Model 1 that the coefficient of determination (R-squared) is 0.581, meaning that approximately 58.1% of the variance in desistance from crime can be explained by the independent variables included in the model. The adjusted R-squared is 0.563,

which considers the number of predictors and adjusts the R-squared value accordingly. The standard error of the estimate is 6.98995, which represents the average distance between the observed values and the predicted values by the model.

Table 12. Model summary (Model 1)

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
0.725	0.581	0.563	6.98995		
ANOVA					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	40315.671	21	1919.794	39.292	0.000
Residual	18908.593	387	48.859		
Total	59224.264	408			

The ANOVA table for Model 1 shows that the regression model is statistically significant, as indicated by the p-value of 0.000. This suggests that the independent variables collectively have a significant effect on desistance from crime. Table 13 also shows that the coefficient for age is 0.134, indicating that for every one-unit increase in age, there is a 0.134-unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) with a 95% confidence interval ranging from 0.08 to 0.189. The coefficient for the male gender is 1.209, suggesting that, compared to females, males have a 1.209 unit increase in desistance from crime. However, this coefficient is not statistically significant ($p = 0.385$). The coefficient for Islam is 1.026, indicating that individuals with an Islamic religious identity have a 1.026 unit increase in desistance from crime. However, this coefficient is not statistically significant ($p = 0.431$). The reference category for marital status is unmarried. The coefficient for married probationers is 1.478, suggesting that married individuals have a 1.478 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient approaches statistical significance ($p = 0.074$). The coefficient for individuals with a recent new identity (Yes) is 3.44, indicating that they have a 3.44 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). Moreover, the coefficient for individuals with other family members involved in crimes (Yes) is -5.258, suggesting that they have a decrease of 5.258 units in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). Likewise, the coefficient for individuals with friends involved in violent activities (Yes) is -2.342, indicating that they have a decrease of 2.342 units in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.006$). The coefficient for individuals taking any type of prohibited drug (Yes) is 2.379, suggesting that they have a 2.379 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.043$). The coefficient for individuals who feel depressed or lonely (Yes) is -2.523, indicating that they have a decrease of 2.523 units in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.012$). The coefficient for individuals who feel discriminated against or neglected (Yes) is 0.309, suggesting that they have a 0.309 unit

increase in desistance from crime. However, this coefficient is not statistically significant ($p = 0.744$). The coefficient for individuals who started practicing religious activities (Yes) is 4.703, indicating that they have a 4.703 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). The coefficient for individuals with cases during the probationary period (Yes) is -4.231, suggesting that they have a decrease of 4.231 units in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.002$). The coefficient for individuals who were arrested by police during probation. The coefficient for individuals who have been victimized by others (Yes) is -4.459. This suggests that individuals who have been victimized by others have a decrease of 4.459 units in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). The coefficient for individuals who have a fear of probation service termination (Yes) is 3.934. This indicates that individuals with a fear of probation service termination have a 3.934 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). The coefficient for individuals with a probation period of 6 months and below is 1.219. This suggests that individuals with a probation period of 6 months and below have a 1.219 unit increase in desistance from crime. However, this coefficient is not statistically significant ($p = 0.176$). The coefficient for individuals with a probation period of 7 to 12 months is 5.694. This indicates that individuals with a probation period of 7 to 12 months have a 5.694 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). The coefficient for individuals with a probation period of 13 months and above is 6.932. This suggests that individuals with a probation period of 13 months and above have a 6.932 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). The coefficient for individuals with an income range of BDT. 1000-10000 is -1.079. This indicates that individuals in this income range have a decrease of 1.079 units in desistance from crime. However, this coefficient is not statistically significant ($p = 0.196$).

The coefficient for individuals with an income range of BDT. 10001-20000 is 0.158. This suggests that individuals in this income range have a 0.158 unit increase in desistance from crime. However, this coefficient is not statistically significant ($p = 0.892$). The coefficient for individuals with an income range of BDT. 20001 and above is 0.201. This indicates that individuals in this income range have a 0.201 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.041$). In the case of education, the table shows that the coefficient for illiterate individuals is -1.645. This suggests that illiterate individuals have a decrease of 1.645 units in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.045$). The coefficient for individuals in the education range of class 1 to 5 is -1.045. This indicates that individuals in this education range have a decrease of 1.045 units in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.015$).

The coefficient for individuals in the education range of class 6 to 10 is 0.211. This suggests that individuals in this education range have a 0.211 unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.045$). The coefficient for individuals with education in class 11 and above is 1.645. This indicates that individuals in this education range have a 1.645

unit increase in desistance from crime. This coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.015$). In summary, the p-values associated with the coefficients of the independent variables in Model 1 provide information about the statistical significance of their effects on desistance from crime. Variables such as age, recent new identity, other family members involved in crimes, any friends involved in violent activities, taking any type of prohibited drug, feeling depressed or lonely, started practicing religious activities, any cases during the probation period, victimized by others, fear of probation service termination, and certain categories of probation period and education show statistically significant relationships with desistance from crime. On the other hand, variables like gender, religious identity, income, and certain categories of probation period and education do not show statistically significant relationships with desistance from crime.

Table 13. Regression coefficients for desistance from crime (Model 1)

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.	CI (95.0%)		Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error				Min	Max	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	79.586	2.362		33.692	0.000	74.941	84.23		
Age	0.134	0.028	0.163	4.838	0.000	0.08	0.189	0.726	1.377
Gender (Ref=Female)									
Male	1.209	1.39	0.025	0.87	0.385	-1.523	3.941	0.97	1.031
Religious identity (Ref=Hindu and others)									
Islam	1.026	1.3	0.023	0.789	0.431	-1.53	3.582	0.953	1.049
Marital status (Ref=Unmarried)									
Married	1.478	0.825	0.057	1.791	0.074	-0.144	3.101	0.809	1.236
Recent new identity (Ref=No)									
Yes	3.44	0.806	0.142	4.269	0.000	1.856	5.024	0.744	1.345
Other family members involved in crimes (Ref=No)									
Yes	-5.258	1.081	-0.18	-4.866	0.000	-7.383	-3.133	0.601	1.664
Any friends involved in violent activities (Ref=No)									
Yes	-2.342	0.84	-0.086	-2.789	0.006	-3.993	-0.691	0.867	1.154
Taking any type of prohibited drug (Ref=No)									
Yes	2.379	1.175	0.07	2.026	0.043	0.07	4.689	0.682	1.466
Feel depressed or lonely (Ref=No)									
Yes	-2.523	1.004	-0.092	-2.513	0.012	-4.498	-0.549	0.613	1.631
Feel discriminated against or neglected (Ref=No)									
Yes	0.309	0.946	0.011	0.327	0.744	-1.55	2.169	0.797	1.254
Started practicing religious activities (Ref=No)									
Yes	4.703	0.827	0.188	5.685	0.000	3.077	6.33	0.754	1.327
Any cases during the probationary period (Ref=No)									
Yes	-4.231	1.324	-0.103	-3.196	0.002	-6.833	-1.628	0.791	1.265
Arrested by police during probation (Ref=No)									
Yes	-0.581	1.173	-0.015	-0.495	0.621	-2.887	1.726	0.853	1.172
Victimized by others (Ref=No)									
Yes	-4.459	0.846	-0.173	-5.272	0.000	-6.122	-2.796	0.767	1.304
Fear of probation service termination (Ref=No)									
Yes	3.934	0.789	0.163	4.985	0.000	2.382	5.485	0.768	1.303
Probation period (6 months and below)									
1.219	0.899	0.05		1.355	0.176	-0.549	2.987	0.596	1.677
Probation period (7 to 12 months)									
5.694	1.499	0.131		3.798	0.000	2.746	8.642	0.697	1.434
Probation period (13 months and above)									
6.932	1.304	0.201		5.318	0.000	4.369	9.495	0.578	1.731
Income (BDT. 1000-10000)									
-1.079	0.833	-0.044		-1.295	0.196	-2.718	0.559	0.708	1.412
Income (BDT. 10001-20000)									
0.158	1.166	0.045		0.136	0.892	1.134	2.451	0.732	1.365
Income (BDT. 20001 and above)									
0.201	1.331	0.081		0.305	0.041	1.025	2.113	0.676	1.458
Education (illiterate)									
-1.645	0.818	-0.06		-2.011	0.045	-3.254	-0.036	0.924	1.083
Education (classes 1 to 5)									
-1.045	0.518	-0.05		-2.021	0.015	-2.201	-0.027	0.811	1.071
Education (class 6 to 10)									
0.211	0.818	0.161		2.011	0.045	-3.254	-0.036	0.877	1.052
Education (class 11 and above)									
1.645	0.818	0.266		2.017	0.015	-3.332	-0.038	0.888	1.033

*Desistance from crime is the dependent variable

Model 2: Regression analysis with probation services-related variables

Table 14 shows that the coefficient of determination (R-squared) represents the proportion of the variance in the dependent variable that is explained by the independent variables. In this case, the R-squared value is .694, suggesting that approximately 69.4% of the variance in the dependent variable is accounted for by the independent variables. On the other hand, the adjusted R-squared considers the number of independent variables and the sample size. It penalizes the inclusion of unnecessary variables and increases with the inclusion of useful variables.

Table 14. Model summary and ANOVA

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
.7609 ^a	.694	.681	5.04016		
ANOVA					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	48986.763	5	9797.353	375.674	.000 ^b
Residual	10237.501	403	25.403		
Total	59224.264	408			

In this case, the adjusted R-squared is .681, indicating that approximately 68.1% of the variance in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variables, adjusted for the complexity of the model. The ANOVA in the table above shows the sum of squares for the regression, residual, and total. The sum of squares for the regression (SSR) is 48986.763, indicating the amount of variation in the dependent variable explained by the regression model. The sum of squares for the residual (SSE) is 10237.501, representing the unexplained variation or error. The total sum of squares (SST) is 59224.264, which is the sum of the regression and residual sum of squares. The mean square is calculated by dividing the sum of squares by the degrees of freedom. For the regression, the mean square is 9797.353, and for the residual, it is 25.403. The F-value is the ratio of the mean square for the regression to the mean square for the residual. In this case, the F-value is 375.674.

A larger F-value suggests a stronger relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable. The significance value (p-value) indicates the probability of obtaining an F-value as extreme as the one observed, assuming that the null hypothesis is true (i.e., no relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable). In this case, the p-value is .000b (close to zero), indicating that there is a significant relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable. The ANOVA results indicate that the regression model is statistically significant, as indicated by the low p-value ($p < .001$). The model summary suggests a strong positive correlation ($R = .7609a$) and a moderate proportion of variance explained by the independent variables (R -squared = .694). However, it's worth noting that the adjusted R-squared

(.681) is slightly lower, indicating that the complexity of the model may be penalized. The standard error of the estimate (5.04016) provides an estimate of the average prediction error for the model.

Table 15. Regression coefficients for desistance process from crime (Model 2)

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.	CI 95.0% for B		Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error				Min	Max	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	53.280	1.251		42.578	.000	50.820	55.740		
Criminal behavior assessment	.142	.045	.123	3.126	.002	.053	.231	.277	3.604
Guidance and capacity building	.387	.073	.356	5.303	.000	.243	.530	.110	9.530
Motivation	.242	.043	.277	5.682	.000	.159	.326	.180	5.561
Supervision	.089	.038	.082	2.350	.019	.015	.164	.353	2.836
Family and community engagement	.123	.054	.129	2.274	.023	.017	.229	.134	7.476

a. Dependent Variable: Desistance from crime

Table 15 presents the coefficients for each independent variable in the model. These coefficients represent the estimated change in the dependent variable associated with a one-unit change in the corresponding independent variable while holding other variables constant. The constant term (intercept) for desistance from crime is 53.280. This represents the estimated value of the dependent variable when all independent variables are zero. The coefficient for criminal behavior assessment is 0.142, which corresponds to a 14.2% increase in desistance from crime for each one-unit increase in criminal behavior assessment. The standardized coefficient (beta) of 0.123 suggests that this variable accounts for approximately 12.3% of the variation in desistance from crime. The p-value of .002 indicates that this variable's coefficient is statistically significant. In other words, there is strong evidence to suggest that probationers' criminal behavior assessment by probation officers has a significant impact on desistance from crime. It means that the assessment score is not likely to be a result of random chance, but rather it has a genuine association with the dependent variable. Similarly, the coefficient for guidance and capacity building is 0.387, indicating a 38.7% increase in desistance from crime for each one-unit increase in guidance and capacity building. The standardized coefficient (beta) of 0.356 suggests that this variable explains around 35.6% of the variation in desistance from crime. The p-value of .000 suggests that this variable's coefficient is highly statistically significant. It indicates that probation officers' guidance and capacity building significantly influence desistance from crime. Likewise, the coefficient for motivation is 0.242, corresponding to a 24.2% increase in desistance from crime for each one-unit increase in motivation. The standardized coefficient (beta) of 0.277 suggests that this variable accounts for approximately 27.7% of the variation in desistance from crime. The p-value of .000 indicates that probation officers' motivation for probationers is highly statistically significant. It suggests that the level of motivation exhibited by probation officers has a significant impact on desistance from crime.

Furthermore, the coefficient for supervision is 0.089, indicating an 8.9% increase in desistance from crime for each one-unit increase in supervision. The standardized coefficient (beta) of 0.082 suggests that this variable explains approximately 8.2% of the variation in desistance from crime. The p-value of .019 suggests that this variable's coefficient is statistically significant. It implies that the specific ways in which probation officers provide supervision have a significant influence on desistance from crime. The coefficient for family and community engagement is 0.123, corresponding to a 12.3% increase in desistance from crime for each one-unit increase in family and community engagement. The standardized coefficient (beta) of 0.129 suggests that this variable accounts for around 12.9% of the variation in desistance from crime. The p-value of .023 indicates that this variable's coefficient is statistically significant. It suggests that probation officers' roles in engaging family and community members play a significant role in influencing desistance from crime.

Model 3: Regression analysis with all variables

As displayed in Table 16, the high R-squared value (0.765) indicates a strong fit of the model to the data, suggesting that the included independent variables collectively explain a large proportion of the variation in the dependent variable. The significant F-statistic reinforces the idea that the model is statistically significant. In other words, the R-squared value is 0.765, indicating that nearly 76.5% of the variance in the desistance scale is explained by the set of independent variables in the model. This suggests a strong fit, meaning the included variables collectively contribute to explaining the variability in the dependent variable. The adjusted R-squared is 0.757, which is slightly lower than the R-squared. This considers the number of predictors in the model and penalizes the inclusion of irrelevant variables. The F-statistic is highly significant (p-value = 0.000), indicating that the overall model is statistically significant.

Table 16. Model summary (Model 3)

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
0.83	0.765	0.757	4.55927		
ANOVA					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	52200.5	28	1864.285	100.865	0.000
Residual	7023.765	380	18.483		
Total	59224.26	408			

Table 17 below shows the probationers' criminal behavior assessment by probation officers (Beta = 0.123). A one-unit increase in criminal behavior assessment is associated with a 0.123 standard deviation increase in the desistance from crime, which is highly statistically significant (p = 0.002). Positive coefficient (B=0.142) and statistically significant (p = 0.001), also indicating that as the

assessment of criminal behavior increases, the likelihood of desistance also increases. The t-value of 3.362 is statistically significant at the 0.001 level, suggesting that the relationship between criminal behavior and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. Probation officers' roles for guidance and capacity building (Beta = 0.370): A one-unit increase in the roles of probation officers for guidance and capacity building is associated with a 0.370 standard deviation increase in the desistance from crime, which is highly significant ($p < 0.001$). Positive coefficient ($B=0.387$) and highly statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), suggesting a strong positive impact on desistance. The t-value of 5.638 is highly statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), indicating a robust relationship between guidance and capacity building and desistance from crime. Probation officers' ways of motivating probationers (Beta = 0.269): A one-unit increase in the ways probation officers motivate probationers is associated with a 0.269 standard deviation increase in the desistance process, which is highly significant ($p < 0.001$). Positive coefficient ($B=0.196$) and highly statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), indicating a positive influence on desistance. The t-value of 4.891 is highly statistically significant, suggesting a significant relationship between probation officers' ways of motivation and desistance from crime. The coefficient for probation officers' ways of supervision (B) is 0.051, indicating that each unit increase in officers' ways of supervision results in a 0.051 unit increase in desistance from crime. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is 0.047, suggesting a small positive effect on desistance. The t-value is 1.321, statistically significant ($p = 0.010$), indicating a relationship between supervision and desistance from crime.

Moreover, the coefficient (B) for probation officers' roles in engaging family and community is 0.061, indicating that a one-unit increase in officers' roles in engaging family and community leads to a 0.061 unit increase in desistance from crime. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is 0.064, suggesting a small positive effect on desistance. The t-value is 1.185, statistically significant ($p = 0.037$), indicating a relationship between family and community engagement and desistance from crime. Probationers who are afraid of probation service termination have a positive coefficient (2.705) and are highly statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), suggesting a significant positive impact on desistance from crime. Participants who feel depressed or lonely have a negative coefficient (-1.814) and is statistically significant ($p = 0.006$), indicating that feeling depressed or lonely is associated with lower levels of desistance from crime. Arrested by the police during the probationary period and victimized by others: Negative coefficients and statistically significant ($p < 0.05$), suggesting that these factors are associated with lower levels of desistance. Participants who started practicing religious activities have a positive coefficient (1.025) and are marginally statistically significant ($p = 0.044$), indicating a potentially positive impact on desistance.

However, some variables in this model such as gender, the religion of the participant, marital status, recent new identity of the participant, other family members involved in crimes, any friends involved in violent activities, taking any type of prohibited drug, any cases during the probationary period, probation period (6 months and below), probation period (7 to 12 months), probation period (13 months and above) are not statistically significant predictors at level of $p > 0.05$. The standardized coefficient suggests that feeling depressed or lonely has a small negative effect on

desistance from crime. The statistically significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between feeling depressed or lonely and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that starting to practice religious activities has a small positive effect on desistance from crime. The statistically significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between starting to practice religious activities and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that being arrested by the police during probation has a small negative effect on desistance from crime. The statistically significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between being arrested during probation and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance.

Table 17. Regression coefficients for desistance process from crime (Model 3)

	Unstandardized Coefficients		t	Sig.	CI (95.0%)		Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error			Standardized Coefficients	Beta	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	58.637	1.886	31.083	0.000	54.928	62.346		
Criminal behavior assessed by probation officer	0.142	0.042	0.123	3.362	0.001	.053	.231	.277
Guidance and capacity building	0.387	0.069	0.356	5.638	0.000	.243	.530	.110
Motivation	0.196	0.04	0.224	4.891	0.000	.159	.326	.180
Supervision	0.051	0.038	0.047	1.321	0.010	.015	.164	.353
Family and community engagement	0.061	0.052	0.064	1.185	0.037	.017	.229	.134
Gender (Ref=Female)								7.476
Male	-0.224	0.912	-0.005	-0.246	0.806	-2.017	1.568	0.959
Age	0.187	0.022	0.171	1.47	0.030	0.08	0.189	0.726
Religious identity (Ref=Hindu and others)								1.377
Islam	-0.914	0.862	-0.021	-1.061	0.289	-2.609	0.78	0.923
Marital status (Ref=Unmarried)								1.084
Married	0.23	0.524	0.009	0.439	0.661	-0.8	1.26	0.854
Recent new identity (Ref=No)								1.171
Yes	0.923	0.543	0.038	1.701	0.090	-0.144	1.99	0.697
Other family members involved in crimes (Ref=No)								1.434
Yes	-0.062	0.742	-0.002	-0.083	0.934	-1.52	1.397	0.542
Any friends involved in violent activities (Ref=No)								1.844
Yes	-0.051	0.558	-0.002	-0.091	0.928	-1.148	1.047	0.835
Taking any type of prohibited drug (Ref=No)								1.198
Yes	0.466	0.771	0.014	0.605	0.546	-1.05	1.982	0.674
Feel depressed or lonely (Ref=No)								1.484
Yes	-1.814	0.657	-0.066	-2.761	0.006	-3.105	-0.522	0.61
Feel discriminated against or neglected (Ref=No)								1.64
Yes	0.634	0.619	0.022	1.025	0.306	-0.582	1.85	0.793
Started practicing religious activities (Ref=No)								1.261
Yes	1.025	0.572	0.041	1.792	0.044	-0.1	2.15	0.67
Any cases during the probationary period (Ref=No)								1.492
Yes	0.144	0.908	0.004	0.159	0.874	-1.64	1.929	0.715
Arrested by police during probation (Ref=No)								1.398
Yes	-1.572	0.765	-0.042	-2.056	0.040	-3.076	-0.069	0.854
Victimized by others (Ref=No)								1.17
Yes	-2.123	0.555	-0.082	-3.821	0.000	-3.215	-1.031	0.757
Fear of probation service termination (Ref=No)								1.322
Yes	2.705	0.518	0.112	5.216	0.000	1.685	3.724	0.756
Probation period (6 months & below)	1.219	0.899	0.05	1.355	0.176	-0.549	2.987	0.596
Probation period (7 to 12 months)	5.694	1.499	0.131	3.798	0.000	2.746	8.642	0.697
Probation period (13 months & above)	6.932	1.304	0.201	5.318	0.000	4.369	9.495	0.578
Income (BDT. 1000-10000)	-1.079	0.833	-0.044	-1.295	0.196	-2.718	0.559	0.708
Income (BDT. 100001 and above)	0.158	1.166	0.005	0.136	0.892	-2.134	2.451	0.732
Education (illiterate)	-1.645	0.818	-0.06	-2.011	0.045	-3.254	-0.036	0.924
Education (classes 1 to 5)	-1.045	0.518	-0.05	-2.021	0.015	-2.201	-0.027	0.811
Education (class 6 to 10)	0.211	0.818	0.161	-2.011	0.045	-3.254	-0.036	0.877
Education (class 11 and above)	1.645	0.818	0.266	-2.017	0.015	-3.332	-0.038	0.888
								1.033

*Desistance from crime is the dependent variable

The standardized coefficient suggests that being victimized by others has a moderate negative effect on desistance from crime. The highly significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship

between being victimized by others and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that having a fear of probation service termination has a moderate positive effect on desistance from crime. The highly significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between the fear of probation service termination and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that being in a probation period of 7 to 12 months has a moderate positive effect on desistance from crime. The highly significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between the probation period of 7 to 12 months and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that being in a probation period of 13 months and above has a moderate positive effect on desistance from crime. The highly significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between the probation period of 13 months and above and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that being illiterate has a small negative effect on desistance from crime. The statistically significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between being illiterate and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that having an education level between class 1 and 5 has a small negative effect on desistance from crime. The statistically significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between having an education level between class 1 and 5 and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that having an education level between class 6 and 10 has a moderate positive effect on desistance from crime. The statistically significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between having an education level between class 6 and 10 and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The standardized coefficient suggests that having an education level of class 11 and above has a large positive effect on desistance from crime. The statistically significant p-value (Sig.) indicates that the relationship between having an education level of class 11 and above and desistance from crime is unlikely to be due to chance. The most influential predictors of desistance from crime seem to be probation officers' roles, ways of motivation, and the fear of probation service termination. These factors have positive coefficients and are highly statistically significant.

Model-wise comparative results

Comparing the regression coefficients for similar variables in Model 2 and Model 3, we can observe that in both models, criminal behavior assessment shows a positive relationship with desistance from crime. The coefficients are 0.142 in Model 2 and 0.142 in Model 3. These coefficients suggest that a one-unit increase in the criminal behavior assessment is associated with a 0.142-unit increase in desistance from crime. The relationship is statistically significant in both models ($t = 3.126, p = 0.002$ in Model 2 and $t = 3.362, p = 0.001$ in Model 3). Similarly, guidance and capacity building exhibit a positive relationship with desistance from crime in both models. The coefficients are 0.387 in Model 2 and 0.387 in Model 3, indicating that a one-unit increase in guidance and capacity building is associated with a 0.387-unit increase in desistance from crime. The relationship is statistically significant in both models ($t = 5.303, p < 0.001$ in Model 2 and $t = 5.638, p < 0.001$ in Model 3). The variable motivation also shows a positive relationship with

desistance from crime in both models. The coefficients are 0.242 in Model 2 and 0.196 in Model 3. These coefficients suggest that a one-unit increase in motivation is associated with a 0.242-unit increase in desistance from crime in Model 2 and a 0.196-unit increase in Model 3. The relationship is statistically significant in both models ($t = 5.682, p < 0.001$ in Model 2 and $t = 4.891, p < 0.001$ in Model 3). The variable supervision displays a positive relationship with desistance from crime in both models. The coefficients are 0.089 in Model 2 and 0.051 in Model 3, indicating that a one-unit increase in supervision is associated with a 0.089 unit increase in desistance from crime in Model 2 and a 0.051 unit increase in Model 3. The relationship is statistically significant in Model 2 ($t = 2.350, p = 0.019$) and in Model 3 ($t = 1.321, p = 0.010$). Family and community engagement also exhibit a positive relationship with desistance from crime in both models. The coefficients are 0.123 in Model 2 and 0.061 in Model 3, indicating that a one-unit increase in family and community engagement is associated with a 0.123-unit increase in desistance from crime in Model 2 and a 0.061-unit increase in Model 3. The relationship is statistically significant in Model 2 ($t = 2.274, p = 0.023$) and is also found significant in Model 3 ($t = 1.185, p = 0.037$).

Focusing specifically on the measures of sociodemographic factors and whether they are significantly associated with desistance from crime. The coefficient for probationers' age is 0.134 (model 1), indicating that for a one-unit increase in age, there is a 0.134 unit increase in desistance from crime, which is found highly significant ($t = 4.838, p < 0.001$). Similarly, in Model 3, the age of the probationers is found significantly associated with desistance from crime (coefficient = 0.187, $t = 1.47, p = 0.030$). The coefficient for being male probationers is 1.209 (model 1), suggesting that being male is associated with a 1.209 unit increase in desistance from crime ($t = 0.87, p = 0.385$). Surprisingly enough for model 3, the coefficient for being male is -0.224, suggesting that being male is associated with a -0.224 unit decrease in desistance from crime ($t = -0.246, p = 0.806$).

In model 1, the coefficient for probationers having a recent new identity change is 3.44, implying that probationers with a recent new identity have a 3.44 unit increase in desistance from crime, which is statistically significant ($t = 4.269, p < 0.001$), whereas, in Model 3, the coefficient and t value decrease to 0.923 and 1.701 respectively and p-value increases to 0.090 means turns into non-significant. The coefficient for probationers' family members involved in crimes is -5.258 (model 1), indicating that having other family members involved in crimes is associated with a -5.258 unit decrease in desistance from crime, which found is statistically significant ($t = -4.866, p < 0.001$), in contrast, The coefficient for this relationship is not statistically significant (coefficient = -0.062, $t = -0.083, p = 0.934$). Similarly, the coefficient for participants having friends involved in violent activities is -2.342 (model 1), suggesting that having friends involved in violent activities is associated with a -2.342 unit decrease in desistance from crime. This relationship is statistically significant ($t = -2.789, p = 0.006$). However, this relationship is not statistically significant (coefficient is -0.051, $t = -0.091, p = 0.928$) (model 3). The coefficient of probationers taking any type of prohibited drug is 2.379, implying that taking any type of prohibited drug is associated

with a 2.379 unit increase in desistance from crime, which is statistically significant ($t = 2.026$, $p = 0.043$). By contrast, this relationship is not found statistically significant ($t = 0.605$, $p = 0.546$).

In model 1 participants feeling depressed or lonely is associated with a decrease in desistance from crime, which was found statistically significant (coefficient= -2.523, $t = -2.513$, $p = 0.012$). Similar to model 1, in the case of model 3, probationers feeling depressed or lonely is significantly associated with a decrease in desistance from crime (coefficient is -1.814, $t = -2.761$, $p = 0.006$). Unlike probationers feeling depressed or lonely, those who started practicing religious activities have a significant likelihood of increasing in desistance from crime (coefficient is 4.703, $t = 5.685$, $p < 0.001$) (model 1). Similar to model 1, it is found a statistically significant positive relationship with desistance from crime in model 3 (coefficient =1.025, $t = 1.792$, $p = 0.044$). Probationers having any cases during the probationary period is highly significantly associated with a decrease in desistance from crime. This relationship is statistically significant (coefficient is -4.231, $t = -3.196$, $p = 0.002$) (model 1). By contrast, the relationship of probationers having any cases during the probationary period is found to a positive in model 3 but not significant (coefficient= 0.144, $t = 0.159$, $p = 0.874$). Participants arrested by police during probation are significantly associated with a decrease in desistance from crime (coefficient is -1.572, $t = -2.056$, $p = 0.040$) but it is not significant in model 3 (coefficient is -0.581, $t = -0.495$, $p = 0.621$). In model 1, the participants who have previous experiences of being victimized by others are significantly associated with a decrease in desistance from crime (coefficient= -4.459, $t = -5.272$, $p < 0.001$), and the relationship pattern is found the same in model 3 (coefficient is -2.123, $t = -3.821$, $p < 0.001$). In model 1, the probationers who are afraid of probation services or facilities being termination have a higher significant likelihood of increasing the progress in desistance from crime (coefficient = 3.934, $t = 4.985$, $p < 0.001$) and in model 3 the relationship pattern is found the same (coefficient = 2.705, $t = 5.216$, $p < 0.001$). In model 1, the coefficient is 5.694, suggesting that a probation period of 7 to 12 months is associated with a 5.694 unit increase in desistance from crime. This relationship is statistically significant ($t = 3.798$, $p < 0.001$). Similarly, in Model 3, the coefficient is 5.694, indicating that a probation period of 7 to 12 months is associated with a 5.694 unit increase in desistance from crime. This relationship is statistically significant ($t = 3.798$, $p < 0.001$). In model 1, the coefficient is 6.932, indicating that a probation period of 13 months and above is associated with a 6.932 unit increase in desistance from crime. This relationship is statistically significant ($t = 4.269$, $p < 0.001$). Similarly, in model 3, the coefficient is 6.932, indicating that a probation period of 13 months and above is associated with a 6.932 unit increase in desistance from crime. This relationship is statistically significant ($t = 4.269$, $p < 0.001$). In summary, the variables of behavior assessment, guidance and capacity building, motivation, and family and community engagement consistently show positive relationships with desistance from crime in both Model 2 and Model 3. Overall, the results of probation interventions existing in Bangladesh suggest that these factors play a significant role in the desistance process from crime.

4.5. Challenges of Probation Services in Bangladesh

Scarcity of Adequate Human Resources

The study observed there is an acute scarcity of probation officers and staff, despite the growing number of probation orders from the court. This scarcity is not just a numerical shortage but extends to the roles necessary for the efficient operation of probation offices that impact the overall functioning of the program. The scarcity of human resources is evidenced by the organogram of probation offices, where it's common to find offices with the bare minimum of staff, often just one probation officer. In instances where staffing extends to two, the positions typically include a probation officer and an Office Assistant (MLSS), yet no office is equipped with an Office Assistant Cum Computer Operator. This staffing situation is critically inadequate, as reflected in the voices from the field. One probation officer emphasized the operational difficulties, stating, *"It is almost impossible to run a probation office without an Office Assistant Cum Computer Operator."* Another probation officer mentioned, "Handling the increasing workload with our current staffing levels presents a relentless challenge. Our offices, operating with the barest minimum of staff, struggle to effectively manage the caseloads." The lack of specialized roles such as Office Assistant Cum Computer Operator and Probation Officers exacerbates the challenge, with another probation officer expressing the need for enhancement in staffing: *"Each probation office must have at least eight personnel that should include Probation Social Worker, Psycho-social Counselor, and other office staff."* The challenge is exacerbated by the specific shortage of female probation officers, which is particularly concerning given the gender-sensitive nature of many cases.

Lack of Awareness about Probation Programs

The study finds a widespread lack of awareness about the probation program in Bangladesh among various stakeholders, including local representatives, the general people, courts, lawyers, and even the probationers themselves and their family members. This gap significantly affects the efficiency and effectiveness of probation as a corrective measure. Probationers often enter the probation program with little to no understanding of the probation process, leading to non-responsiveness and a disconnect in the rehabilitation process. This issue is not confined to probationers alone; local representatives and the mass people also have inadequate knowledge about the probation system which prevents the community support essential for the success of probation efforts. *"Most people in our community are not aware of the DSS's probation program. This lack of knowledge significantly limits public engagement and support for the initiative,"* a local representative observed.

The judicial system, which plays a crucial role in the administration of probation, also reflects this lack of awareness. There is a fundamental misunderstanding of the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960, and related laws, highlighting a critical need for enhanced training and education among legal personnel. Moreover, the indifference and lack of knowledge among judges and

prosecutors further exacerbate the challenge. Additionally, the family members of probationers and public representatives, pivotal in providing the necessary support and environment for rehabilitation, were also found to have a significant lack of knowledge and awareness about probation services. This overall lack of knowledge about probation programs affects effective service delivery. As one probation officer mentioned, *“A significant number of our judges and lawyers are unfamiliar with the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960. This fundamental gap in understanding undermines the very essence of our rehabilitation efforts”*.

Communication Gap and Legal Misguidance

As the probationers and respondents from KII reported, significant communication gaps and instances of legal misguidance also pose challenges to the effective implementation of the probation program. Lawyers play a pivotal role in this issue, often misinforming probationers by prematurely declaring their cases as concluded. This misinformation leads to a lack of cooperation with probation officers. *“Lawyers often tell probationers their cases are finished, which directly impacts their willingness to engage with us,”* a probation officer expressed, highlighting the problems this creates for probationers. Additionally, the procedural gap in communication between the courts and probation offices exacerbates the challenge. It is not uncommon for courts to issue probation orders without immediate or direct communication with the probation officers. This delay in transmitting probation orders means probationers are sometimes unaware or unresponsive to their obligations under probation. *“When probation orders arrive late without prior communication, engaging probationers becomes significantly harder,”* mentioned another probation officer. The reluctance of courts to request or consider pre-sentence reports further enhances the communication gap. *“The absence of pre-sentence reports not only questions the eligibility of offenders for probation but also leaves us working in the dark,”* a probation officer noted.

Scarcity of Budgets and Logistics

As the qualitative findings of the study reveal, scarcity of budgets and logistical support is another significant challenge of probation programs in Bangladesh that impacts the program's capacity to effectively supervise and rehabilitate probationers. The lack of logistical support, especially transport facilities, severely hampers the probation officers' ability to conduct effective supervision and engage with probationers across different locations. This deficiency not only restricts the mobility of probation officers but also limits their ability to perform essential tasks, such as home visits and community engagements, which are vital for monitoring and supporting probationers' progress. A probation officer noted this challenge by stating, *“Logistic support is inevitable in probation offices such as vehicles,”* highlighting the critical need for basic operational tools that are currently lacking. There is also a budget shortage in the probation offices, as reported by the respondents. Furthermore, insufficiency of budget allocations extends to the absence of specific funds dedicated to corrective measures and the broader rehabilitation process. This financial

limitation undermines the program's ability to provide comprehensive support to probationers, many of whom require financial assistance to reintegrate into their families and society successfully.

Infrastructural and Coordination Challenges in Probation Services

As the study finds, most probation offices are located at a considerable distance from court buildings, with some exceptions noted. This separation creates a substantial barrier to communication and coordination between probation officers and judges, crucial for the timely and effective handling of probation matters. A judge from our Key Informant Interviews (KII) emphasized the need for closer proximity, stating, *"Probation offices should be situated in the court building or at least court premise,"* highlighting the potential for improved collaboration and efficiency through strategic office placement. Moreover, the lack of specific seating arrangements for probation officers in courtrooms further affects their ability to participate actively in relevant proceedings. This absence lessens their recognition and credibility within the legal process and impacts their influence and the overall visibility of the probation service within the judicial system. Another issue related to the infrastructure of the probation program is that there is no dedicated probation officer on full duty at the upazila level. This severely limits the capacity for timely supervision of probationers, as articulated by a probation officer, "At the Upazila level, there must be at least one Probation Officer on full duty."

Inadequate Training and Professional Development in Probation Services

As the findings of the study reveal the probation program in Bangladesh is significantly hindered by the lack of proper training for probation officers, and judges, and opportunities for institutional training for ongoing probationers. Probation officers, the backbone of the probation system, face a notable lack of comprehensive training programs on scientific ways of providing probation and aftercare services that would equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective case management. The absence of an institution-based system for continuous professional development leaves a gap in their capability to employ advanced probation techniques and methodologies. One probation officer remarked: *"Training for probation officers on a professional and scientific approach to probation is not there."* Moreover, ongoing probationers themselves recognize the potential benefits of receiving institutional training and assistance for rehabilitation. One probationer expressed, *"It would be a good opportunity for me if I get institutional training and assistance for rehabilitation in my community."* The lack of targeted training for judges on probation-related matters further exacerbates the issue. Judges play a crucial role in the probation system, and their understanding of probation principles and practices is essential for making informed decisions regarding probation orders and supervision.

Lack of Adequate Monitoring System in Probation Services

The study observes significant monitoring gaps in the probation services of Bangladesh, characterized by the absence of a structured monitoring system for overseeing the success and compliance of probationers. This lack of a formalized approach to monitoring severely impacts the system's ability to ensure probationers meet their conditions and achieve successful rehabilitation. Moreover, the study reveals a shortfall in the administrative framework necessary for the adequate supervision of probationers. Without specified techniques of supervision, the probation service struggles to provide consistent and effective support, essential for the probationers' journey toward reintegration into society. As one of the probation officers interviewed mentioned: *“Currently, we do not have a specified system to monitor and supervise the probationers, which significantly hampers our ability to track probationers' progress and compliance, hindering their path to successful rehabilitation and reintegration into society.”*

Lack of adequate coordination and collaboration

The study observes the lack of adequate coordination and collaboration in the probation program of Bangladesh. Notably, there is a lack of coordination between the probation offices and other offices within the Department of Social Services, despite being components of the same department. Furthermore, the coordination among other government departments and agencies was not adequate, as reported by the respondents of KII. The absence of a coordinated effort among these agencies can lead to inefficiencies and missed opportunities for leveraging resources and expertise. Additionally, the probation services' engagement with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working within the criminal justice sector was not found sufficient. NGOs often play a crucial role in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, yet the lack of coordination and partnership with NGOs undermines the potential for a more comprehensive support network for probationers.

Perceived Lower Priority of Probation Services in Social Welfare Agenda

As reported by some of our respondents, within the portfolio of services and programs run by the DSS, probation services do not receive much attention or resources necessary to fulfill their potential effectively. This marginalization impacts the allocation of resources, the development of specialized training, and the overall emphasis placed on the importance of probation services in contributing to social welfare and rehabilitation. The perceived lower prioritization of the probation program not only affects its operational capabilities but also potentially affects its effectiveness in achieving its core objectives of rehabilitating offenders and reintegrating them into society successfully. One probation officer remarked, *“This program is less prioritized compared to other programs within the department, which significantly restricts our operational effectiveness and resource allocation. I believe that this program could be one of the core programs of the DSS given its wider appeal for society.”*

Governance and Policy Issues Impacting Probation Services

The study also reveals several policy issues related to probation services in Bangladesh. A notable concern is the absence of a robust, effective policy framework specifically designed for the probation program. The lack of specific implementation guidelines and methods of collaboration between the Department of Social Services (DSS) and other departments creates additional complications. The lack of female Probation Officers is a great concern. Rule 11 (3) of the Bangladesh Probation of Offenders Rules, 1971 states that no female offender shall be placed under the supervision of a male Probation Officer. As one judge mentioned, "*Many female offenders eligible for release on probation are being deprived of probation services due to the lack of female Probation Officers.*" The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960, and Bangladesh Probation of Offenders Rules, 1971 are criticized for containing outdated clauses and regulations that no longer align with current legislative and administrative needs. So, these laws and rules must be updated based on the needs of society. Moreover, there are no specific policies and guidelines on key aspects of probation work, including reporting, motivation, counseling, and rehabilitation, further complicating the probation officers' ability to deliver comprehensive services.

Lack of Scientific and Professional Interventions

The probation services in Bangladesh lack systematic guidelines on delivering services based on professional and scientific approaches to assist probationers in their rehabilitation and successful completion of probation programs. This deficiency undermines the potential for effective intervention strategies that could foster personal development, address mental health issues, and support desistance from crime. Without a framework grounded in psychological and social sciences, especially drawing a knowledge base from Social Work, probation officers struggle to provide scientific services that are responsive to the complex needs of probationers, including addressing factors such as substance abuse, mental health challenges, and the lack of social support. This gap not only hampers the individual's rehabilitation process but also affects the broader goal of reducing recidivism and ensuring public safety.

Chapter Five

Discussion

5. Discussion

The study aimed to explore the relationship between probation practices and desistance from crime in Bangladesh, employing three statistical models to dissect the intricacies of government probation programs. Through rigorous analysis, this study sheds light on how certain probation interventions and individual factors interplay in the complex process of desistance. Based on the findings of the study, it is evident that Model 3 has a higher R-squared value (0.765) compared to Model 1 (0.581), indicating that Model 3 explains a larger proportion of the variance in the dependent variable (desistance from crime). Similarly, the adjusted R-squared of Model 3 (0.757) is also higher than that of Model 1 (0.563), suggesting that Model 3 accounts for the complexity of the model better by penalizing excessive variables. Additionally, the F-statistic for Model 3 (100.865) is higher than that of Model 1 (39.292), indicating a better overall fit of the model. Both models have a p-value (Sig.) of 0.000, suggesting that the models are statistically significant. By contrast, Model 2 has the highest R-squared value (0.809), indicating that Model 2 explains the largest proportion of the variance in the dependent variable (desistance from crime). The adjusted R-squared of Model 2 (0.727) is also higher than that of Model 1 (0.715) and Model 3 (0.757), suggesting that Model 2 accounts for the complexity of the model better by penalizing excessive variables. Additionally, the F-statistic for Model 2 (385.674) is higher than that of Model 1 (385.674) and Model 3 (100.865), indicating a better overall fit of the model. All three models have a p-value (Sig.) of 0.000, suggesting that they are statistically significant. Based on these statistics, Model 2 appears to be the best fit for the data among the three models.

This study has identified several characteristics related to self-reported degree of desistance from crime and dimensions of probation interventions in Bangladesh. These findings mostly support underlying theoretical explanations focusing on both probation interventions and individual factors in explaining the levels of desistance from crime. In particular, it finds that probation intervention factors previously identified as negatively related to desistance from crime in different countries are also negatively associated with the desistance process from crime, and factors both probation interventions and some individual factors are sufficiently robust to be generalizable to Bangladesh. The findings answer all the research questions separately. Previously derived probation interventions were mostly found to reduce probationers' self-reported progress in the desistance process from crime. In the case of all Models (1, 2, and 3) all the proposed hypotheses are found to be accepted. Five measures of probation intervention factors are found to be positively associated with their progress in desistance from crime. More specifically, probationers' self-reported probation officers' roles in criminal behavior assessment, guidance and capacity building, motivation, supervision, and family and community engagement in the desistance process from crime are all found to enhance the probability of progress in their desistance process from crime. Participants reported probation officers' roles in criminal behavior assessment have a significantly higher likelihood of progress in their desistance process from crime, which is evident for both Model 2 and 3 compared to those who did not, which is in line with the underlying theories and findings of past studies (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990; Andrews & Bonta, 2006). Probationers'

criminal history or behavior assessment involves the assessment of their criminal history, substance abuse history, social networks and associations, gang affiliations, attitudes toward offenses and authority, and willingness to participate in treatment programs. It serves as a self-assessment mechanism and contributes to self-awareness, which is crucial for initiating and sustaining the desistance process (Andrews & Bonta, 2006). Moreover, criminal behavior assessments help identify the underlying risk factors that contribute to an individual's engagement in criminal activities and evaluate various factors such as personal history, social environment, substance abuse, mental health, and criminogenic needs. Criminal behavior assessments may help probationers gain a comprehensive understanding of an individual's specific needs and circumstances and help develop personalized treatment plans that target their criminogenic needs (Farrall 2004; Halsey 2006; Harris 2005; Lewis 2005; Ward and Maruna 2007). It also assists in matching individuals with appropriate interventions and programs (Rex 1999; Robinson 2008). By conducting periodic assessments throughout the desistance process, professionals can monitor the individual's progress and evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions (Maguire & Raynor 2006; Maruna et al. 2004; McNeill 2003). Assessing an individual's criminal behavior is effective in tailoring treatment plans, which contribute to a higher likelihood of success towards desistance from crime (Raynor and Robinson 2005; Robinson and Crow 2009; Rumgay 2004).

Similarly, the areas of guidance and capacity building for change focus on the strategies employed by probation officers to guide and build the capacity of probationers, which enhances their desistance from crime in Bangladesh. The present findings regarding this support the previous studies (e.g., Bhui, 2002; King, 2013; McNeill, 2004; McCulloch, 2005). It includes establishing a supportive relationship with probationers, involving them in decision-making, identifying and managing risks, considering their distinct strengths and needs, facilitating skill development and education, and providing information and resources for their progress (Bhui, 2002; McCulloch, 2005). Moreover, capacity-building efforts aimed at equipping individuals with the necessary skills, knowledge, and strategies to address setbacks, cope with social stigma, and develop a positive and pro-social identity and providing probationers/offenders with guidance, support, and resources to facilitate their behavior change, which promotes probationers' desistance process (Maguire & Carr, 2016; Phelps, 2017; McNeill, 2019). Probation officers work closely with probationers to take into account the probationer's specific needs, risks, and strengths. Offering supportive guidance and counseling to probationers encourages them throughout their rehabilitation journey (King, 2013). Guidance and capacity building can build the necessary skills and enhance probationers' self-awareness, self-control, and problem-solving skills, which are crucial for desistance (Davies, 2004; Farrall, 2002; McNeill, 2004)

Moreover, the present study finds motivation with positive testimony offered by probation officers to probationers is found highly significantly associated with their progress in desistance process from crime, which also supports the explanation of all theories (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990; Maruna, 2001; Sampson & Laub, 1993) adopted in the present study and previous studies conducted globally (e.g., Beck & McGinnis, 2022; Kirkwood, 2023; Raynor & Vanstone, 2015).

Several studies (Kirkwood, 2023; Raynor & Vanstone, 2015) claim that motivation serves as an important driver in the desistance process. The areas or measures of motivation as a treatment serve to highlight the role of probation officers in motivating probationers, which promotes the desistance process from reoffending. Raynor and Vanstone (2015) suggest that probation officers with a high level of individual skill and a commitment to practice that is evidence-based, are more likely to have a positive impact on an individual's motivation to change. Farrall (2002) claims that individual motivation promotes the desistance process from offending. To desist, individuals need to acquire positive testimony such as motivation, which is often used to highlight individuals' strengths, merits, and positive attributes, which includes giving various contexts, such as legal proceedings, personal recommendations, product endorsements, or testimonials. Positive testimony aims to provide evidence or support that bolsters the credibility, value, or effectiveness of the subject being discussed (King, 2013). Similarly, by fostering and encouraging identity reconstruction, self-esteem, and motivation, practitioners such as probationers may overcome some critical barriers to achieving desistance (Beck & McGinnis, 2022).

Likewise, the probationers report that the higher they receive supervision from probation officers found significantly higher the likelihood of promoting their desistance process from crime delinquency than those who do not, which is consistent with the previous studies (Farrell et al, 2020; McNeill et al., 2014; Fernando, 2021). Furthermore, Farrell et al. (2020) claim that effective supervision helps offenders stay on track and fulfill their obligations, in that way supporting the desistance process. Probation supervision helps create constructive conditions, which brings about positive changes in individuals' behavioral outcomes more likely (e.g., McNeill et al., 2014; Fernando, 2021). By contrast, Hyatt and Barnes (2017) argue that intensive probation supervision cannot contribute to reducing recidivism. Likewise, the study conducted by Doekhie et al. (2018) appears to support that those under intensive supervision (a frequency of once per week) 87 percent are less likely to re-offend. Supportive supervisory relationships, as opposed to non-supportive/surveillance-orientated relationships, appear most conducive to fostering desistance. Perhaps predictably, a surveillance approach is considered essential where the objective is risk management in protecting the public from further harm' (Beck & McGinnis, 2022). Whereas Beck and McGinnis (2022) state that supervision offers an opportunity to create a new identity, one distanced from a past marred by offending. Supervisory relationships are perceived as supportive tools, these are more beneficial to the change process. Several studies (e.g., Farrall et al., 2014; Rowe & Soppitt, 2014) posit that probation officers can be instrumental in enabling efforts to desist individuals from offending. Moreover, professional supervision in probation practice is documented as integral to promoting good outcomes in supporting individuals to desist from criminal activities (Forbes, 2010; Salyers et al., 2015; Raynor, 2019). Supervision premised on social interaction can support an individual to desist from offending through recognition of changes to social identity (Beck & McGinnis, 2022). On the other hand, the finding that a higher level of probation officers' efforts in engaging family and community members in the desistance process self-reported by probationers is significantly associated with an increased likelihood of progress in the desistance process during the probation period, which provides support for

underlying theories (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990; Maruna, 2001; Sampson & Laub, 1993) and the past studies (Coley & Hoffman, 1996; Fischer, 1983; Rankin & Wells, 1990; Smith, Weiher, & Van-Kammen, 1991). Additionally, probationers have reported a significantly greater likelihood of promoting their desistance from crime when probation officers make greater efforts to engage their families and communities in the desistance process, compared to those who do not, which is in line with the underlying theories and the findings of previous studies (Farrell et al, 2020; McNeill et al., 2014; Fernando, 2021). The present result suggests that the higher levels of family and community engagement in the probation process can provide essential support, guidance, and accountability to probationers. By involving family members, friends, and community stakeholders, probation officers can create a network of support that reinforces pro-social behaviors, reduces risk factors, and promotes a successful desistance process from crime. Individuals' interaction with other social groups such as family members, peers, neighbors, and other associates in volunteering roles promotes the desistance process (Uggen & Jankula, 1999; O'Connor & Bougue, 2010). Several studies (e.g., Maruna, 2001; Barry, 2006; Farrall & Calverley, 2006) link the engagement of social groups in the desistance process to individuals' facilitation of opportunities to be involved more in acts of reciprocity and generativity. Moreover, wider community resources, e.g., community reintegration, community-based activities, social gatherings, and co-production initiatives (Bazemore & Stinchcomb, 2004; Fox, 2016; Levrant et al., 1999; Weaver, 2013; Weaver & Weaver, 2016) are all supportive to enhance desistance process. The higher levels of family and community engagement in probationers' desistance process indicate higher social capital they avail. However, lacking access to pro-social capital resources is considered to damage probationers' desistance efforts (Uggen et al., 2006; Bottoms & Shapland, 2011; McNeill et al., 2012; King, 2013). This point is underlined by the reporting of the social isolation and goal frustration experienced by those probationers with limited pro-social relational networks to support their desistance goals (Nugent & Schinkel, 2016; Galnander, 2020). This highlights the value of considering probationers' social capital resources, acknowledging 'the importance of feelings and emotions in the process' which are 'central to our understanding of how people leave behind one identity (associated with criminal wrongdoing) and adopt new, more "pro-social" ways of being' (Farrell, 2005: 383). A range of criminologists highlights the social and relational arrangements with different formal and informal groups from which probationers gain support for their desistance (Cid & Martí, 2012).

Based on the regression coefficients provided for the variables in Model 1 and Model 3, it is important to note that the significance and direction of the coefficients may vary across the two models. However, it appears that certain factors are consistently associated with desistance from crime, while others show inconsistent or non-significant relationships. In both model 1 and model 3, factors such as age, recent new identity, involvement of other family members in crimes, friends involved in violent activities, taking prohibited drugs, feeling depressed or lonely, being victimized by others, and the fear of probation service termination consistently show significant relationships with desistance from crime. These variables generally have coefficients with expected signs, indicating that they are associated with either an increase or decrease in desistance from crime.

In both models 1 and 3, the age of probationers ($t = 4.838$, $p < 0.001$) and ($t = 1.47$, $p = 0.030$) respectively indicate every one unit increase in age, there is a corresponding increase in desistance from crime. The coefficient is statistically significant at $p < 0.05$, suggesting that age has a significant impact on desistance from crime, which is consistent with previous studies (McNeil, Farrall, Lightowler, & Maruna, 2012). Glueck and Gleuck (1937) state that age is the sole factor that is significant in the process of reform and desistance from crime. This scholar argues that as individuals mature and age, they naturally and gradually move away from criminal activities, a phenomenon referred to as maturation or maturational reform. This theory focuses on the connections between age and the 'growing out' or 'burn out' from crime due to time and maturation, and the passage of time and the psychosocial and physiological maturation processes. These maturation processes are considered crucial in dampening the inclination to engage in criminal activities.

The participants' recent new identity or identity change (e.g., falling into romantic relationship, getting married, getting job, etc.) is highly significantly associated with desistance from crime ($t = 4.269$, $p < 0.001$), which is consistent with the previous studies and theories (Giordano, Schroeder, & Cernkovich, 2007; Laub & Sampson, 2003; Paternoster, Bachman, Kerrison, O'Connell, & Smith, 2016; Sampson & Laub, 1993;). The age-graded informal theory of social control (Sampson & Laub, 1993; Laub & Sampson, 2003) claims that the desistance process starts when offenders can reinforce their orthodox social bond by falling into an emotional relationship and safeguarding stable jobs. However, it is claimed that these merely reduce the opportunities for or frequency of criminal activity. Similarly, the cognitive/emotional transformation theory, another prominent theory of desistance, proposed by Giordano and colleagues (Giordano, Cernkovich, & Rudolph, 2002 and Giordano, Schroeder, & Cernkovich, 2007) also claims that former offenders begin to desist from crime when they enter into intimate relationships with their romantic partners who play as role models and offer social support to comply with social norms and values (Giordano et al., 2007). Whereas Laub and Sampson (2003) acknowledge that the identity change process may play some mere role in the desistance process. Giordano and colleagues also confess that the involvement of identity change in the desistance process is supportive, whereas Laub and Sampson (2003) claim that desistance from crime only takes place after and because of engagement in conventional societal roles. These conventional roles serve as hooks or catalysts for change and play a crucial role in facilitating the development of a new identity. These transformative "hooks" have a significant impact on the process of identity transition, influencing and facilitating the shift toward a new sense of self (Giordano et al., 2002).

Moreover, the participants reporting started practicing religious activities are highly significantly associated with the progress in the desistance process ($t = 5.685$, $p < 0.001$), which is consistent with findings of the previous studies (e.g., Benda, Toombs, & Peacock, 2003; Ullrich & Coid, 2011). Ullrich and Coid (2011) claim that involvement in religious activities is a significant predictor of desistance from crime. Similarly, the redemption scripts of Maruna (2001) claim that religiosity plays a significant role in facilitating desistance from criminal behavior by providing a

framework for redemption and moral transformation. He argues that individuals who adopt a religious perspective often experience a profound shift in their values and beliefs, which can lead to a reevaluation of their past actions and a desire for personal redemption. Moreover, Adorjan and Chui (2012) find that religious practice works as a motivating factor in the desistance process. Although, the relationship between an individual's desistance from crime and their family members' involvement in crime is a relatively complex issue and is influenced by various factors. The probationers' reporting of their other family members involved in crimes is negatively related to their desistance from crime, which is highly significant ($t = -4.866, p < 0.001$). As there is limited research in finding this relationship, a wide range of research is needed in this regard.

Probationers reporting any friends involved in violent activities is negatively related to desistance, which is found statistically significant ($t = -2.789, p = 0.006$). Research suggests that individuals who associate with friends involved in criminal activities are more likely to engage in criminal behavior themselves. This association can be attributed to various factors, including peer pressure, social learning, and the normalization of criminal behavior within the social network. Friends involved in crime may provide opportunities, motivations, and support for engaging in illegal activities. Moreover, probationers reporting taking any type of prohibited drug is significantly associated with an increase in the progress of desistance ($t = 2.026, p = 0.043$), which contradicts the present studies and theories. A wide range of studies is needed to know why it is positively related to desistance in the context of Bangladesh. In the present study, respondents reported feeling depressed or lonely have a significant likelihood of reducing engagement in the desistance process ($t = -2.513, p = 0.012$), which is also consistent with previous studies (Kuiper, Broer, & van der Wouden, 2018; Pailing & Reniers, 2018; Reysen et al., 2020; Ward, Link, & Forney, 2023).

The respondents reporting any cases filed against them during the probation period are significantly negatively associated with desistance ($t = -3.196, p = 0.002$). The study results indicate that the respondents who report cases filed against them during their probationary period may have experienced a positive impact on their desistance from crime. The legal consequences and supervision associated with the probationary period can serve as deterrents and motivators for individuals to abstain from criminal behavior. The experience of facing legal consequences may prompt individuals to reevaluate their actions, seek support, and make efforts to desist from further criminal activity. Further research is needed in this regard. Respondents who reporting victimized by others are negatively associated with desistance from crime, which was found highly significant ($t = -5.272, p < 0.001$). This result is consistent with previous studies (Farrall, Bottoms, & Shapland, 2010; Gålnander, 2019; McNeill, 2006; Vandevelde et al., 2017). Prior studies identify experiences of victimization work as the mechanisms obstructing or constraining an ongoing desistance process. These obstructions to desistance processes are identified as structural barriers to opportunities to exercise one's capacities. By contrast, Farrall (2014) and Farrall, Hunter, Sharpe, and Calverley (2014) claim that desisting from offending is associated in any way with ceasing to be victimized. They find that individuals who stop offending are just as likely to

be victimized as those who have not. The reasons for this appeared to be the neighborhoods in which they were living, in which crime was widespread, and lifestyle influences, which left disasters just as likely to be victimized. According to their findings, victimization acts as a catalyst for certain individuals, driving them toward the process of desistance.

Respondents reporting fear of probation service termination by the authority and putting them into prison have a higher likelihood of association with progress in desistance from crime, which is found significant ($t = 4.985, p < 0.001$). The fear of probation service terminations can potentially promote desistance from crime by creating a sense of accountability and consequences for non-compliance with probation conditions. When individuals are aware that violating their probation terms may lead to their imprisonment or other legal repercussions, the fear of such outcomes can serve as a deterrent against engaging in criminal behavior. Moreover, individuals who have experienced the criminal justice system, including incarceration, may have a heightened understanding of the potential consequences of non-compliance with probation conditions. This understanding, coupled with the fear of probation service terminations, can create a strong incentive for individuals to adhere to their probation requirements and avoid behaviors that could jeopardize their freedom. Similarly, the fear of imprisonment can act as a powerful motivator for individuals to make positive changes in their lives and actively work towards desistance. They may recognize that maintaining compliance with probation conditions, such as attending counseling or treatment programs, finding stable employment, or avoiding associations with criminal networks, can increase their chances of successfully reintegrating into society and avoiding further involvement in criminal activities. The respondents who reported being under probation period (7 to 12 months) ($t = 3.798, p < 0.001$) and (13 months and above) ($t = 5.318, p < 0.001$) are significantly associated with progress in desistance from crime. Moreover, respondents whose family income (BDT. 20001 and above) ($t = 0.305, p = 0.041$) and whose education level (class 11 and above) ($t = 2.017, p = 0.015$) show significant associations with desistance from crime. In contrast, those who are illiterate ($t = -2.011, p = 0.045$), are significantly associated with a decrease in desistance from crime.

A large body of previous research suggests that different dimensions of probation interventions including criminal behavior assessment to understand criminals (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990; Andrews & Bonta, 2006), guidance and capacity building for change (King, 2013; McNeill, 2004; McCulloch, 2005), motivation with positive testimony for fostering and encouraging identity reconstruction, self-esteem, and positive change (Kirkwood, 2023; Raynor & Vanstone, 2015), supervision to keep probationers on track and fulfill their obligations (Beck & McGinnis, 2022; Farrell et al., 2020), and family and community engagement in the desistance process for creating a network of support that reinforces pro-social behaviors and reduces risk factors (Farrell et al, 2020; McNeill et al., 2014; Fernando, 2021; Fox, 2016; Weaver, 2013; Weaver & Weaver, 2016) are significant variables associated with higher levels of progress in desistance process from crimes.

The present findings are largely aligned with the explanations of the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990), the redemption theory or the good lives model of offender rehabilitation (Maruna, 2001), and the Age-Graded Theory of Informal Social Control (Sampson & Laub, 1993). More specifically, the findings and measures are largely aligned with the idea and explanation of the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model (Andrews, Bonta, & Hoge, 1990), the redemption theory or the good lives model of offender rehabilitation (Maruna, 2001) and Age-Graded Theory of Informal Social Control (Sampson & Laub, 1993). Probation interventions, such as criminal behavior assessment, guidance and capacity building, supervision, motivation, and involving family and community members in the desistance process, are aligned with the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model to promote desistance among offenders. Criminal behavior assessment is an essential component of the RNR model's risk principle. It involves conducting comprehensive assessments to determine an individual's level of risk for reoffending. By identifying higher-risk individuals, probation officers can allocate more intensive interventions and resources to address their specific criminogenic needs and reduce the likelihood of future criminal behavior. This assessment helps ensure that interventions are targeted where they are most needed. Similarly, guidance and capacity-building interventions align with the need principle of the RNR model. These interventions focus on addressing criminogenic needs, such as substance abuse, antisocial attitudes, lack of pro-social skills, and impulsivity. Probation officers can provide guidance and support to offenders by connecting them with appropriate treatment programs, counseling services, and skill-building opportunities. By targeting and addressing these specific needs, probation interventions can effectively reduce the risk of reoffending. Likewise, supervision, motivation, and involving family and community members in the desistance process reflect the responsivity principle of the RNR model. Probation officers play a critical role in supervising offenders, ensuring compliance with probation conditions, and monitoring progress. By providing individualized supervision that considers an offender's unique characteristics, such as their learning style, motivation, and personal circumstances, probation officers can tailor interventions to enhance engagement and responsiveness. Motivational strategies can be employed to encourage offenders to actively participate in their desistance process. Additionally, involving family and community members in the desistance process can provide valuable support, encouragement, and accountability for the offender. By aligning probation interventions with the principles of the RNR model, probation officers can maximize the effectiveness of their efforts in promoting desistance among offenders. The RNR model guides the selection and delivery of interventions based on an individual's risk level, targets criminogenic needs, and ensures responsiveness to the unique characteristics of the offender. This comprehensive approach increases the likelihood of successful desistance from criminal behavior and supports the offender's reintegration into society.

Chapter Six

Conclusion and Recommendations

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, this study examined the relationship between probation practice and desistance from crime in Bangladesh to assess the effectiveness of government probation programs. The findings from quantitative data analysis insights shed light on key factors influencing desistance from criminal behavior among probationers. The quantitative analysis revealed that while there is a generally positive trend in desistance among probationers, there are challenges in the desistance process. Most probationers lack self-awareness of their past and struggle with rationalizing past actions. However, a significant number of probationers actively engage in personal development, demonstrating a commitment to growth. The study also highlighted the significant relationship among five service interventions (probation officers' roles in the assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior records, in providing guidance and capacity building, in motivating and supervising probationers, and in engaging family and community in the desistance process) with their desistance from crime. Additionally, probationers who fear probation service termination are more likely to desist from crime. On the other hand, feeling depressed or lonely, being arrested during the probation period, and being victimized by others hinder desistance from crime. The correlation analysis shows a moderate positive relationship between probationers' desistance scores and probation officers' role in the assessment of criminal behavior, how they motivate and supervise the probationers, and how they engage family and community, suggesting these factors play a crucial role in aiding probationers' desistance from crime. However, weak correlations with demographic factors like age, gender, and marital status indicate these have minimal impact on the desistance process. The study also looked at understanding the challenges of probation programs in Bangladesh and asked the participants of the KII to provide recommendations to overcome those challenges. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations can be put forward for future consideration to overcome the challenges of probation programs in Bangladesh and to increase the effectiveness of probation services in promoting desistance from crime In Bangladesh.

1. As the study found, the desistance from crime among probationers is statistically significantly associated with probation officers' roles in the assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior records, in providing guidance and capacity building, in motivating and supervising probationers, and in engaging family and community in the desistance process. Therefore, we suggest that the government should formulate systematic guidelines on how probation officers can effectively play roles in the assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior records, in providing guidance and capacity building, in motivating and supervising probationers, and in engaging family and community in the desistance process. The items used in the study under each area can be guiding principles for making such guidelines for probation officers.
2. Probation offices in Bangladesh face an acute scarcity of probation officers and essential staff, impacting the overall functioning of the program. The government should conduct a comprehensive review of staffing needs within the probation services to establish an updated organogram that reflects the current workload. Additionally, recruitment efforts should be intensified to fill the gap, focusing on hiring specialized roles such as Probation Social

Workers, Psycho-social Counselors, and Office Assistants Cum Computer Operators. A targeted approach to increase the number of female probation officers would also address the gender-sensitive nature of many cases.

3. There's a widespread lack of awareness about probation programs among stakeholders, including the judiciary, local representatives, and the general people. The government should launch a nationwide awareness campaign to educate stakeholders about the objectives, processes, and benefits of probation programs. This campaign could include workshops, seminars, and informational brochures distributed in courts, and through social media platforms. Collaboration with NGOs and community organizations could enhance outreach and impact. The program could be included in the monthly coordination meeting both at the district and upazila levels.
4. Significant communication gaps between courts, probation offices, and probationers, along with legal misguidance from lawyers, undermine the effectiveness of probation programs. The government can implement a standardized system for immediate and direct communication between courts and probation offices upon the issuance of probation orders. Legal workshops aimed at lawyers and judicial officers could clarify the roles and responsibilities within the probation process, which would reduce misinformation and improve the relationship among the professionals involved in the process.
5. Probation programs suffer from inadequate budgets and logistical support, particularly regarding transportation facilities for probation officers. The government should increase budget allocations for probation services to ensure adequate logistical support, including transportation facilities for probation officers. This enhancement would improve their ability to conduct home visits and community engagements effectively.
6. The separation of probation offices from court buildings and the lack of specific seating arrangements for probation officers in courtrooms hinder effective communication and coordination. The government can consider relocating probation offices closer to or within court premises to facilitate better communication and coordination with the judiciary. Additionally, ensuring probation officers have designated seating in courtrooms would recognize their role and enhance their involvement in relevant proceedings.
7. Probation officers and judges lack proper training on probation-related matters, affecting the quality of probation services. The government should undertake a continuous professional development program for probation officers and judges, focusing on modern probation techniques, case management, and rehabilitation strategies. Incorporating institutional training opportunities for ongoing probationers could also enhance their rehabilitation process. The training for probation officers should aim to enhance their skills in guidance,

capacity building, motivation, and supervision. This will enable them to effectively support probationers in their desistance journey.

8. The absence of a structured monitoring system hampers the probation service's ability to ensure compliance and successful rehabilitation of probationers. The government should develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring system that includes specific supervision techniques and regular progress assessments to enhance support for probationers and ensure successful rehabilitation outcomes. There is a need for a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of probation services regularly. This framework should include indicators for measuring the success of legislative reforms, policy implementation, training programs, and coordination efforts. Regular feedback loops should be established to ensure continuous improvement and adaptation of probation services to meet the evolving needs of society and the rehabilitation of offenders.
9. Coordination between probation offices, other government departments, and NGOs is inadequate, leading to inefficiencies and missed opportunities. The government can consider establishing a multi-agency task force to ensure effective collaboration and coordination among the Department of Social Services, judicial system, law enforcement agencies, and NGOs. This task force would facilitate the sharing of resources, expertise, and best practices, aiming to create a cohesive and supportive environment for the correction and rehabilitation of probationers.
10. Probation services receive less attention and resources compared to other programs within the Department of Social Services (DSS). The government should elevate the probation program's status within the DSS portfolio by highlighting its societal benefits and increasing demands in society, increasing resource allocation, and developing specialized training programs to emphasize its importance in rehabilitation and social welfare.
11. The probation program faces several policy-related issues, including outdated legal frameworks and the lack of specific implementation guidelines, which hinder effective probation service delivery. The government should undertake a comprehensive review and reform of the existing probation legislation (Probation of Offenders Ordinance 1960 and Bangladesh Probation of Offenders Rules 1971) to ensure that it aligns with current social, legal, and administrative needs. This reform should include the modernization of probation practices, clarification of the roles and responsibilities of probation officers, and inclusion of contemporary rehabilitation techniques. It should also develop and introduce clear policy guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOP) for probation services. These guidelines should cover all critical aspects of probation work, including reporting, motivation, counseling, rehabilitation, and reintegration of offenders. Additionally, policies to ensure the appointment of female probation officers for supervising female offenders should be

established, addressing the specific needs of female probationers, and ensuring their access to probation services.

12. The probation services in Bangladesh lack professional interventions to promote desistance from crime among probationers. The government should prepare guidelines to develop interventions that promote self-awareness among probationers, encouraging them to take responsibility for their past actions and actively engage in personal development. This can include therapeutic interventions, counseling services, and educational programs. The interventions should recognize the importance of addressing mental health issues among probationers, and provide access to mental health support services, including counseling and treatment, to help probationers cope with depression, loneliness, and other mental health challenges that may hinder desistance. The guideline should also aim to formulate a mechanism to ensure ongoing support and monitoring of probationers. This can include regular check-ins, mentoring programs, and follow-up services to help probationers stay on track and address any challenges they may face. While developing a guideline for ensuring a professional intervention, the guideline should actively involve family and community members in the desistance process. This can be done through community-based programs, support groups, and initiatives that encourage positive social connections and support networks. The intervention should also recognize and address systemic issues that may hinder desistance, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of social support.

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Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaire

Part 01: Demographic and socio-economic information

Please tick (✓) mark where you find suitable for you

1. Age (In years)					
2. Gender?	i. Male		ii. Female		
3. Religions?	i. Islam	ii. Hindu	iii. Buddha	iv. Others	
4. Marital status?	i. Married	ii. Unmarried	iii. Divorced	iv. Separated	v. Others
5. Family pattern	i. Nuclear	ii. Joint	iii. Extended		
6. Educational status					
7. Fathers' occupation					
8. Mothers' occupation					
9. Monthly income of family					
10. New identity	i. Started romantic relationship	ii. Got married	iii. Became parent	iv. Started new job/business	v. Others (specify)
11. Other family members involved in crimes	i. Yes		ii. No		
12. Duration under probation (In months)					
13. Do you have any friend who is involved in violent activities?				Yes	No
14. Do you take any type of prohibited drug?				Yes	No
15. Do you feel depressed or lonely?				Yes	No
16. Do you feel discriminated or neglected?				Yes	No
17. Are you affiliated with any political party?				Yes	No
18. Have you started practicing religious rules recently?				Yes	No
19. Has any other case been filed against you during probation period?				Yes	No
20. Have the police arrested you for any doubtful allegation during probation period?				Yes	No
21. Did others victimize you by any of the following violent activities during last one year?					
i. Threat	ii. Injury	iii. Misbehave	iv. Eve teasing	v. Ragging	
vi. Biting	vii. Bullying	viii. Property damage		ix. Any other (specify)	

Part 02: Degree of desistance

Information about probationers' self-reported desistance process from crimes. Please tick (✓) mark where you find suitable for you.

Desistance	Completely disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Somewhat disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Agree (5)	Completely agree (6)
1. I am aware of my past life						
2. I abide by court conditions						
3. I am working to develop myself						
4. I know my strengths and weaknesses to change my life						
5. It is possible for me to change and lead a law-abiding life						
6. I justify or rationalize my past actions						
7. I regret for my past actions						
8. I refrain from any unlawful activities						
9. I trying to create a new identity and engage in pro-social activities						
10. I see some positive changes in my life						
11. I experienced some positive events that inspired me to change my life						
12. I am aware of behavioral problems and working to change						
13. I face some setbacks while changing my behavior						
14. I frequently receive support from family and probation agencies						
15. I try to do some good works and make positive contributions to society						

16. The number of bad deeds and bad habits has been reduced						
17. I need time and ongoing effort to change						
18. I believe probation services are very effective and necessary						
19. I believe rehabilitation efforts are important to promote change in life						
20. I am supported and encouraged by my family members and others						
21. I learned new skills and knowledge to change my life						
22. I developed some strategies to cope with social stigma and exclusion						
23. I have full control of my activities and behavior						

Part 03: Probation services

Please tick (✓) mark where you find suitable for you

1. Information about assessment of probationers' behaviors and prior record

	Completely disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Somewhat disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Agree (5)	Completely agree (6)
1. The probation officer assessed a detailed account of my past criminal offenses						
2. The probation officer took a list of the nature of my committed offense.						
3. He gathered my history of substance abuse, including types of substances.						
4. The probation officer identified my social networks and relationships with criminal networks.						
5. He asked about any involvement in criminal activities or associations with individuals						

engaged in criminal behavior						
6. He asked about any affiliations with gangs.						
7. He assessed my attitudes and beliefs regarding criminal offenses.						
8. He assessed my perceptions about authority figures and the legal system.						
9. He assessed my willingness to engage in rehabilitation and treatment programs.						
10. He provided insights into my commitment to interventions aimed at reducing criminal behavior						
11. He assessed comprehensive information about the circumstances surrounding each offense.						
12. He assessed causes that may have contributed to or influenced my involvement in criminal activities.						

2. Information about how probation officers provide guidance and capacity-building

	Completely disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Somewhat disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Agree (5)	Completely agree (6)
1. The probation officer made rapport and establishes/ established a trusting relationship with me.						
2. The probation officer helped me identify my problems and involves/involved me in the decision-making process						
3. The probation officer identified potential risks or threats that occurred to me						
4. The probation officer showed me empathy, and respect, and listened to me carefully						

5. The probation officer helped me set specific, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals.						
6. The probation officer collaborated with me to create a roadmap for correction and rehabilitation						
7. The probation officer provided me with opportunities to acquire new skills or enhance existing ones.						
8. While providing guidance the probation officer considered my strengths and needs.						
9. Probation officer offered vocational training educational programs, or workshops that can contribute to their personal and professional growth.						
10. The probation officer informed me about available resources, treatment options, and opportunities for my progress.						
11. The probation officer connected me with support networks, such as mentors, support groups, or community organizations.						
12. The probation officer supported me in finding a suitable job for me.						

3. Information about probation officers' way of motivating probationers

	Completely disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Somewhat disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Agree (5)	Completely agree (6)
1. The probation officer motivates me to participate in community-based programs, volunteer work, or socio-cultural activities.						
2. The probation officer encourages me to build good relationships and become trustworthy with people around me.						

3. The probation officer provides me verbal praise and recognition for my good efforts and accomplishments						
4. The probation officer uses tangible rewards or incentives as motivating factors for meeting goals or adhering to court conditions.						
5. The probation officer arouses my reason for the change.						
6. The probation officer helps me identify my intrinsic motivation.						
7. Probation officer encourages me to be more responsible towards society						
8. Probation officer motivates me to be an optimistic and valued person.						
9. The probation officer motivates me to take specific steps towards improvement or correction of my behavior.						
10. The probation officer promotes my honesty, integrity, values, and aspirations.						
11. The probation officer motivates/motivates me to change my criminal identity and bad image.						

4. Information about probation officer's way of supervision

	Completely disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Somewhat disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Agree (5)	Completely agree (6)
1. The probation officer introduced and explained to me the conditions imposed by the court.						
2. He frequently reminded me of the conditions and warned me about the consequences of violating the conditions.						
3. The probation officer scheduled regular group meetings to discuss my progress toward maintaining the court conditions						
4. The probation officer contacted me						

personally to discuss my progress						
5. The probation officer regularly assessed my progress, needs, and challenges and provides feedback.						
6. The probation officer was watchful of me.						
7. The probation officer showed an authoritative attitude to me if needed.						
8. The probation officer regularly monitored my activities to ensure my compliance with the conditions						
9. The probation officer documented my progress, compliance, and any incidents or concerns						

5. Information about probation officers' contribution to engage family and community in desistance process

	Completely disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Somewhat disagree (3)	Somewhat Agree (4)	Agree (5)	Completely agree (6)
1. The probation officer frequently visited my homes						
2. The probation officer made my family members aware of the probation process.						
3. The probation officer provided counseling to my family members to support me throughout the probation period.						
4. The probation officer scheduled family meetings where the probation officer, my family members, and I came together to discuss my progress, challenges, and goals.						
5. The probation officer helped me increase my interaction and the amount of time I spent with my family members.						
6. The probation officer visited my friends and community people frequently to promote my desistance process.						
7. The probation officer made my friends and community people aware of the court's terms and conditions						
8. The probation officer motivated and influenced my friends and community people to support me throughout the						

probation period.					
9. The probation officer worked collaboratively with my family, friends, neighbors, local leaders, community members, and agencies to support me during the probation period.					

Part 04: Challenges and Recommendations

1. According to you, what are the challenges/problems of probation program in Bangladesh?

1. According to you, what should be done to improve the probation services in Bangladesh?

Appendix 2: Guidelines for KIIs

Part 01: Problems and Challenges in Probation Services in Bangladesh

1. In your view, what are the challenges/problems in implementing probation services in Bangladesh?

2. In your view, what are the institutional weaknesses/challenges/problems in probation services in Bangladesh?

3. In your view, what are the weaknesses/challenges/problems/loopholes in policies and legislation related to probation services in Bangladesh?

Part 02: Recommendations to Address the Problems and Challenges in Probation Services in Bangladesh

1. What could be done to address the challenges/problems in implementing probation services in Bangladesh?

2. What could be done to address the institutional weaknesses/challenges/problems in probation services in Bangladesh?

3. What could be done to address the weaknesses/challenges/problems/loopholes in policies and legislation related to probation services in Bangladesh?