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# Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities of Social Reintegration and Acceptance of Probationers in Bangladesh: A Qualitative Study in Tangail District

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## ABSTRACT

*The Bangladesh Probation System has its origins in the British colonial period but its implementation is negligible. The probation system is based on reformative rather than retributive. This approach allows criminals to reintegrate into society by living in the community and reforming themselves. This study is conducted based on a qualitative method, where data is collected from 15 probationers of Tangail District which are conducted by face to face in depth interview method. The sample size of this study is 15. Here, probability sampling, and the convenience method is used for the data collections. Primary data are analyzed thematically. This study express that all of respondents come from marginalized socio-economic backgrounds and majority of the respondents have been convicted of illegal drug abuse. As the probationers reform themselves by facing various challenges, they are reintegrating into society. In order to reintegrate, they faced familial and societal discrimination and stigmatization. As a result self-stigma increases in them. Again, it can be seen that with the help of some people in the family or society, they are getting reintegration promptly. For the successful reintegration of probationers, the government can provide them with various forms of training, education, financial assistance and employment as well as promote the probation system to the public. There are scarce of research on probation systems. Therefore, through this research, it will be seen whether the purpose of probation is being properly fulfilled along with the development of the Bangladesh probation system. In the future, further study about probation will be helped by this study and this will assist as a framework for probation system research.*

**Keywords:** Probation, Reintegration, Convenience, Thematic, Stigmatization, Promptly, Employment.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Crimes include deeds that are unethical, against the law, and against humanity. People commit crimes because of environmental conditions such as geography, family, faulty socialization, influence or maybe faulty justice and prisons. According to Edwin. H. Sutherland in his book *Principles of Criminology* (1955) "Criminal activity is against the law". There wouldn't be any crime without any laws. There are various formal and informal measures to reduce crime such as preventive measures, corrective measures, punitive measures, awareness measures. At present punishment is followed by correctional measures, rather than incarceration. The correctional system is based on the philosophy of "hate the sin and not the sinner". Any type of sentence that can be applied to a crime other than incarceration is referred to as an "alternative to incarceration." (Moshinsky, 1959). Community-based correction is given, as an alternative to jail. Probation is one of the alternatives to incarceration. In Bangladesh, punishment only depends on the sentence of imprisonment. As a result, the number of prisoners is increasing unusually. There is a negative impact on the prisoners such as overcrowding due to the number of prisoners being more than the jail capacity, they are not getting health and medical services, proper nutrition and all other facilities etc. (Bin Kashem, 1996).

In Bangladesh, incarceration and prisoner rehabilitation are unrelated (Bin Kashem, 1996). However, probation is currently being considered as an alternative to imprisonment to get out of such adverse conditions in prison. Probation originally originated from the correctional concept. Probation is generally understood as giving the offender a chance to adapt to society without suspending the punishment he deserves and not incarcerating him. In this case some conditions are given to the offender. There is a supervisor to monitor whether the offenders are complying with the conditions properly. He performs the duties of the probation officer of the Department of Social Services. He is known as probation officer. Probation isn't a brand-new institution in Bangladesh's judicial framework. Probation has its foundation in the medieval ages of English criminal law. The word probation was first used by John Augustus, who also created the idea of probation. He is known as the "Father of Probation" Augustus worked as a volunteer probation officer for 18 years (The History of Probation). The social reintegration of the offender and the reduction of recidivism are the core objectives of dealing with convicted criminals in the contemporary setting (promoting probation internationally, 1994). Section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code of 1898 is the original source of probation in the Indian subcontinent. According to this section, a person sentenced for first time theft and a maximum sentence of 2 years imprisonment was released by the court at its discretion for good behavior (*Development and Use of the Probation System in Bangladesh*, 2014). During the Pakistan

period, the journey of probation started through “The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960”. This Ordinance came into force in East Pakistan in 1962 and during this time two developmental projects were implemented namely Probation of Offenders project and After Care Service (Probation, Department of Social Services- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh). Probation has certain goals and objectives (Vol, 1968). Such as-To provide the probationer with the chance for self-improvement, to assist in preventing recidivism through character development, to give the probationer a chance to establish himself as a citizen, to prevent him from committing a crime by making him conscious through incentive and counseling, Reintegration of probationers into society following rehabilitation, reduce the crime from society.

The purpose of this study is to uncover the reintegration process, challenges, and support services for probationers. It covers the difficulties people experience during their reintegration into society and the resources the probation system provides.

Research gaps exist in understanding the reintegration of probationers into society, family, community, and the professional sector, as well as the challenges faced by probationers and authorities during reintegration. In our country, the probation system is a newly adopted criminal justice approach aimed at addressing the high caseload on the court system. Limited studies focus on the support services provided by probation authorities, hindering comprehensive understanding. Recommendations for reconstructing the probation system to enhance accessibility for probationers will be proposed.

### **(A) Methodology**

This study on probationer reintegration in Tangail District adopts a qualitative approach, utilizing probability sampling and convenience methods. The population comprises all 51 probationers from 2020 to 2022 in Tangail, with 15 selected as samples. Data is collected through semi-structured questionnaires with open-ended questions, employing face-to-face in-depth interviews. Thematic analysis and case study methods are applied for data analysis, aiming to provide a nuanced understanding of probationers' reintegration experiences. Ethical considerations, including participant confidentiality and informed consent, are integral to the research design. The findings are expected to inform policy decisions and enhance the probation system in Tangail District.

### **(B) Finding and Discussion**

This section details the data collection process involving in-depth interviews on the social reintegration of probationers. Thematic analysis reveals challenges and opportunities within the

probation system. Probationers face obstacles but rely on societal and familial acceptance for reintegration, emphasizing the crucial role of the probation system. Collaborative efforts among probation officers, support services, and the community are highlighted to aid successful reintegration and reduce recidivism. The respondents' socio-demographic information is presented in the table below.

<b>Respondent's no (pseudonym)</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>religion</b>	<b>Family member</b>	<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Living places</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
<b>1. Kanchan</b>	38	Degree	Hindu	5	Married	Urban	20,000	Private Employee
<b>2. Manna</b>	65	Unlettered	Islam	6	Married	Rural	12,000	Butcher
<b>3. Kabir</b>	70	Unlettered	Islam	3	Married	Rural	6,000	Farmer
<b>4. Bablu</b>	40	Intermediate	Islam	3	Unmarried	Urban	17,000	Business
<b>5. Samsu</b>	35	Intermediate	Islam	10	Married	Urban	12,000	Auto rickshaw driver
<b>6. Jashim</b>	55	Unlettered	Islam	6	Married	Rural	20,000	Farmer
<b>7. Salma</b>	36	Secondary	Islam	3	Divorced	Urban	15,000	Parlor Business
	33	Intermediate	Islam	8	Married	Urban	9,000	Private Employ

<b>8. Shibli</b>								ee
<b>9. Nurul</b>	53	Primary	Islam	6	Married	Rural	10,000	Shopkeeper
<b>10. Malek</b>	46	Primary	Islam	8	Married	Rural	8,000	Farmer
<b>11. Ajmol</b>	47	Secondary	Islam	5	Married	Rural	7,000	Fisherman
<b>12. Chanchal</b>	34	Primary	Hindu	5	Married	Rural	9,000	Farmer
<b>13. Abir</b>	24	Honors (continue)	Islam	5	Unmarried	Urban	0	Student
<b>14. Majid</b>	47	Unlettered	Islam	2	Married	Rural	10,000	Day Labor
<b>15. Nasir</b>	42	Primary	Islam	4	Married	Rural	12,000	Day Labor

**Table1: Socio-Demographic information of probationers**

## II. CRIMINAL PROFILE

A criminal profile can provide insight into a defendant's likelihood of committing future crimes. A criminal profile of a probationer involves analyzing their past criminal record and personality traits to assess the risk of reoffending. Probation officers use this information to create personalized supervision plans, incorporating measures like drug testing or therapy. While criminal profiling is essential, decisions about treatment should also consider the probationer's remorse and willingness for rehabilitation, aiming to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior

and facilitate successful reintegration into society.

### **(A) Type of Crime**

Usually, the nature of the offense is taken into consideration in terms of probation. The rate is higher for those convicted of minor misdemeanor offenses.

### **(B) Criminal background**

Criminal background of a probationer refers to their prior history of criminal activity.

Here, in terms of criminal history, most probationers were first offenders. But among them 1 criminal was previously arrested by the police. He was released before going to trial. He said that

*“Once i went on tour with my friends. There the police arrested us because; they found a bottle of Phensedyl from my friend. An elder brother helped us to released, my family did not know about this incident.” (Shiblu; case study 8)*

Probation officers assess a probationer's criminal background, including prior convictions, family history, and law enforcement interactions, to determine the risk they pose to the community. This information guides the customization of supervision and treatment during the probation process. To effectively reduce the risk of reoffending, probation officers need to know about appropriate treatment planning, supervision skill development, problem solving techniques, use of cognitive techniques, probation officer-probationer relationships, monitoring compliance, etc.(Trotter, 2013)

## **III. THE ROLE OF FAMILIAL ACCEPTANCE IN SUCCESSFUL RE-INTEGRATION**

Familial acceptance is crucial for the successful reintegration of probationers into society. As individuals under probation navigate conditions and rules, family support offers a sense of belonging, emotional assistance, and motivation. This backing enhances the likelihood of successful reintegration by providing practical and emotional help, complementing the need for access to resources and personal responsibility in the process. Some respondents found family support crucial, but their offenses hindered assistance from family, friends, and the community. Due to the nature of their crimes, some offenders lost connections with loved ones, posing challenges to their successful reintegration.(BROWN et al., 2007)

### **1. In Kinship**

Many respondents cited family support upon reentering society, but others faced strained relationships, experiencing deprivation and hostility from family members after leaving prison

or court. These challenges, including loss of trust and strained interactions, can complicate the successful reintegration of probationers into society. A study of 16 offenders identified key factors for successful reintegration: substance abuse, employment, family support, types of friends, personal motivation to change, and age. The study emphasized the importance of a personal desire to change and a robust support system, including family, friends, and treatment services, for successful reintegration. (Davis et al., 2013).

Most of the respondents in this study are people from rural areas. Most live in joint families. The two respondents are seen to have quarreled with their brother, over the property after coming from jail. Respondent No. 6 states that

*“My father transfers all of our property in the name of my brother. There is always a conflict with my brother on this matter” (Jashim: case study 6).*

In this matter, Chanchal (case study 12) said

*“My relationship with my brother has gone bad. I have gone to jail so; my brother doesn't want to give me a share of the wealth.”*

A respondent's marital relationship suffered a rift. As he said

*“ ....This is my third wife. I got married after my first wife died; she left when I went to jail. Now I am getting married again” (Majid case study 14)*

## **2. Accommodation**

When a probationer reintegrates into society after being released from prison, their success often depends on having a supportive family network. Accommodation is an important factor in the family's acceptance of a probationer. When a family is willing and able to provide support and accommodation, this can greatly increase the probationer's chances of successful reintegration into the network.

The majority of the respondents of this study are from rural areas, they live in their own houses. 9 respondents reported that they had no problem with accommodation.

Out of 15 respondents, two (Kabir and Majid) do not have any residence of their own.

*“There was little land, people are occupying it. There is no place for living; he is allowed to build a house on land next to his father-in-law's house”. (Case study 3)*

*“I don't have my land; I live on people's land.” (Case study 14)*

Respondents no 4 and 6 were asked to leave the house.

*“Father told me to leave the house. Mother didn't let go, mother used to cry for me.” ( Bablu*



case study 4)

*“Father told me to leave home with my family” (Jashim case study 6)*

### Participating in Decision Making

Family acceptance in the reintegration of probationers can be enhanced through participation in decision-making. When family members are involved, they become more invested in the probationer's success and are likely to offer increased support. Recognizing the impact of decision-making participation allows practitioners and policymakers to develop more effective strategies for successful reintegration. About the reintegration as a process of reform “reforming the deviant through reconstructing his or her social ties” Social ties means those like family members and friends and potentially a wider network of community ties and support (Braithwaite & Mugford, 2017).

The study reveals that 8 respondents independently make family decisions. The majority have low education and marginalized economic backgrounds. Many were part of joint families, which broke after imprisonment, leading them to now reside in nuclear families. Several probationers serve as heads of their households, taking charge of family decisions. Among them is one female respondent, who is divorced. She said that

*“My family is about my two children. I take decisions about family or children.”(salma case study 7)*

### 3. Attending the Family Occasions

Attending family events is a crucial tool for social reintegration, enabling probationers to rebuild relationships and gain social support. Events like weddings, birthdays, and holidays provide a platform for connection, allowing probationers to demonstrate their commitment to change and readiness to take on new responsibilities within their families and communities. Among the 15 respondents 6 are included in this study said that they receive invitations to family functions and they participate. Probationers take an important step towards social reintegration by attending family events, as it can help them reconnect with family and community, which can be critical to their successful re-entry into society.

Respondent no 10 sadly said that

*“My cousin's wedding ceremony was held in the house next door, he and his family not invited.” (Malek: case study 10)*

#### IV. THE ROLE OF SOCIETAL ACCEPTANCE IN SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION

Probationers encounter challenges in societal reintegration, such as employment, participation in social events, financial assistance, and education. Social acceptance support plays a crucial role in overcoming these challenges by fostering a sense of belonging and reducing isolation. Studies indicate that probationers with social support are less likely to violate terms, more likely to secure employment and social services and experience higher life satisfaction. This support is essential for overcoming post-prison stigma and isolation, contributing to successful reintegration. According to Iain Crow, rehabilitation is essentially the practical steps necessary to achieve social cohesion. Provision of interventions or plans particularly focused on helping ex-offenders access housing, education, training and employment (Crow.,2001).

##### 1. Participation in Social Ceremony

Incorporating social events like weddings, funerals, and community gatherings into the reintegration process is vital for probationers. These interactions foster community connections and may involve fulfilling probation conditions, such as community service or family counseling, showcasing a commitment to positive change. Most of the respondents of this study are Muslims. When asked about participation in social ceremonies, they all said that they participate in religious ceremonies like or funeral, Jumma prayer, Eid prayer. Only the female respondents no 7 said

*“...i am rarely attending social ceremonies.” (Salma: case study 7)*

There are two Hindu respondents, also say they participate in their religious ceremonies such as puja. Respondent no 1 said

*“I am also called into the religious hall to taking decisions on various religious events.” (Kanchan: case study 1)*

##### 2. Access to Labor Market

Access to the labor market is crucial for probationers, overcoming barriers like criminal records and limited skills. Employment enhances financial stability, reducing the risk of re-offending. It equips probationers with resources and skills, aiding successful reintegration into society and preventing future criminal behavior. According to the section 11 the Probation Offenders Ordinance 1960, probation is not a conviction. That is, it cannot be excluded in the case of providing a job or any other service; he/she cannot be considered a criminal.(Laws et al., 1960) This study shows that all the respondents have faced difficulties in the workplace. Lack of experience, educational qualification, their criminal record. Among them, respondent no 4 said

he did not face any problem. The respondent also said that

*“ I am doing the same as before. He had no problem working. Businesses sometimes have profits and losses.” (Bablu: case study 4)*

Respondent no 1 shares his experience

*“ I faced a lot of problems in getting a new job, because no one gives a job to a prison returnee easily. And no experience to get a good job” (kanchan:case study 1)*

### **3. Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance for probationers involves providing monetary support to address challenges like employment and housing during reintegration. The aim is to offer stability, reduce recidivism risks, and facilitate successful reintegration into society. Eight respondents included in this study said they never sought financial assistance. And those who sought help outnumbered those who did not. Respondent no 5 and 10 sought a loan from their relatives, for doing business but did not get it. And respondent no 12 stated that,

*“I applied for a loan, saying that I would do business, but I did not get it.” (Chanchal: case study 12)*

11 and 15 no respondent did not get financial help from any person or group. 11 no respondent said as,

*“I was requesting a political member for poor allowance. He promised to pay today and tomorrow. His membership period has expired. I did not get help”*

### **4. Judicial Suffering**

The primary goal of probation is the law-abiding reintegration of offenders into society. Judicial suffering's impact on social acceptance depends on factors like offense severity, community attitude, and the probationer's perspective. In this study, respondents faced suffering in hiring a lawyer, particularly due to their low economic background, with many having a monthly income below 12,000 taka

Respondent no 2 state that

*“ ...The court has to pay a lot of money for various functions and had to suffer a lot” (Manna: case study 2)*

Some of the respondents said that they faced many kinds of problems in their judicial work. On the other hand, some of the respondents did not face any problems due to their power and family positions. Respondent no 13 said

*“I have a relative in court, so i did not have to suffer much to get access to various judicial fields.” (Abir: case study 13)*

In addition, according to respondent no 4

*“I had not faced any problem. Because my father's position is good, it is easy to do all the work” (Bablu: case study 4)*

## **5. Education**

In to promote education probationers in the context of apprenticeship reintegration, it is important to address barriers that may limit access to educational opportunities. This may involve developing educational programs and support services that are tailored to the needs of probationers.

The majority of the respondents of this study has low educational qualifications and is out of education. No one was found to be pursuing adult education. 11 out of 15 about 73.33% of probationers said they had no problem with access to their education. Respondents No. 5 and 7 face many problems regarding their children going to school.7 no respondent said

*“In the children's school sometimes some people criticized my children before, so I had to change the school.” (Salma: case study 7)*

## **V. THE IMPACT OF STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION ON PROBATIONERS**

Stigma and discrimination significantly hinder probationers' reintegration, impeding access to opportunities and impacting mental health. The associated challenges, stemming from criminal records, hinder their ability to rebuild lives post-probation. This adversity extends to relationships with probation officers and the criminal justice system, affecting social bonds and reintegration prospects. Examining the livelihood, psychological bonds, and isolation from violence is crucial to understanding adult probationers' reintegration capabilities and the role of probation officers.(Bhutta et al., 2014)

### **1. Stigmatized by Other**

Family and societal stigmatization significantly hampers probationers' reintegration, limiting resources, impacting mental health, straining relationships, and elevating the risk of reoffending. Addressing stigma is crucial for ensuring probationers receive necessary support for successful reintegration. All respondents in the study experienced stigmatization; while some family members support reintegration, others discriminate. Society, too, deprives them, subjecting them to insults, abuse, ridicule, and criticism from family and neighbors. The respondent described his suffering as,

*"My elder brother stopped talking, didn't come to my house. And my elder son used a lot of slangs word with me. For me, they don't get respect from people in society. I feel responsible for this situation". (Kabir: case study 3)*

## **2. Self- Stigmatization**

Lower identity, humiliation, and embarrassment were more evident when it came to self-stigma (Chui & Cheng, 2013). Self-stigmatization among probationers can result in low self-esteem, social isolation, resource challenges, higher reoffending risk, and mental health issues. Addressing self-stigmatization is crucial for successful reintegration, involving education, fostering positive self-talk, self-care, and connecting probationers with support groups and mental health resources.

From the 15 respondents of this study, through in-depth interviews, 11 of them (73.33%) are victims of self-stigmatization. All of them said the same thing. Such as respondent no 1 acquaint with

*"I locked myself in a room, did not leave the house, and did not meet anyone because I felt ashamed, I thought, I was responsible for everything that was happening. Later I felt, I didn't do anything, I was framed." (kanchan: case study 1)*

## **VI. THE ROLE OF PROBATION SERVICE IN SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION**

Probation services are vital for successful reintegration, offering support and supervision to individuals. In Bangladesh, guided by the 1960 Ordinance, the primary goal is to prevent reoffending, ensure rehabilitation, and foster the transition of individuals into law-abiding citizens. In addition to providing support and guidance, the probation system in Bangladesh also emphasizes community service as a way for individuals to give back to their communities and demonstrate their commitment to positive change.

### **1. Probation Authorities**

A probationer is supervised by a probation officer to ensure compliance with probation terms, offering guidance, counseling, and support for successful re-entry into society. About the probation officer, 8 no respondent said

*"My family, I, and the probation officer have a lot of contributions to living a good life again in society." (Shiblu: case study 8)*

Almost all the respondents of this study have a positive impression of probation officers and they say, probation officers, help a lot to reintegrate into society. According to the probation of offender, ordinance 1960 section 13 (d) advice, assist, and befriend the offender and if necessary

try to find suitable employment. This is the duty of the Probation Officer. Respondent explained as,

*The probation officer and probation authority are very friendly, (Kanchan: case study 1)*

Here, probationers make a variety of comments about probation officers. They say probation officers are friendly, sympathetic, helpful, good behavior, strict, etc.

## **2. Provided services**

There are a variety of services be provided, that can play an important role to help with the reintegration of probationers into society. Such as Counseling, Treatment Programs, vocational training, helped with job, drug rehabilitation service, education, monitoring etc.

This study shows that counseling services are provided for most of the probationers. Due to the large number of drug addict offenders, drug rehabilitation service is also provided. 1 no respondent express as,

*"I am very psychologically affected by being punished for no crime. Sir gives me counseling". (Kanchan: case study 1)*

## **3. Financial Support**

The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, which was published in 1960, established probation as a type of correctional institution in Bangladesh. Two projects—the Offenders' Probation Project and the After Care Service Project—were launched in the second year of the "5-Year Plan Period" (in 1962). These projects first launched individually in ten different locations around the nation. These two projects were integrated into one later in 1965.(Vol, 1968) Its initiatives offer a range of services in addition to financial support. This project's goal is to offer social and economic reintegration to prisoners and probationers who have been released from jail.

Here, the financial support of the probationer is provided by this project. This study showed that out of 15 respondents, 46.67% of respondents are not aware of this project 13.33% or 2 know but have not received assistance. 13 no respondent said,

*"I heard about "The Association for Corrections and Rehabilitation of Offenders ", but i do not know the details". (Abir: case study 13)*

The remaining 40% of respondents received financial support from the probation service through this project. Respondent no 10 express his experience in that way as,

*"The first time I got 10,000 taka, I borrowed the money from people on interest, paid it off. Then 2 days ago I received a loan of 70 thousand taka, I will do business with this money".*

(Malek: case study 10)

For those on probation, sustainable financial support through aftercare services is crucial for responsible and effective reintegration, tailored to individual needs and aimed at avoiding dependence on external assistance.

## VII. EXPERIENCE OF PROBATIONERS ON PROBATION

Probationers, through experiences like home visits, attendance, and community support, offer valuable feedback on the effectiveness of the probation system and express their needs from the system. This study (Hoetjes & Plaisier, 2012) reveals probationers' dissatisfaction due to broken agreements and perceived lack of knowledge among probation officers. Effective probation supervision, with proper resources and support, can be a viable alternative to incarceration in the criminal justice system.

### 1. Monitoring Progress

Study emphasizes a strong link between probationers' recovery and officer supervision. Ensuring access for minor offenses and enhancing officers' expertise supports successful reintegration into the community (Khokhar et al., 2015). According to the probation of offender ordinance 1960 section 13, probation officers to visit probationer's home or workplace. 8 no respondent said,

*"Sir, visited my house once, and he advised me to go to the rehabilitation center and give me counseling". (Shiblu: case study 8)*

Respondents report regular connections with probation officers, who visit homes and workplaces. Financial assistance is provided after a home visit, tailored to the observed needs of probationers. 15 no respondent state that,

*"I informed sir about my problem and sir visited my house 2/3 times. Then after seeing my condition arranged a loan of 40,000 rupees. With this money I will start a cloth business."* (Nasir: case study 15)

### 2. Effectiveness

Probation service effectiveness hinges on supervision quality, service availability, and collaboration. Based on experiences, 86.67% of respondents find probation services effective for them.

According to the experience of the probationers, they gave different types of statements. They gave diplomatic statements of 2 respondents. Respondent no 8 thinks,

*“...Probation service may be effective and may not be. Without proper conditions, and guidelines, crime will increase through the probation system”. (Siblu: case study 8)*

The 11 no respondent said that

*“...The probation service is not good for all criminals; it is good for those who want to get back to normal life”. (Ajmol: case study 11)*

### **3. Compliance Barrier**

Compliance means following rules, regulation, standards. Here Probation conditions vary according to the type of crime.(Laws et al., 1960) According to the probation of offender ordinance 1960, Section 4 states that the court may grant probation to the offender subject to certain conditions and section 5 states that in case of violation of the conditions, the court may revoke the probation order and may result in imprisonment. It is often difficult or impossible for a person on probation to meet the terms of their probation order. Addressing and overcoming these barriers is essential to successful test outcomes.

This study found that 9 respondents did not face any problem with the terms of the probation order. Two respondents are not aware of the probation order. Among the conditions of probation, respondent no 11 said,

*“...Praying, planting trees, putting up anti-drug posters, playing sports, giving time to family, etc. I almost followed all of them. I put up anti-drug posters and showed pictures to the probation officer. Probation gave me a chance to get better. I am trying to follow the conditions”. (Ajmol: case study 11)*

In the probation service, probationers had both positive and negative experiences. Considering many factor Majority calculations show that probation service is effective for inmates.

The study analyzes Antalya, Turkey's probationers, exploring criminogenic needs, service expectations, and improvement areas. It assesses links to demographics, suggesting political priorities for enhancing probation quality in the country (Ertan et al., 2018). this study explores the reintegration, challenges, and opportunities for probationers, predominantly with low income. The prevalence of drug-related crimes (80%) underscores easy drug access. Probation serves as correction for minor offenses, avoiding punishment, but societal labeling persists. Reintegration into society and family is a gradual process, aided by probationer experiences and system support for quicker reintegration.

## **VIII. CONCLUSION**

This study reveals high probation rates for drug offenders in Bangladesh, where increasing drug



use contributes to a significant number of such cases. Probationers, often labeled and stigmatized by society and even family members, face self-blame and psychological consequences. To facilitate reintegration, addressing societal stigma and enhancing the comprehensive nature of the probation system, including the incorporation of professional psychiatric services, is essential. Over 86.67% of probationers find the probation system effective, with the majority having no issues, including scheduled meetings. Probation officers, understanding probationer challenges, occasionally permit phone attendance. Literature emphasizes the significance of probation officers' scientific experience for rehabilitation.

Probation is the most widely used community corrections program. During this period the offender is given the freedom to live in the community, they can do all work and study during this time. Some conditions are given for this probation. Half a century ago, when Bangladesh was East Pakistan, probation system was established but its implementation was not noticeable. The established probation system is based on giving the offender a chance to reform. But most of the people of our country are not aware of this probation system. But its application is gradually seen, it can be seen from the review of the annual report of the Ministry of Social Welfare for the past few years, 405 people got probation benefits in 2017-2018 financial year, 543 people got it in 2018-2019, 2019 - In 2020 it doubled to 1 thousand 80 people and in 2020-21 got 1 thousand 275 people (Saiful, 2022). More important than how many got probation benefits, how many were able to successfully reform themselves after being released on probation, keep themselves free from reoffending, and reintegrate into society. And as a result, the role of the family, society, and probation system is the main issue. Also, the main point of this study is to see what kind of challenges probationers face and what kind of opportunities they get to reintegration into society.

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