

# Developing a Conceptual Model of Drug-abuse Inmates Personality, Prison Climate, Social Support, and *Maqasid* *Shariah* Quality Of Life

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**ABSTRACT:** Drug abuse remains a major concern for Malaysia, in which most inmates comprise drug abusers. The circumstance influenced the quality of life (QoL) of inmates, and the previous research indicated that QoL is linked to personality, prison climate, and social support of inmates. Thus, the objective of a present study is to develop a model that explored the relationship between drug-abuse inmates' personality and prison climate as independent variables and QoL as the dependent variable, with perceived social support playing a role as mediator. This study aims to discover a relationship between personality-QoL, prison climate-QoL, personality-social support, prison climate-social support, social support-QoL, and social support mediation function by pointing at existing literature and reviewing earlier studies. In particular, *Maqasid Shariah Quality of Life (MSQoL)* is used, which focused on inmates QoL. A study finding enables researchers to discover relevant knowledge to fill the research gap. Besides that, this study offered practical contributions to prison authority and related agencies on designing appropriate policies and strategies to enhance inmates QoL during imprisonment.

**KEYWORDS** -quality of life, social support, personality, prison climate, drug abuse, inmates, *maqasid shariah*

## I. SIMPLE SUMMARY

The population of inmates in Malaysia mostly related to drug cases. It is eminent that, inmates experienced a lower quality of life (QoL) than the public. Some aspect of actions to improve inmates' QoL while incarceration is worthy of motivating inmates continuing in therapy after release for becoming productive resources. Previous studies suggested that the predicting factors of inmates' QoL associated with inmates' personality, prison climate, and social support. Therefore, the objective of the current study is to propose a conceptual model based on personality-QoL, prison climate-QoL, personality-social support, prison climate-social support, social support-QoL, and mediating role of social support by looking on the literature study and review of earlier works.

## II. INTRODUCTION

Prison inmates in Malaysia comprise of a majority of drug abusers. Drug abuse has been around for a long time in human civilisation, but the exact date of human use and abuse of drugs has not yet been adequately ascertained [1]. The scenarios of drug abuse include open-ended questions regarding the issue, complications concerning the issue, and appearing chronic diseases. Drug abuse leads to poor QoL, psychological problems,

and a broad varying of the clinical spectrum of drugs [2]. Substance abuse often co-occurs with other psychiatric disorders, infectious diseases, and pain conditions [3], exhibiting antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) among the addicts [4]. Previous research by Glenn et al. [5] has shown that ASPD ranges from 1% to 3% in the general population, but it is significantly higher in the prison population, which reported a 35% to 47% [6].

Drug abuse remains a significant challenge for this country despite the punitive sanctions against those caught [7]. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [8] stated that approximately 275 million individuals worldwide between the ages of 15 to 64 years old had abused drugs, 31 million experienced substance use disorder (SUDs), and 22,923 individuals in Malaysia exploited new substances. Meanwhile, the Malaysia Annual Drug Report 2017 reported that methamphetamines listed as the top misused drugs represented 55.2%, with Malay being the largest group of 81% and dominated by adult males [9]. In order to deal with this issue, the government has set up a special task force to promote drug addiction decriminalisation by applying the separation of rehabilitation for drug addicts and traffickers [10]. However, in reality, it is not easy to deal with it due to the changes involved in the aspects of legal policy and methods for implementation.

It is notable that, in the prison landscape, more than half of the population is convicted with various drug offences [11]. The number of drug offenders had increased steadily from 2015 to 2018. There were 45.3% of inmates committed to drug offences in 2015, 49% in 2016, and 53% in 2017 [11]. Whereas in 2018, there were 41,292 drug abuse inmates 61.5% from 67,121 inmates [13]. The increasing number of drug abuse inmates leads to overcrowding issue [14], and thus, impacting institutions and creating pressures in treatment quality, basic needs, incidents risk, and inmates' rehabilitation [12]. Due to these scenarios, this study will examine inmates' QoL by linking personalities, prison environment, and social support.

QoL is associated with happiness [15]. Ministry of Economic Affairs [16], stated that one of the government's priority under the 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025) is to share a prosperity initiative encompassing one of three dimensions, namely social re-engineering, which comprises improving the well-being of all Malaysians, including a better QoL among drug abuse inmates. It is eminent that inmates' QoL is lower than the public. Eriksson et al. [17] claimed that in most scenarios, the public wished to see a personality change among ex-inmates upon completion of their incarceration. They also hoped that inmates had constructive turns in prison, and thus, that could help them to contribute to a better country. Meanwhile, a study by Brazão et al. [18] found that ASPD is the most common diagnosis among inmates. They might tend to experience stress and suicidal idealisation [19]. Appropriate prison climate and social support will engage inmates with positive impacts of QoL [2, 20, 21].

### III. RELATED WORKS OF LITERATURE

#### **Inmates' Personality**

Personality has been defined in many ways. It is a remarkably stable set of features influencing an individual's emotions, feelings and behaviour in various settings [22]. Besides, it also remarked as dynamic mental structures. It organised cognitive processes that determine the emotional and behavioural changes of an individual to the environment [23], and a continuum of individual characteristics that frequently distinguish between persons in terms of their basic tendencies of thinking, feeling, and action in specific ways [24]. In many countries, the reintegration of inmates' personality link to the criminal punishment process, which has a standard policy and differs in specific mechanisms of influence on the individual [25]. Participation in prison recreational activities is recognized as the key to productive QoL, along with the decisive personality of inmates identified as a significant predictor of perceived social support [26].

Most current researchers are now acknowledging that the Big Five personality traits could form an essential personality structure [27, 28]. The Big Five, also known as the Five Factors Model (FFM), with the characteristics of openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism [29]. Based on Barańczuk [30] meta-analysis study that focused on the relationship between FFM and social support, found that positive social support had resulted in lower neuroticism, and higher of extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness. Scholars had also discovered that positive personalities favourable to QoL, including inmates [31, 32]. A previous study in Croatia, Belgium, and Japan, examined the differences of personality traits between inmates and healthy adults, reported that inmates showed higher agreeableness and conscientiousness [32]. Shimotsukasa and colleagues [32] stated that drug abuse inmates have higher results in extraversion and openness compared to theft criminals, while Terracciano et al. [33] mentioned that marijuana users have higher extraversion in the excitement-seeking facet compared to others. Based on the previous

argument, it is essential to use the composite approach of measuring drug abuse inmates' personality. Therefore, this study will apply the Big Five personality since it relates to drug abuse inmates [32].

### **Prison Climate**

Prison climate is an underlying terminology, which embraces social, emotional, organisational, and physical characteristics of a rehabilitative institution perceived by inmates and staff[34]; familiarly known as prison environment[35,36]; social climate[37-39]; and moral climate [40]. The different aspects of prison climate had a different impact on the QoL, whereby a higher social prison climate would allow drug abuse inmates to achieve greater life satisfaction and influence inmates' way of acting during and after the incarceration [41, 7]. The dimensions of the prison climate viewed both as unit-level factors and as individual-level experiences [42]. The dimensions stated by Molleman & van der Broek[43], includes security, rights and rules, enforcement, contact with the outside world, day program, autonomy, reintegration, and expectations for the future. Meanwhile, van Ginneken et al. [42] figured out the dimensions of autonomy, safety and order, meaningful activities, relationships between prisoners and with staff, contact with the outside world, and facilities. Likewise, Williams et al. [44] proposed that prison climate distinctions expressly for therapeutic purposes and those solely for containment, which may influence many other areas of prison life, including riots disruptions and general chaos. The dimensions were not only related to the prison climate, and both inmates-inmates and inmates-staff relationships but also to maintain a relationship with the outside world [45]. This research thus applies Williams et al.,[44] study in terms of therapeutic hold, security, inmates' mutual support, readiness to change, and concepts of belonging since it is a more accurate representation of Malaysian prisons.

### **Social Support**

Social support has been defined differently for its features and conceptualisation [46-48]. The concepts are comprehensive, which include many distinct elements, such as receiving and providing supports [49, 50]. Lin and colleagues described social support as a personal tie with other individuals, organisations, and the wider community [47], involvement of other trustworthy individuals, people who love others, and pleasures that cannot be quantified [51]. This definition is very restrictive as it seeks to choose individuals who are willing to help the network rather than provide social support [20]. Subtypes of social support include an emotional, instrumental, appraisal, and informational supports [52, 53]; esteem and network supports [54]; and companionship support [53]. Social support has its roots in the basic functionality of a social network. It could come from individuals, organisations, as well as from communities [55], organisations, and entities, such as government agencies, professionals from various fields, and social groups [56]. Social support mechanisms play an essential role in encouraging inmates to move from prison to the public [57]. However, inmates often lose their support from their family and friends due to a long history of drug abuse and involvement in crime [58]; it plays a significant role in dealing with health issues related to QoL[47]. Social support can be gained from family, friends, and significant others [59-61]. Thus, the current study could investigate perceived social support as a prove of remarkable to the inmates during incarceration [62,63].

### **Quality of Life (QoL)**

Quality of life was defined differently by different authors based on their views and background [26,64]. Characterised as the values, experiences, happiness, living conditions, accomplishments, usability, and spirituality of cultural contexts [65]; happily within the environment [66]; well-being, happiness, ethics, and fulfilment [67]; and a beneficial consequence in life [68]. The World Health Organization[69] described QoL as the 'perception of persons' of their position in life within the scope of their culture and value systems as well as their aims, aspirations, values, and concerns which include physical, psychological, and social well-being as the smallest element[70]. Meanwhile, Mohamad, Karim et al. [2] defined it as goodness in life and achievement in living as a Muslim. In this respect, different researchers tend to define QoL differently, and there is no mutually agreed concept of QoL. Previous studies exposed that QoL components play a crucial role in supporting effective prevention, treatment approaches, and policies for inmates' recovery [26, 71, 72]. The assessment of drug abuse inmates QoL is vital as a mechanism to accommodate their needs [20]. Improper methods will only provide unreliable, insufficient, and ineffective treatment approaches to heal drug abuse inmates [20]. A current study will narrow down the concept by applying *Maqasid Shariah* Quality of Life (MSQoL) consist of religion, life, mind, lineage, and property [102], as mentioned in the Holy Quran, which is the primary source of guidance to all Muslims, including drug abuse inmates.

#### IV. MATERIALS AND METHODS

To this end, a question arises; whether or not the inmates' personality, prison climate, and social support can create a better QoL among drug abuse inmates. Several authors have investigated the significant relationship between QoL and personality [73-78]; and between QoL and prison climate [2, 79-82]. Subsequently, some authors have also proposed a positive relationship between social support and personality [30,83-87] and between social support and prison climate[81,88-92]. The association between social support and QoL[93-95] also been discussed previously. Meanwhile, some previous scholars also suggested that social support should play a role as a mediator [96-101], including mediating the relationship between personality and QoL[103]. Table 1 illustrated the relationship between personality, prison climate, social support, and QoL.

Table 1: The relationship of Personality, Prison Climate, Social Support and QoL

Researchers	Relationship						
	P-QoL	PC-QoL	P-SS	PC-SS	SS-QoL	P-SS-QoL	PC-SS-QoL
<a href="#">Ridgewell et al., (2017)</a>	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Gao et al., (2017)</a>	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Huebner, (2018)</a>	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Balogun, (2014)</a>	/	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA
<a href="#">Pontone et al., (2017)</a>	/	NA	NA	NA		NA	NA
<a href="#">Cramer et al., (2006)</a>	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">van Ginneken et al., (2018)</a>	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Mohamad, Mat Ali, et al., (2017)</a>	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Ware &amp; Galouzis, (2019)</a>	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Skar et al., (2019)</a>	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Nowotny et al., (2016)</a>	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Barańczuk, (2019)</a>	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Mohammadi et al., (2018)</a>	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Molino et al., (2018)</a>	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Ng &amp; Ahmad, (2018)</a>	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">R. J. Swickert et al., (2002)</a>	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">R. Swickert, (2012)</a>	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Tulin et al., (2018)</a>	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Lewis, (2019)</a>	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Sauter et al., (2019)</a>	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">van Ginneken et al., (2019)</a>	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Yitayih et al., (2018)</a>	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Lambert et al., (2016)</a>	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Aday, (2005)</a>	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Day et al., (2011)</a>	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA	NA
<a href="#">Sun et al., (2017)</a>	NA	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA
<a href="#">Ma et al., (2015)</a>	NA	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA
<a href="#">Karim et al., (2019)</a>	NA	NA	NA	NA	/	NA	NA
<a href="#">Clark et al., (2019)</a>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	/	NA

Notes: (/) Significant, (NA) Not applicable, (P) Personality, (PC) Prison Climate, (SS) Social Support, and (QoL) Quality of Life

Notwithstanding, none of these studies had investigated the relationship between inmates' personality, prison climate, QoL, and social support as a mediator in one complex model. Therefore, this study proposed these relationships among drug abuse inmates by applying *Maqasid Shariah* Quality of Life (MSQoL). The research might provide valuable information on different aspects of the variables as well as provide insights on the mediating role of social support in the connection between the personality-QoL and the climate-QoL. Recommendation of a framework, which explores the interaction between the personality of inmates, prison climate, social support, and quality of life experienced by inmates of drug abuse, will be proposed.

The current research suggests that aspects of personality, prison climate, and social support that would help to improve the QoL of drug abuse inmates based on the structured as follows:

- i. To determine the direct impact of personality on social support and QoL of drug-abuse inmates.
- ii. To determine the direct impact of prison climate on social support and QoL of drug abuse inmates.
- iii. To determine the direct impact of social support on the QoL of drug abuse inmates.
- iv. To determine the mediating role of social support on the relationship between inmates' personality-QoL and prison climate-QoL of drug abuse inmates.

In addition, figure 1 illustrates the proposed hypothetical model of inmates' personality, prison climate, social support, and QoL. The relationships depicted in the model is drawn from the literature reviews. This study proposed the following hypotheses:

- H1: There is a significant effect between personality and quality of life  
H2: There is a significant effect between prison climate and quality of life  
H3: There is a significant effect between personality and social support  
H4: There is a significant effect between prison climate and social support  
H5: There is a significant effect between social support and quality of life  
H6: Social support mediates the relationship between personality and quality of life  
H7: Social support mediates the relationship between prison climate and quality of life

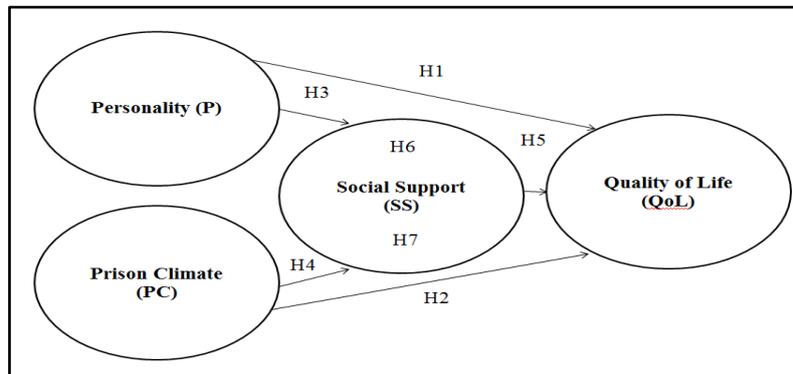


Figure 1: Model of the relationships between personality, prison climate, social support and QoL

## V. CONCLUSION

The results of the study will lead to the discovery of applicable information to resolve the research gap. Besides, the research would provide particularly meaningful practical contributions to the Malaysian Prison Department on issues relevant to the rehabilitation of QoL drug-abused inmate. In addition, the prison system can gain some insight into the implementation of effective policies and techniques to enhance QoL of drug-abuse inmates. This study introduced a research method to explore personality, prison climate, and social support and QoL relationship between drug abuse inmates. It is also is expected to show a positive relationship between personality-QoL and prison climate-QoL and the mediating role of social support. Overall, the study indicates that personality, prison climate, and social support dimensions suggested in the QoL conceptual framework will assist prison management in creating practical initiatives that will encourage drug-abuse inmates to achieve better QoL.

The study only provides a proposal for a research project on the effect of personality, prison climate, and social support on QoL in order to propose suitable strategies for prison authorities. The next step of this study is to perform Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to analyse and validate the relationship through empirical data collection.

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This research is with the permission of the Malaysian Prison

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