



Collateral Consequences of Imprisonment on Offenders' Lives. A Focus on Inmates' Relationships with their Families

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Abstract

The paper presents the findings of an exploratory study conducted in Romania with the purpose of investigating the influences that imprisonment exerts on offenders' lives. As the title suggests, the focus is placed on identifying the consequences of incarceration on prisoners' relationships with their life-partners and children. The importance of addressing this issue is indisputable as an extensive literature from abroad continues to draw attention to the strong association that exists between the quality of inmates' familial relationships during imprisonment and the men' future chances of social reintegration and desistance from crime. The study was based on a qualitative research methodology. A group of 20 male inmates held in Giurgiu Prison was interviewed using a semi-structured, in-depth interviewing technique. The paper concludes by discussing the future directions of researching this relevant topic of collateral consequences inflicted by custodial penalties on offenders' ties with their families.

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Keywords: imprisonment, collateral consequences, prisoners' family, Romania

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