

# The Alternative Sanctions in Jordan

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**Abstract:** Recently, the amended Jordanian Penal Law imposes the alternative sanctions. This paper aims to investigate the perceptions of Jordanian lawyers on the new alternative sanctions. This paper concerns a questionnaire survey that seeks to support the legal analysis findings that have answered the research question: what are the perceptions of Jordanian lawyers on the alternative sanctions? The methodology adopted allowed the researcher to make descriptive inference that can lead to determining the weaknesses of the legal infrastructure in a specified area of law.

The analysis showed that the respondents are sufficiently qualified to answer the questions based on their extensive practical experience. However, the results have shown that some aspects of the alternative sanctions favored by the participants, and some aspects deemed unsatisfactory, such as procedural difficulties. It is clear that the legislators in Jordan are facing challenges in coping with the requirements of procedural difficulties.

**Keywords:** Jordan, Lawyer, Jordanian Lawyers, Alternative Sanctions, Penal Law.

## Introduction

In order to encourage the development of criminal justice systems that meet fundamental human rights standards, the United Nations has developed and promoted standards and norms since the mid-1950s. The standards and norms, although are nonbinding, represent a collective vision of how to construct a criminal justice system. Many nations have used the standards and norms to provide a framework for and to foster in-depth assessments that may lead to the needed reforms. These standards have (1) helped to significantly promote more effective criminal justice systems and actions and (2) facilitated the development of regional and subregional strategies in several countries. In other words, the standards define the best practices in order to assist countries in adapting the standards to their specific needs, on both global and international level.

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) take into consideration alternatives to imprisonment. One of the fundamental aims of these Rules is to reduce the use of imprisonment. The specific proposals made by the Tokyo Rules for noncustodial measures have structured the basis for a reductionist criminal justice policy. The development of noncustodial measures goes together with a call on countries to rationalize criminal justice policies, taking into account human rights observance, the rehabilitation needs of the convict, and the requirements of social justice. At the same time, the Rules recognize that countries have the flexibility in deciding how to implement the Rules. As indicated by the Rules, countries should strive to ensure an adequate balance between the rights of victims, the rights of individual convict, and the concern of society for crime prevention and public safety.

Accordingly, the United Nations has released practical guides, including the Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit, which contains a tool on alternatives. Called "Alternatives to Incarceration," the tool supplements other tools for cross-cutting issues, such as "Juvenile Justice" and Handbook on Victims. Handbook on Victims deals with the issue of alternatives to imprisonment.

The past few years have witnessed a fundamental change in the regulatory and legal environment related to the Jordanian penal law. With the development of penal policies, most of the penal legislations have tended to amend their laws. Recently, Jordan introduced significant amendments to the penal law, and the decisions have had an important impact on the development of criminal policy. In October 2016, His Majesty King Abdullah set up the Royal Committee for Developing the Judiciary and Enhancing the Rule of Law in order to revamp the judiciary and draw a roadmap for judicial reform. The amendment of the penal law by the government came in as an implementation of recommendations by the Royal Committee for Developing the Judiciary and Enhancing the Rule of Law.

The aims of the amended Jordanian Penal Law 2017 is to (1) increase the severity of the penalty on some crimes and offences that are committed against the on-duty civil employee; (2) stiffen the penalty on the abuse of public money, such as the crimes against water resources and facilities; and (3) stiffen the punishment on other illegal acts, such vehicle crimes,

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firing in ceremonies, and hooliganism among others. These measures also include an alternate method of sentencing, which may contain community service instead of spending the sentencing time in prison.

The two Chambers of Jordanian Parliament then endorsed a new version of the penal law, which includes the introduction of community service and the consent of the use of electronic tracking bracelets for first-time criminals. Consequently, the Jordanian legislator took into consideration the idea of community penalties (alternative sanctions) as stated in Article 25:1: Community reform alternatives: 1. The community service is an unpaid obligation imposed on convicts to work for the community service for a period of time that is not less than (40) hours and do not exceed (200) hours, where it should be executed within a period not exceeding one year. 2. Community monitoring: The obligation imposed on convicts to be subject to social supervision for a period not less than six months and not exceeding three years. Conditional community supervision on one or more rehabilitation programs: obligation of the convicts to undergo a rehabilitation program determined by the court aimed at evaluating and improving the behavior of the convicts.

As indicated above, it is clear that the new version of the penal law introduces other corrective measures as alternatives to spending the penalty in prison. These measures are aimed at rehabilitating convicts by means of psychiatric rehabilitation and electronic tracking bracelets, as they perform community service.

Article (54: ii) regulates the process of alternative sanctions application, where it states: (1) The court, on the basis of the social status report and with the consent of the convict, and except in case of repetition, may decide one or more alternatives to community reform or all of them in case of a judgment on the suspension the execution of the original sentence sentenced in accordance with the provisions of Article (54 repeated) of this law;. (2) The Court, on the basis of the social status report, may cancel the alternatives to the community reform, and carry out the original sentence in any of the following cases: (a) Upon cancellation of the suspension the execution in accordance with the provisions of Article (54 repeated) of this Law. (B) If the convict deliberately fails to implement the alternatives to the community interest or fails to implement them without an acceptable excuse to the court.

The Jordanian Minister of Labor stated that the alternatives to noncustodial sanctions are attached to human rights, and their implementation in Jordan is a special incident that reflects the country's keenness to promote human rights. In addition, the Jordanian Minister of Justice declared that the alternative social sanctions constitute a new revolution in the penal philosophy.

## Problem Statement

As indicated above, the past few years have witnessed a fundamental change in the regulatory and legal environment that is related to the measures of the alternative sanctions in Jordan. Little is known about the perception of the Jordanian lawyers in regard to the new sanctions and for this reason, a survey is considered to be timely, not because they lack direct understanding of the regulations, but because of their appreciation of the peripheral aspects of the impact of the alternative sanctions.

As noted, the objective of this study is to identify the perceptions of Jordanian Lawyers on the alternative sanctions. To gather the perceptions of the Jordanian lawyers on the alternative sanctions, a questionnaire was designed as an instrument for a survey. Wherefore, the study queries the following: What are the perceptions of Jordanian lawyers on the alternative sanctions? The methodology adopted allowed the researcher to make descriptive inference which can lead to determining the weaknesses of the legal infrastructure in a specified area of law.

## Research Design

As suggested by previous scholars, a survey is appropriate for a study that aims at attaining individual's expectations, feelings, values, or other similar factors.<sup>1</sup> A survey can be identified as collecting data at a particular point of time where the intention is to describe the nature of the existing condition or to identify standards against which existing conditions can be compared. Also, the relationships that exist among the specific events can be derived.<sup>2</sup>

An empirical legal study is significant because it evaluates the function of the law in the world. It also supports many areas in social and legal policies.<sup>3</sup> A survey allows structured questions to be asked to respondents hence resulting in

<sup>1</sup>Anwarul Yaqin, *Legal Research and Writing*, Malaysia, lexisnexis, 2007, pp154.

<sup>2</sup>Mahdi Zahraa, *Research Methods for Law Postgraduate Overseas Students*, published in Malaysia by UNIVISION PRESS (c/o STILGLOW SDN.BHD), Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, 1998 , pp,65.

<sup>3</sup>Dame Hazel Genn, Martin Partington and Sally Wheeler, *Law in the Real World: Improving our Understanding of How Law Works*, the Nuffi Eld Foundation 28 Bedford Square London wc1b 3js, 2006, pp.1. For more information see: <http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Law%20in%20the%20Real%20World%20full%20report.pdf>, accessed 19-6-2018.

statistical summaries. Yet open-ended questions enable a researcher to obtain more insights on the subject from selected respondents.

This study attempts to investigate the perceptions of Jordanian lawyers on the alternative sanctions. The purpose is to understand the opinions of the Jordanian lawyers in regard to the problem addressed.

## The Questionnaire Survey

In this study, laws are considered as the rules imposed by the legislature that affect human behavior and improve their activities.<sup>4</sup> In other words, this study considers law as a social fact, hence the aim is to order society and consequently influence human behavior.

As clarified earlier, a survey would be appropriate for a study that intends to ascertain individual's feelings, values, expectations, or other similar factors.<sup>5</sup> The survey method can be defined as (1) the gathering of data at a particular point of time with the intention to describe the nature of an existing condition, or (2) the identifying of standards against which existing conditions can be compared, or (3) the determining of the relationships that exist between specific events.<sup>6</sup> It is recognized that surveys are often conducted as part of non-experimental design and the method is ideal for understanding the attitudes, views, beliefs, and opinions of people of various aspects of social life.<sup>7</sup>

The reason for choosing the questionnaire survey method was the flexibility it allows for data collection. A questionnaire survey also allows data to be collected by various methods, such including through the face-to-face interviews. In addition, a questionnaire survey allows a researcher to cover a large number of people as well as a wider geographical area. Carrying out the method also costs less when compared to other methods of collecting data.

A questionnaire survey is commonly used in conducting a quantitative study. According to Rowley, the aim of a questionnaire survey is to collect data from a relatively large number of people.<sup>8</sup> Also, adopting a questionnaire survey allows a researcher to achieve not only a good answer rate, but also an easier way to analyze and present the results.<sup>9</sup> A questionnaire survey also usually set to serve a precise scope, which might lead to generic participants' responses thus causing some obstacles.<sup>10</sup> However, in self-completion questionnaires, limitations can be observed in that the participants are not monitored during answering, and that their behavior is unknown.<sup>11</sup>

## Design of the Questionnaire and the Pilot Study

The design of a questionnaire is an important requirement that takes into account several aspects, for instance, a clear objective, a selection of items that are required to be translated into relevant questions, and the detail of information. Designing the questions is the vital stage, and therefore, the researcher should be aware of the language, phrasing, length, logical order, and response format of the queries. Consideration needs to be given on how the answers will be analyzed and linked to other answers.

The questionnaire used in this study was structured to query the perceptions of Jordanian lawyers on the alternative sanctions. The first and the final drafts of the questionnaire were prepared and written in Arabic, considering that English is not the first language for most of the respondents. It was thought that the Arabic version would be better understood by them.

The purpose of the pilot study was to ascertain whether the questions can be comprehended by the participants. If the responses would provide the required data, and if the time taken for answering the questionnaire is adequate, a plan was determined to conduct the pilot study, with regard to how, when, and where to collect the data for the purposes of the pre-

<sup>4</sup> Mark Van Hoecke, *Methodologies of Legal Research*, Published in the United Kingdom by Hart Publishing Ltd 16C Worcester Place, Oxford, OX1 2JW, 2011, pp.1, for more information see:

[http://www.ius.bg.ac.rs/prof/Materijali/jovmio/DS\\_primerimetodoloskihpristupa/van%20Hoecke%20%28ed.%29,%20Methodologies%20of%20legal%20research%20\\_%20which%20kind%20of%20method%20for%20what%20kind%20of%20discipline.pdf](http://www.ius.bg.ac.rs/prof/Materijali/jovmio/DS_primerimetodoloskihpristupa/van%20Hoecke%20%28ed.%29,%20Methodologies%20of%20legal%20research%20_%20which%20kind%20of%20method%20for%20what%20kind%20of%20discipline.pdf), accessed 22-4-2015.

<sup>5</sup> Anwarul Yaqin , *Ibid*, pp154.

<sup>6</sup> Mahdi Zahraa , *Ibid*, pp.65.

<sup>7</sup> McConville, Mike and Hong Chui, Wing, *Research Methods for Law (Research Methods for the Arts and the Humanities)*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, July 6- 2007.pp.59.

<sup>8</sup> Jenny Rowley, (2014) "Designing and using research questionnaires", *Management Research Review*, Vol. 37 Issue: 3, pp.308-33.

<sup>9</sup> Floyd J. Fowler, *Survey Research Methods* (4th ed.), 4th Edition, 2009

<sup>10</sup> Epstein, S., & O'Brien, E. J. (1985). The person-situation debate in historical and current perspective. *Psychological Bulletin*, Vol. 98 No.3, pp 513-537.

<sup>11</sup> Epstein, S., & O'Brien, E. J, *Ibid*.

test. The data were collected from the respondents from June 24, 2018, to June 28, 2018, and the endeavor resulted in fifty-two lawyers participating in the pilot study.

Analysis of the pilot study uncovered that some of the questions appeared to be ambiguous and weak. The variables presented were also unclear and were inorganized in various sections. Based on the feedbacks received from the pilot study, the questionnaire was redeveloped, with some of the questions deleted, and the number of questions reduced.

## Field Study Plan

As an instrument, a questionnaire is referred to as several terms, such as research questionnaire, self-completion questionnaire, and mail or postal questionnaire.<sup>12</sup> Questionnaires can be distributed to respondents by several ways, such as post, e-mail, face-to-face which is by hand (paper-based), or as an online questionnaire (computer-delivered).<sup>13</sup> In this study, the distribution of the questionnaire took into account the questions of where, how, and when to collect the data.

A structured questionnaire was designed using Google Docs web-based software. The researcher was able to obtain the phone number of Jordanian lawyers from the Jordan Bar Association directory in the website.<sup>14</sup> A short-message service that includes a link to the questionnaire was sent to 5988 Jordanian lawyers selected from a cluster sampling method.<sup>15</sup> Nonetheless, only 673 lawyers responded to the survey.

## Data Processing

The questionnaire was kept once received. After three days, data entry was performed by using a computer and the statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) software. Thereafter, data verification began.

When the raw data were collected, edited, coded, and entered into the computer, they were ready for analysis. Analysis is the process of examining, summarizing, and drawing conclusion from the information contained in the raw data<sup>16</sup> by using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The data obtained were analyzed, and findings are presented in the form of graphs and charts.<sup>17</sup>

The data were analyzed through the following process: (a) the attributes of the variables were defined including their names (for instance, the name of first item, the name of second item and name of third item, etc.); (b) the data type was defined (for instance, numeric); (c) the labels were defined (for instance, the first item, the application of alternative sanctions meet the development of contemporary criminal policy. The second item, "Alternative Sanctions," is considered as both penalties and remedies at the same time. The third item, "the application of alternative sanctions," enhances the application of complementary and dependency sanctions. etc.); (d) the values were defined (for instance, no. 1 represents *strongly disagree*; no.2 represents *disagree*; no. 3 represents *disagree a little*; no.4 represents *neutral*; no.5 represents *agree a little*; no. 6 *agree*; and no.7 represents *strongly agree*).

The second stage of the analysis was the entering of the responses to each item of the questionnaire on a "variables" page. For instance, for the first item, five people answered "strongly agree;" three people answered "neutral;" and two people answered "disagree". For the second item, six people answered "agree;" one person answered "disagree;" and three people answered "neutral." For the third item, two people answered "strongly agree;" five people answered "disagree;" and three people answered "strongly disagree."

Analysis in the third stage involved obtaining descriptive statistics in the program from the option analyze and completing the process to obtain the means of the responses. The fourth stage involved obtaining the results from the questionnaires survey. For instance, the mean for the first item is 6.5; the mean for the second item, 5.3; and the mean for the third item, 4.2. The results were analyzed to reach the goal of the questionnaires survey. Findings in the form of charts and graphs were derived from the analysis.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Jenny Rowley, Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Jenny Rowley, Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> For more information see website of Jordan Bar Association at: <http://www.jba.org.jo>, accessed 10/5/2018.

<sup>15</sup> Later will be clarified in the cluster sampling method.

<sup>16</sup> Anwarul Yaqin, Ibid, pp. 252.

<sup>17</sup> Bryman, A, Quantitative Data Analysis with Spss 12 and 13 A Guide For Social Scientists, [http://rufiismada.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/quantitative\\_data\\_12\\_13.pdf](http://rufiismada.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/quantitative_data_12_13.pdf), Accessed 14-2-2014.

<sup>18</sup> For more information see: Vijay Gupta, SPSS for Beginners, Published by VJBooks Inc, [www.uploadkon.ir/uploads/1041cb8db5c23fa327150d1662bea7.pdf](http://www.uploadkon.ir/uploads/1041cb8db5c23fa327150d1662bea7.pdf), (1999), Accessed 13-4-2014. And see: Imad Nashwan, Practical Guide to Rapporteur Applied Statistics, Al-Quds Open University, <http://www.qou.edu/portal/alMouqarrat/pdfFiles/Statistics.pdf>, (2005) Accessed 13-4-2014.

## Description of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire consists of six sections, thirty items in total, in addition to the welcoming section. The welcoming section contains letter of appreciation to participants, title of the study, the questionnaire objective, and a brief explanation about the questionnaire. The first section (demographic profile of respondents) contains eight items, five of which are mandatory and three of which are provided with optional answers. The aim of this section is to identify the sort of samples. Hence, the included items seek to establish a portrait of sample type, experience, level of education, and professional qualifications. The respondents were given freedom to provide or not provide information that would identify themselves (for instance, lawyer's name, email address, and phone number).

The second section (Advantages of Alternative Sanctions) consists of six items. This section seeks to ascertain the respondents' attitudes towards the advantages of alternative sanctions. The third section (Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts) contains five items. The aim is to query the respondents' attitudes towards the benefits of alternative penalties to convicts.

The fourth section (Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts) contains three items. The items seek to ascertain the respondents' attitudes towards the benefits of alternative sanctions on the families of convicts.

The fifth section (Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State) contains four items. The items in this section seek to ascertain the respondents' attitudes towards the benefits of alternative sanctions on the state. The sixth section (Procedural Difficulties) consists of four items. The items in this section to ascertain the respondents' attitudes towards the procedural difficulties accompanying the application of alternative sanctions.

The response for each item in the questionnaire was measured with a seven-point<sup>19</sup> Likert scale<sup>20</sup> consisting of *strongly disagree*, *disagree*, *disagree a little*, *neutral*, *agree a little*, *agree*, and *strongly agree*.

## Data Analysis Techniques

Using SPSS, the responses were analyzed by means of the following statistical methods: The Cronbach Alpha test was used to measure the internal consistency of questionnaire statement; mean was used to measure the central tendency scales; standard deviation was used to measure the dispersion of any set of observations; and bivariate correlation was used to determine if two variables are linearly related to each other.

## Sample Population

In accordance with the Jordanian Bar Association Law 1972, practicing the profession of law in Jordan is an exclusive right for lawyers registered in the Bar Association.<sup>21</sup> Lawyers are considered as helpers in applying the law, and they have taken such a profession to provide judicial and legal assistance to those who request it for an amount of money in return.<sup>22</sup> There are three types of lawyers in Jordan. The first type is the practicing lawyers who hold a degree in law and fulfill the requirements of practicing the profession of lawyer. The second type is the nonpracticing lawyers who no longer meet the requirements of the profession as lawyers, and the third type is the under-training lawyers who have yet to obtain their license.<sup>23</sup> The duration of training for the profession of lawyer shall be two years for a holder of bachelor degree in law.<sup>24</sup> The trainee lawyer may request to transfer his or her name from the register of the trainees to the practicing lawyers register after completion of the terms and conditions of training in the profession of lawyer.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>19</sup> According to Dane Bertram, "Variations: Most commonly seen as a 5-point scale ranging from "Strongly Disagree" on one end to "Strongly Agree" on the other with "Neither Agree nor Disagree" in the middle; however, some practitioners advocate the use of 7 and 9-point scales which add additional granularity". For more information see:

<http://poincare.matf.bg.ac.rs/~kristina/topic-dane-likert.pdf>, accessed 28/4/2018.

<sup>20</sup> According to Dane Bertram, Likert scales defined as "a psychometric response scale primarily used in questionnaires to obtain participant's preferences or degree of agreement with a statement or set of statements. Likert scales is a noncomparative scaling technique and is unidimensional (it only measures a single trait) in nature. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with a given statement by way of an ordinal scale", Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> According to article 38 from Jordanian Bar Association Law 1972

<sup>22</sup> According to article 6 from Jordanian Bar Association Law 1972

<sup>23</sup> According to article 12 and 14 from Jordanian Bar Association Law 1972

<sup>24</sup> According to article 27 from Jordanian Bar Association Law 1972

<sup>25</sup> According to article 35 from Jordanian Bar Association Law 1972

However, the population for this study is widely dispersed hence the difficulty in determining its size. Nevertheless, the researcher recognized that the population is sizable, and therefore, adopted a certain method to represent the population.

A cluster sampling method is ideal when it is impossible or impractical to create a sampling frame of a target population or when the target population is geographically dispersed. The cluster sampling method is also the least expensive method in large-scale studies. As the name suggests, the cluster sampling method is a procedure of probability sampling in which the elements of a population are randomly selected in naturally occurring groupings “clusters.” A cluster is an intact or aggregate grouping of population elements. Element sampling is the selection of population elements individually, or in other words, one at a time.<sup>26</sup>

The idea of cluster sampling involves selecting a large group of “first cluster,” then a smaller unit of “second cluster” selected from the first cluster, and the “third cluster” from the second cluster, and so forth, until the final sampling unit is reached.

In this study, the clusters or groups were selected by using a simple random sampling method in cluster sampling.<sup>27</sup> In random sampling, the usual procedure is to assign a number to each person or sampling unit in the sampling frame. When this is accomplished, the researcher can pick numbers at random without following any pattern.<sup>28</sup>

To deal with the sample, the cluster sampling method was adopted. Three clusters of three sampling stages were required to be applied with the cluster sampling method.

The first stage, the “first cluster,” was to determine the minimum age of participants, and 25 years was selected as the minimum age of participant.

The second stage, “the second cluster,” was to determine the days of when to communicate with the sample. “Days” here refers to the days when the link of the questionnaire was sent to the sample. This study adopted a simple random sampling method and fourteen days were selected as the duration for the sampling. The third stage, the third cluster, was to determine the time of sending the link of the questionnaire per day to the sample within a period of ten days. This study used a simple random sampling method in which eight hours per day was selected for sending a link to the questionnaire to the respondents.

In regard to the cluster sampling method, fourteen days was selected as the number of days. For each day, eight hours was selected as the number of days for sending the link of the questionnaire to the respondents. Through the cluster sampling method, the researcher was able to send the link of the questionnaire to 5988 lawyers. However, completed questionnaires were received only from 673 of the lawyers. Table (1) shows the details and results of the random sampling method.

**Table 1:** Findings from the Analysis.

Day of Sending Questionnaire	Date of Sending Questionnaire	Time	Total of Questionnaires Sent	Total Number of Responses
First day	30/7/2018	8 hours from 11 am to 7 pm	431	25
Second day	31/7/2018		426	43
Third day	1/8/2018		425	61
Fourth day	2/8/2018		435	110
Fifth day	3/8/2018		428	125
Sixth day	4/8/2018		427	23
Seventh day	6/8/2018		432	29
Eighth day	7/8/2018		434	27
Ninth day	8/8/2018		433	39
Tenth day	9/8/2018		429	23
Eleventh day	10/8/2018		421	66
Twelveth day	11/8/2018		420	43
Thirteenth day	12/8/2018		424	34
Fourteenth day	13/8/2018		423	25
<b>Total</b>			<b>5988</b>	<b>673</b>

<sup>26</sup> Johnnie Daniel, Sampling Essentials: Practical Guidelines for Making Sampling Choices, SAGE Publications, 4 May 2011, pp.151.

<sup>27</sup> Anwarul Yaqin, Ibid, pp.231.

<sup>28</sup> Anwarul Yaqin, Ibid, pp.228.

## Describing the Characteristics of the Study Sample

The study sample consisted of six-hundred-and-seventy-three lawyers. Table (2) shows the distribution of the sample by personal and functional variables.

**Table 2:** Distribution of the Sample by Personal and Functional Variables.

<b>First Section: Demographic Variables</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Practicing Lawyer	556	82.6
Non Practicing Lawyer	59	8.8
Under Training Lawyer	58	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	499	74.1
Female	174	25.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
25 – 34	186	27.6
35 – 44	275	40.9
45 – 54	139	20.7
Above 54	73	10.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Experience</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1-5 Years	168	25
6-10 Years	140	20.8
11-15 Years	153	22.7
Above 15 years	212	31.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Degree</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Bachelor or Equivalent	515	76.5
Master	108	16
PhD	50	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>100</b>

Table (2) shows that most of the respondents are practicing lawyers (82.6%). Also, majority of the respondents aged between thirty-five and forty-four (40.9%), and only 10.8% of the respondents are above fifty-four years of age. Most of the respondents are male (74.1%) and hold a bachelor degree (76.5%). They mostly have above fifteen years of related experience (31.5%).

## Reliability Analysis

The internal consistency reliability of each dimension was assessed by Cronbach's Alpha. The highest Cronbach's alpha value reached is 0.9376 for the section "Advantages of Alternative Sanctions." The lowest alpha value (0.8951) was

obtained for the section “Procedural Difficulties.” The average alpha value of “Study Tool” was 0.91748, indicating the acceptance of reliability. Table (3) shows the result of the reliability test.

**Table 3:** Result of Reliability Analysis (Cronbach’s Alpha) .

No	Section	Alpha	Item No
1	Advantages of Alternative Sanctions	0.9376	6
2	Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts	0.9288	5
3	Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts	0.9252	3
4	Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State	0.9007	4
5	Procedural Difficulties	0.8951	4

### Appropriate Test Data of the Study

The problem of multilink is one of the issues facing the statistical estimation of the regression coefficients. Therefore, multilink has become difficult to determine the effects of discrete variables, and to assess the problem multilink been relying on test ((VIF) Variance Inflation Factor). Result of the test is shown in Table 4.5.

**Table 4:** Result of (VIF) of Independent Variables.

Independent Variable	Tolerance	VIF
Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions	0.363	3.920
Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts	0.329	3.639
Fourth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts	0.295	3.906
Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State	0.413	3.179
Sixth section: Procedural Difficulties	0.448	2.798

Table (4) shows that for all the independent variables, the values of VIF are less than 10, and the values of Tolerance are more than 0.05. This result indicates the lack of correlation between the multi-independent variables and the acceptance of the variation in the level of each variable of the independent variables of the study.

### Normal Distribution of Variables of the Study

A Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z test was applied to the dependent and independent variables to reveal normality and curve normality. The z value for each variable was found to be less than the criteria value (1.96), indicating a normality distribution for the variables, as shown in Table (5).

**Table 5:** Normal Distribution of Variables of Study.

Variables	Positive trend	Negative trend	Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z	Significant
Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions	0.118683	-0.17869	4.635745	0.000
Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts	0.106047	-0.20724	5.37635	0.000
Fourth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts	0.119	-0.233	6.046	0.000
Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative	0.108	-0.199	5.154	0.000



Sanctions on the State				
Sixth section: Procedural Difficulties	0.093335	-0.17495	4.53864	0.000
<b>Total study tool</b>	<b>0.122</b>	<b>-0.22</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>0.000</b>

## Data Analysis and Results

Means, frequency, and percentage of the responses for each item in the questionnaire were calculated to uncover the Jordanian lawyers' perceptions towards the alternative sanctions. The following table (6) reports the findings.

**Table 6:** Means, Frequency, and Percentage of Responses for Items in Questionnaire.

<b>Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions:</b>		
<b>Item No. (1) The application of alternative sanctions meets the development of contemporary criminal policy.</b>		
<b>Mean: 5.0297 of 7</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Disagree	22	3.3
Disagree	51	7.6
Disagree a Little	63	9.4
Neutral	50	7.4
Agree a Little	139	20.7
Agree	259	38.5
Strongly Agree	89	13.2
<b>Item No. (2) Alternative sanctions are considered as both penalties and remedies at the same time.</b>		
<b>Mean: 5.0149 of 7</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Disagree	18	2.7
Disagree	48	7.1
Disagree a Little	50	7.4
Neutral	74	11
Agree a Little	151	22.4
Agree	264	39.2
Strongly Agree	68	10.1
<b>Item No. (3) The application of alternative sanctions enhances the application of complementary and dependency sanctions.</b>		
<b>Mean: 4.9896 of 7</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Disagree	20	3
Disagree	49	7.3
Disagree a Little	49	7.3
Neutral	84	12.5
Agree a Little	140	20.8
Agree	260	38.6
Strongly Agree	71	10.5
<b>Item No. (4) The application of alternative sanctions contributes to addressing criminality causes.</b>		
<b>Mean: 4.7429 of 7</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Disagree	44	6.5
Disagree	55	8.2
Disagree a Little	62	9.2
Neutral	71	10.5
Agree a Little	148	22
Agree	223	33.1
Strongly Agree	70	10.4
<b>Item No. (5) The application of alternative sanctions enhances the idea of reform and rehabilitation of convicts.</b>		
<b>Mean: 4.9525 of 7</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Disagree	18	2.7

Disagree	62	9.2
Disagree a Little	47	7
Neutral	87	12.9
Agree a Little	128	19
Agree	255	37.9
Strongly Agree	76	11.3

**Item No. (6) Alternative sanctions have direct and tangible positive effects on society.**

Mean: 5.159 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	16	2.4
Disagree	43	6.4
Disagree a Little	47	7
Neutral	72	10.7
Agree a Little	136	20.2
Agree	252	37.4
Strongly Agree	107	15.9

**Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts:**

**Item No. (1) Alternative sanctions contribute to a better personal awareness than of custodial sanctions of those convicts.**

Mean: 4.89 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	29	4.3
Disagree	40	5.9
Disagree a Little	70	10.4
Neutral	75	11.1
Agree a Little	160	23.8
Agree	221	32.8
Strongly Agree	78	11.6

**Item No. (2) Alternative sanctions reintegrate convicts into society better than custodial sanctions.**

Mean: 5.1278 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	17	2.5
Disagree	57	8.5
Disagree a Little	35	5.2
Neutral	50	7.4
Agree a Little	155	23
Agree	273	40.6
Strongly Agree	86	12.8

**Item No. (3) The application of alternative sanctions prevents the convicts from dealing with those deviant presiners in prison.**

Mean: 5.4948 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	12	1.8
Disagree	38	5.6
Disagree a Little	29	4.3
Neutral	42	6.2
Agree a Little	117	17.4
Agree	275	40.9
Strongly Agree	160	23.8

**Item No. (4). The application of alternative sanctions would improve convicts' behavior better than custodial sanctions.**

Mean: 4.893 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	24	3.6
Disagree	50	7.4
Disagree a Little	52	7.7
Neutral	93	13.8
Agree a Little	158	23.5
Agree	221	32.8
Strongly Agree	75	11.1

**Item No. (5). The application of alternative sanctions reduces the personal negative effects of custodial sanctions on convicts.**

Mean: 5.2303 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	19	2.8
Disagree	34	5.1
Disagree a Little	41	6.1
Neutral	66	9.8
Agree a Little	123	18.3
Agree	299	44.4
Strongly Agree	91	13.5

**Fourth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts:**

**Item No. (1). The application of alternative sanctions reduces the negative social effects of custodial sanctions on the families of convicts.**

Mean: 5.4458 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	14	2.1
Disagree	25	3.7
Disagree a Little	35	5.2
Neutral	52	7.7
Agree a Little	126	18.7
Agree	289	42.9
Strongly Agree	132	19.6

**Item No. (2) The application of alternative sanctions reduces the negative economic effects of the custodial sanctions on the families of convicts.**

Mean: 5.373 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	12	1.8
Disagree	36	5.3
Disagree a Little	39	5.8
Neutral	53	7.9
Agree a Little	120	17.8
Agree	288	42.8
Strongly Agree	125	18.6

**Item No. (3) The application of alternative sanctions would maintain family connections of the convicts better rather than the custodial sanctions.**

Mean: 5.4903 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	12	1.8
Disagree	31	4.6
Disagree a Little	29	4.3
Neutral	52	7.7
Agree a Little	109	16.2
Agree	299	44.4
Strongly Agree	141	21

**Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State:**

**Item No. (1) The application of alternative sanctions addresses the problems of overcrowding in prisons.**

Mean: 5.5097 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	13	1.9
Disagree	26	3.9
Disagree a Little	26	3.9
Neutral	56	8.3
Agree a Little	127	18.9
Agree	269	40
Strongly Agree	156	23.2

**Item No. (2) The application of alternative sanctions reduces the state's expenditure on prisons.**

Mean: 5.4918 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	18	2.7

Disagree	29	4.3
Disagree a Little	28	4.2
Neutral	53	7.9
Agree a Little	101	15
Agree	289	42.9
Strongly Agree	155	23

**Item No. (3) The application of alternative sanctions facilitates the application of justice by giving broader powers to the judiciary to choose the appropriate penalty for each crime and criminal.**

Mean: 5.0282 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	17	2.5
Disagree	44	6.5
Disagree a Little	51	7.6
Neutral	90	13.4
Agree a Little	142	21.1
Agree	247	36.7
Strongly Agree	82	12.2

**Item No. (4) The application of alternative sanctions turns the criminal citizen into a productive citizen.**

Mean: 4.8945 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	19	2.8
Disagree	46	6.8
Disagree a Little	63	9.4
Neutral	93	13.8
Agree a Little	166	24.7
Agree	210	31.2
Strongly Agree	76	11.3

**Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties:**

**Item No. (1) One of the obstacles of the application of alternative sanctions is the difficulty of finding competent authorities that supervise the daily follow-up of the convict's execution of the alternative sanction.**

Mean: 5.1991 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	20	3
Disagree	41	6.1
Disagree a Little	35	5.2
Neutral	70	10.4
Agree a Little	142	21.1
Agree	253	37.6
Strongly Agree	112	16.6

**Item No. (2) One of the obstacles of the application of alternative sanctions is the difficulty to satisfy the rights holders or civil rights claimants and those affected in general.**

Mean: 5.2734 of 7	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	10	1.5
Disagree	56	8.3
Disagree a Little	42	6.2
Neutral	60	8.9
Agree a Little	116	17.2
Agree	242	36
Strongly Agree	147	21.8

**Item No. (3) -One of the obstacles to the application of alternative sanctions is the difficulty of persuading the institutions to accept the convicts in case if the judgment is to work for the public utility.**

Mean: 5.1144	Frequency	Percent (%)
Strongly Disagree	13	1.9
Disagree	42	6.2
Disagree a Little	47	7
Neutral	79	11.7
Agree a Little	150	22.3

Agree	256	38
Strongly Agree	86	12.8
<b>Item No. (4) One of the obstacles to the application of alternative sanctions is the lack of internal regulations and instructions that organize this process.</b>		
<b>Mean: 5.3001</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly Disagree	15	2.2
Disagree	34	5.1
Disagree a Little	37	5.5
Neutral	76	11.3
Agree a Little	112	16.6
Agree	284	42.2
Strongly Agree	115	17.1

Table (6) shows that the highest mean was recorded for Item No. (1). The application of alternative sanctions addresses the problems of overcrowding in prisons in the fifth section, "Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State" (mean 5.5097 7). The lowest mean was recorded for Item No. (4). The application of alternative sanctions contributes in addressing the criminality causes in the second section, "Advantages of Alternative Sanctions" (mean 4.7429). The finding also shows that the highest frequency was recorded for the "agree" response for Item No. (3). The application of alternative sanctions would better maintain the family connections of the convicts compared to the custodial sanctions as indicated in the fourth section, "Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts" (299 responses, 44.4%). The least number of respondents indicated that they strongly disagreed to Item No. (2). One of the obstacles of the application of alternative sanctions is the difficulty to satisfy the rights holders or civil rights claimants and those affected in general, as indicated in the sixth section, "Procedural Difficulties" (10 frequency, 1.5%).

## Discussion

Combating and reducing a criminal phenomenon is the ultimate aim of societies, and this aim can be achieved by enacting and amending criminal laws on an ongoing basis. Nevertheless, because the penalty of imprisonment is outdated, it needs to be reconsidered by the legislator, and the idea of alternative sanctions can be used to achieve the aims of punishment. Given these points, the Jordanian legislator intended to amend the penal law in a manner consistent with the development witnessed by contemporary criminal policy. In line with the needs of the Jordanian society, new penalties were created rather, and penalties can be relied upon to combat criminality and achieve the objectives of punishment. It can be concluded from the finding that the Jordanian lawyers agreed that the application of alternative sanctions simulates the development of contemporary criminal policy. This item received a mean of 5.029, with 20.7% of the respondents agreed a little, 38.5% agreed, and 13.2% strongly agreed to the statement.<sup>29</sup>

It can also be considered that the most important reason for the application of alternative sanctions is that it simulates the development of contemporary criminal policy where alternative sanctions are considered as both penalties and remedies. These sanctions can be used to achieve the aim of custodial sanctions while at the same time correcting a convict's behavior. In the survey, the respondents were asked whether alternative sanctions are considered as penalties and remedies at the same time,<sup>30</sup> to which 22.4% of the respondents agreed a little, 39.2% agreed, and 10.1% strongly agreed (mean 5.0149).<sup>31</sup>

In addition, the application of alternative sanctions contributes in addressing the criminality causes<sup>32</sup> because such a measure can enhance the idea of reform and rehabilitation of convicts.<sup>33</sup> The application of alternative sanctions also contribute to a better personal awareness of those convicts,<sup>34</sup> reintegrate convicts into society,<sup>35</sup> prevent the convicts from

<sup>29</sup> Results of Item No. (1) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions.

<sup>30</sup> Item No. (2) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions.

<sup>31</sup> Results of Item No. (2) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions.

<sup>32</sup> Item No. (4) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions

<sup>33</sup> Item No. (5) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions

<sup>34</sup> Item No. (1) in Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts.

<sup>35</sup> Item No. (2) in Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts.

dealing with those deviant prisoners in prison,<sup>36</sup> improve the behavior of the convicts better than the custodial sanctions,<sup>37</sup> and reduce the personal negative effects of the custodial sanctions on convicts.<sup>38</sup>

As concluded from the findings, the respondents agreed that the application of alternative sanctions contributes in addressing the criminality causes (22% agreed a little, 33.1% agreed, and 10.4% strongly agreed) (mean 4.7429).<sup>39</sup> Furthermore, when they were queried whether they believe that the alternative sanctions contribute to a better personal awareness than the custodial sanctions of those convicts, they generally agreed (23.8% agreed a little, 32.8% agreed, and 11.6% strongly agreed) (mean 4.89).<sup>40</sup> Their responses to the second item of the third section confirm their agreement to the idea that alternative sanctions reintegrate convicts into society better than custodial sanctions (23% agree a little, 40.6% agreed, and 12.8% strongly agreed) (mean 5.1278).<sup>41</sup> In addition, 82.1% of the respondents confirmed that the application of alternative sanctions can prevent convicts from coming across those deviant prisoners in prison (17.4% agreed a little, 40.9% agreed, and 23.8% strongly agreed) (mean of 5.4948).<sup>42</sup>

On the other hand, alternative sanctions are considered as sanctions that enhance the application of complementary and dependency sanctions because the methodology employs a new kind of sanction that can be relied upon to combat crimes. This notion is indicated in the respondents' agreement<sup>43</sup> (20.8% of the respondents agreed a little, 38.6% agreed, and 10.5% strongly agreed) (mean 4.9896).<sup>44</sup> The existence of a new type of sanctions would facilitate the application of justice by giving broader powers to the judiciary to choose the appropriate penalty for each crime and criminal, so when the respondents were queried whether they believe facilitates the application of justice by giving broader powers to the judiciary to choose the appropriate penalty for each crime and criminal,<sup>45</sup> most of them agreed (471 out of 673 respondents) (21.1% of the respondents agreed a little, 36.7% agreed, and 12.2% strongly agreed) (mean 5.0282).<sup>46</sup>

However, 67.4% of the respondents confirmed that the alternative sanctions would improve the convicts' behavior better than those custodial sanctions (23.5% agreed a little, 32.8% agreed, and 11.1% strongly agreed) (mean 4.893).<sup>47</sup> Also noted is that 76.2% of the respondents agreed on that the application of alternative sanctions reduces the personal negative effects of the custodial sanctions on convicts (18.3% agreed a little, 44.4% agreed, and 13.5% strongly agreed) (mean 5.2303).<sup>48</sup>

It is well known that custodial sanctions may have a social and economic negative impact on the families of the convicts.<sup>49</sup> In some cases, the absence of a member of the family—who is sentenced to custodial sanction—may lead to the disintegration of the family,<sup>50</sup> particularly if the convicted person is the breadwinner of that family. Accordingly, when the respondents were asked whether the application of alternative sanctions would reduce the negative social effects of the custodial sanctions on the families of convicts, most of them agreed (81.2%) (18.7% agreed a little, 42.9% agreed, and 19.6% strongly agreed) (mean 5.4458).<sup>51</sup> The respondents confirmed that the application of alternative sanctions would reduce the negative economic effects of the custodial sanctions on the families of convicts (79.2% agreement) (17.8% of the respondents agreed a little, 42.8% agreed, and 18.6% strongly agreed) (mean 5.373).<sup>52</sup> Also noted is that 549 out of 673 of the respondents were in favor of the idea that the application of alternative sanctions would maintain family connections of the convicts better rather than the custodial sanctions would (16.2% of the respondents agreed a little, 44.4% agreed, and 21.4% strongly agreed) (mean 5.4903).<sup>53</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Item No. (3) in Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts.

<sup>37</sup> Item No. (4) in Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts.

<sup>38</sup> Item No. (5) in Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts.

<sup>39</sup> Results of Item No. (4) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions.

<sup>40</sup> Results of Item No. (1) in Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts.

<sup>41</sup> Results of Item No. (2) in Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts.

<sup>42</sup> Results of Item No. (3) in Third Section: Benefits of Alternative Penalties to Convicts.

<sup>43</sup> Item No. (3) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions

<sup>44</sup> Results of Item No. (3) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions

<sup>45</sup> Item No. (3) in Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State

<sup>46</sup> Results of Item No(3) in Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State

<sup>47</sup> Results of Item No. (4) in Third Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions

<sup>48</sup> Results of Item No. (5) in Third Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions

<sup>49</sup> Items No. (1&2) in Fourth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts

<sup>50</sup> Item No. (3) in Fourth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts

<sup>51</sup> Results of Item No. (1) in Fourth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts.

<sup>52</sup> Results of Item No. (2) in Fourth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts.

<sup>53</sup> Results of Item No. (3) in Fourth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the Families of Convicts

Moreover, the respondents are convinced that the application of alternative sanctions would turn criminal citizens into productive citizens.<sup>54</sup> As indicated from the findings, 452 of 673 respondents (67.2%) supported this idea.<sup>55</sup> The respondents clearly believed that the alternative sanctions would have positive and tangible effects on the society<sup>56</sup> (73.5%) (37.4% agreed a little, and 15.9% agreed) (mean 5.159).<sup>57</sup>

It is clear that the importance of alternative sanctions extends beyond reform and rehabilitation to protect the society from crime by preventing convicts from dealing with deviant prisoners in prison and keeping them in touch with their families. Furthermore, these sanctions will implement justice and the sovereignty of law by deterring the convicts from re-committing the crime and achieving social stability, which will reduce the ratio of crimes. Also, the application of the sanctions would address the problems of overcrowding in prisons<sup>58</sup> and consequently reduces the state's expenditure on prisons.<sup>59</sup> When the respondents were asked whether they believe that the application of alternative sanctions addressed the problems of overcrowding in prisons, majority of the respondents agreed (82.1%) (18.9% of the respondents agreed a little, 40% agreed, and 23.2% strongly agreed) (mean 5.5097).<sup>60</sup> That result was confirmed as 11.2 percent of the respondents rejected the idea when asked whether they believe that the application of alternative sanctions reduces the state's expenditure on prisons. However, 80.9% of the respondents agreed to this item (mean 5.4918).<sup>61</sup>

Although alternative sanctions have a number of advantages and benefits, a set of constraints were noted to have limited their application. One of the obstacles to applying alternative sanctions is the lack of internal regulations and instructions that organize this process.<sup>62</sup> When the respondents were asked whether they support the idea of the lack of internal regulations and instructions that organize this process the application of alternative sanctions, they were very supportive (75.9% of the respondents agreed a little; 284 agreed; and 115 strongly agreed) (mean of 5,3001).<sup>63</sup>

With the existence of this problem, other problems followed. The application of alternative sanctions is met with the difficulty of finding competent authorities that can supervise the daily follow-up of the convict's execution of the alternative sanction.<sup>64</sup> This idea was supported by 507 of the respondents (142 agreed a little; 253 agreed; and 112 strongly agreed). The agreement thus constituted 75.3% (mean of 5.1991).<sup>65</sup> Moreover, one of the obstacles to the application of alternative sanctions is the difficulty of persuading the institutions to accept the convicts in case if the judgment is to work for the public utility.<sup>66</sup> As indicated from the findings, 73.1% of the respondents are convinced that this problem exists (22.3% agreed a little; 38.0% agreed; and 12.8% strongly agreed) (mean 5.1144).<sup>67</sup>

Other problems have been faced in regard to the application of alternative sanctions. As noted by the respondents, the obstacle to the application of alternative sanctions is the difficulty to satisfy the rights holders or civil rights claimants and those affected in general.<sup>68</sup> It is necessary to find a specific way or a good technique that suits the convict and at the same time suits those rights holders and those who are affected. When the respondents were asked whether they are convinced of the existence of such problem, 505 supported this item (75%) (17.2% agreed a little; 36% agreed; and 21.8% strongly agreed) (mean 5.2734).<sup>69</sup>

## Recommendations

This study has shown the adopted methods of research and the type of data required to test the research questions. It has also illustrated the procedure followed in the distribution of the questionnaire and the main research tools used for data collection. Data were collected from 673 participants for data analysis purposes. The study revealed the perceptions of the Jordanian lawyers towards alternative sanctions. However, the study focused on their perceptions towards (1) the advantages

<sup>54</sup> Item No. (4) in Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State.

<sup>55</sup> Results of Item No. (4) in Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State.

<sup>56</sup> Item No. (6) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions.

<sup>57</sup> Results of Item No. (6) in Second Section: Advantages of Alternative Sanctions

<sup>58</sup> Item No. (1) in Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State

<sup>59</sup> Item No. (2) in Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State

<sup>60</sup> Results of Item No. (1) in Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State

<sup>61</sup> Results of Item No. (2) in Fifth Section: Benefits of Alternative Sanctions on the State

<sup>62</sup> Item No. (4) in Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties

<sup>63</sup> Results of Item No. (4) in Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties

<sup>64</sup> Item No. (1) in Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties

<sup>65</sup> Results of Item No. (1) in Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties

<sup>66</sup> Item No. (3) in Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties

<sup>67</sup> Results of Item No. (3) in Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties

<sup>68</sup> Item No. (2) in Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties

<sup>69</sup> Results of Item No. (2) in Sixth Section: Procedural Difficulties

of alternative sanctions; (2) the benefits of alternative sanctions to convicts and the families of convicts; and (3) the state and procedural difficulties.

The respondents could be categorized as having positive attitudes towards the alternative sanctions. However, the results show that there are aspects of alternative sanctions favored by the participants, while there are aspects that considered unsatisfactory, such as procedural difficulties. It is clear that the legislators in Jordan are facing challenges with the requirements of procedural difficulties.

Despite the advantages and benefits of the alternative sanctions, it is critical for Jordan to constitute a flexible, workable, and effective framework to ensure an effective implementation of the laws. Also, it is critical for the Jordanian legislator to understand the difficulty of finding competent authorities that can supervise the daily follow-up of the convict's execution of the alternative sanction, the difficulty to satisfy the rights holders or civil rights claimants and those affected in general, the difficulty of persuading the institutions to accept the convicts in case if the judgment is to work for the public utility, and the lack of internal regulations and instructions that organize this process. In fact, at this stage, it is not clear whether Jordanian legislators are able to cope with the requirements imposed by the alternative sanctions.

As noted, the objective of this study is to identify the perceptions of Jordanian Lawyers on the alternative sanctions. Therefore, it would be timely for another study to examine how to overcome the obstacles of alternative sanctions before more complex laws are passed. In addition, it is vital that the laws do not create any significant compliance problems in application.

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