

THE IMPACT OF INCARCERATION IN PSYCHOLOGY OF THE MINOR IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

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Abstract

Imprisonment is well known as a stressful life event and entry to prison in particular is highly stressful. Adjustment to institutional life traditionally has been operationalized in the literature by two competing theoretical models: importation and deprivation. These two theories have been used most often to explain adult inmates' adjustment - but have increasingly been applied to juveniles. Official statistics in Albania and in the world show that the number of juveniles who commit serious crimes: murder, theft, and even engage in drug trafficking has increased. The study is qualitative and was conducted at the premises of the Institute of Minors Kavaja. The group of minors investigated is of age 14-18 years. This article aims to examine some factors that influenced psychology of the minor in conflict with law. The specific question was: Are psychological characteristic, personal experiences and histories or institutional characteristic, which influenced psychological wellbeing of the minor in stressful situations in prison? The analysis indicates that incarcerated juvenile delinquent had higher levels of both anxiety and depression, holding other individual and institutional related factors constant. This study's results provide policy makers and correctional administrators with empirical research indicating that many elements should be assessed when treating issues related to psychological adjustment within correctional environment. This article has given some recommendations how to get better some elements that influenced in psychology, across efficient involvement of educational staff, the police and other social agents who cooperate with the institution or created specific programs for this target.

Keywords: *adaption, importation and deprivation models, incarceration, psychology of the minor*