

METHODOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL APPROACH THROUGH THE STUDY "ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS IN ALBANIA"

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Abstract

Children with incarcerated parents are often called the “hidden victims of the justice system”. It is less known what happens with their lives after this situation. The assessment realized from the author reflects the reality of these children in Albania. It should be emphasized that this is the first study of its kind within our reality research. Challenges and difficulties were numerous. But this article will discuss only ethical challenges in terms of methodological issues. The aim of this article is to present the methodologies and ethics approach that was used in the study "Assessment of the needs of children with incarcerated parents in Albania". In this study was used qualitative method through semi-structured interviews with the help of cards with children's rights of incarcerated parents. The article presents some important ethical elements that should be considered during the interviewing of children in general and those with incarcerated parents in particular. The uniqueness of the paper consists in the fact that these ethical principles have considered Albanian context on the terms of cultural and social components. Verbal and nonverbal communications in this context represent an interesting and original mosaic based in Albanian context. The children prefer to discuss more about the past and the future of their relationship with their parents than focusing on current issues that they face as a result of parental sentence. The way that their know the truth about their parent arrest, the feelings about the visits in the correctional institute, the fear, angry and anxiety that they feel about their situation are some of the issues that are explored in this study. This paper exploring the ethical and methodological aspect will contribute to the development of this field by other social work professionals.

Keywords: *children, parents, ethical issues, social science, social work*