Juvenile Delinquency Detention Centers

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**Introduction**

Recently, academic and public interest in mental health concentrated on antisocial behaviour among adolescent and children. The height of the juvenile delinquency issue has provoked responses from the media, government, and other concerned parties regarding rehabilitation improvement and support for juvenile offenders. Researchers have also investigated various children's needs, particularly those that find themselves on the wrong side of the law. Juvenile offenders have been considered a group suffering from severe mental disorders than the typical juvenile population. This indicates that most juvenile delinquency centres target the rehabilitation approach for the offenders to learn from their mistakes through receiving self-awareness treatment, among other forms of rehabilitative treatment. Thus, meeting juvenile offender's needs indicate ethical and practical challenges on management and treatment of the offenders.

**History of Juvenile Delinquency Detention Centers**

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention office was founded by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 1974 act under the amended public law, 93-415. The office became established because the United States had witnessed an increase in crime rates among young people categorized as juveniles. The anxiety by law enforcement officers related to the crime increase resulted in changes in the juvenile justice system. The system concentrated on supporting tribal jurisdictions, local communities and states to help implement suitable intervention and prevention programs to protect the public through rehabilitation and treatment according to individual's needs (Marble, 2009). Through analysis and strategic planning, such implementations focused on mitigating juvenile-related crimes through juvenile delinquency detention centers across the United States and worldwide.

**Development of Delinquency Centers**

Introducing juvenile delinquency centers has brought changes in crime rates since the centers became established in different countries. Despite the UK experiencing high juvenile cases from the 1980s to the 1990s, figures from the England Youth Justice Board indicate a 67% decrease in teenagers and children enrolled in the juvenile justice system (Young et al., 2017). This means that the UK experienced a significant reduction in juvenile offenders during the early 1990s. Additionally, Australia also documented a 4% decrease in juvenile offenders (Young et al., 2017). Juvenile delinquency centers continue to implement more strategies and activities to increase and notice changes in teenagers and children's behaviours over time. For instance, the delinquency center in the United States includes conducting and developing quantitative research to analyze the delinquency issue to establish an effective response within the juvenile justice system (cite OJJPD). Another significant development that has changed the justice system involves the various projects that discuss correlation and causes of delinquency and how to prevent or treat delinquency. Ultimately, delinquency centers continue to change according to the behavioural changes of juvenile offenders.

**Delinquency Centers now and in Future**

Although some studies reveal that delinquency centers have been effective in rehabilitating juveniles, detaining them may have adverse effects on their employment and education, including their psychological well-being. It is, therefore, crucial to establish the impact of detention centers on juveniles to understand why some current strategies fail to rehabilitate and correct the children. According to Zitterkopf, juvenile offenders have not been adequately redirected to avoid criminal tendencies in future during their time in detention centers (2019). This is because of the youths' experiences in those centers that limit their ability to succeed after detention. As previously mentioned, the juvenile system rehabilitates the individuals personally since each child's needs may be unique, thereby requiring special attention. However, the offenders in the juvenile system may further benefit from detention centers equipped to assist with services that may boost the future of delinquent children. Mental health workers, court officials and stakeholders are not satisfied with the current approaches in the delinquent centers because they perceive that the centers do not achieve the desired results (Zitterkopf, 2019). Ultimately, there is a need to understand the elements that may facilitate youth's improvement from detention centers and how the centers will assist other children.

The labeling theory seeks to understand how individuals create personal opinions about themselves according to their experiences. When labels are involved in a person's self-concept, they may influence the person's actions. Consequently, youths may adopt a criminal identity when incarcerated in juvenile detention centers where criminal tendencies may increase after their detention period (Zitterkopf, 2019). Children labeled as deviant may believe that they are bad and act in how the court officials or society perceive them, making it challenging to rehabilitate them in detention centers. However, from the current knowledge about the limitations of delinquency detention centers, changes made in the centers will positively affect future developments.

Rehabilitative interventions that include cognitive-behavioural treatments and other therapeutic programs are noted as a successful measure in delinquency centers. Some reforms have been made to the current juvenile justice system to involve more rehabilitative methods from evidence-based programs to rehabilitate than punish juvenile offenders (Mathys, 2017). Although community interventions aimed at implementing rehabilitative approaches may be discouraged by other community members due to public safety, such interventions have proven helpful in positively impacting juvenile's lives with positive change in behaviour recorded. Community interventions also assist the offenders to successfully blend back into society through training and practice that facilitate activeness among the offenders within a community. However, most community members fear interacting with juvenile offenders where such an approach may become rejected by the public. Therefore, community intervention may only be effective if the community is willing to accommodate the offenders and become part of their rehabilitation experience.

Education awareness for the victims is another strategy that has become adopted in the Juvenile justice system. The approach has proven helpful to young offenders with a recorded decrease in cognitive distortion. Studies indicate that victim intervention imposed on 177 men and women with severe mental problems enhanced their ability to face their feelings and handle other individual's feelings (Mathys, 2017). Since the intervention occurred in a confined residential area, researchers agree that their environment dictates effective treatment programs such as education awareness. Future developments in juvenile delinquency detention centers should include more education awareness, properly strategized community engagement, and rehabilitation approaches that facilitate positive changes among youths. This is because the efficacy of juvenile delinquency detention centers becomes characterized by the environment where the interventions and rehabilitation methods occur. Ultimately, detaining juvenile offenders in places far from a community setup may influence their behaviour, as explained from the labeling theory, thereby causing more adverse effects to the future juvenile detention centers.

**Demographics for Individual's Working in Jobs Related to Juvenile Delinquency Centers**

Most jurisdictions in the United States have adopted policies that prevent employers from doing background checks on criminals until late in their application process. However, employers have formulated ways to decipher job applicants perceived as having previous criminal records, thereby targeting young, Hispanic, or African American people. Therefore, it is necessary to connect the ex-offenders with jobs to achieve successful re-entry into the public as part of society. Despite the idea that ex-offenders have had previous traits in violence and mental disorders where employers become reluctant in admitting them into their organization, employees from juvenile centers should seek ways to facilitate successful re-entry into the professional arena. Doleac and Hansen mention that although ex-offenders could be ready for employment than non-offenders, statistical discrimination among employers affects ex-offenders ready for employment (2016). This strains the ex-offender's survival which could result in a repeat of past crimes and behavioural tendencies. The "ban the box" movement advocates for employers to ignore asking questions concerning criminal records while perceiving that if employees fail to establish an ex-offender from a non-offender, racial disparities in job selection may decrease (Doleac and Hansen, 2016). Ultimately, individuals working in juvenile delinquency detention centers should find appropriate supporting ex-offenders through counselling in preparation for their experience in the job search and job inclusion in society. Further, employers should also adopt the "ban the box" approach to desist from selecting individuals based on their racial background judgments.

**Whether Juvenile Delinquency Center is a Preferable Field to Work**

Crime among young people is a sensitive issue in different societies because of the effects of incarceration on their future. The information gathered through research reveals numerous chances of ex-offenders repeating criminal activities without proper guidance and rehabilitation procedures. However, the applied approaches such as community intervention have enabled juveniles to reform and blend back into society. I want to work in a Juvenile Delinquency Detention Center because I have a passion for talking to juveniles in a corrective manner. Also, I would prefer being allocated to juvenile offenders that have completed their term to help them acquire jobs and maintain a crime-free lifestyle. The field is, therefore, a suitable choice for me to work because I get to interact with young people and encourage them towards positive changes when re-entering back to society

**Conclusion**

Juvenile detention centers became formed due to the rise in aggressive and violent tendencies among children due to mental illnesses. Despite the numerous approaches used to rehabilitate juvenile offenders, the offenders continue with criminal activities after the rehabilitation process because of being labeled the term "ex-offenders". Therefore, researchers have revealed that community intervention and evidence-based programs are better in rehabilitating juveniles. This means that future juvenile detention centers can also apply the approaches by bringing detention facilities near communities for the juveniles to feel like part of the community. Since ex-offenders become labeled criminals, employers deny certain people a chance to work in their organizations despite the "ban the box" movement enacted to restrict criminal background checks during the initial hiring process. Thus, it is necessary to ensure the movement's effect to avoid racial disparities during the hiring process.

References

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