

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LIFE STYLES WITHIN THE FAMILY OF THE JUVENILES SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT IN CORRECTION INSTITUTIONS (BEFORE CONVICTION)

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Purpose - this article discloses the characteristics of the life style of adolescent male convicts imprisoned in Kaunas juvenile correction facility and their values of social life. 15-18 years old juvenile males convicted and imprisoned one to four years in correction institution for serious crimes have participated in the research. The majority of the respondents had been sentenced to prison for the fourth time however most of them were 17 years old. It is important to note that many juveniles had been raised in the single headed families, grew together with their grandparents or in the social risk families, which are distinguished by the lack of parental responsibility, incapability to solve problems and conflicts in a positive and constructive way which sometimes leads into anti-social behavior and criminal activities as well. **The objective** – to disclose the characteristics of the life style of adolescent male convicts imprisoned in Kaunas juvenile correction facility and their values of social life in the family aspect.

Design/methodology/approach – quantitative research, questionnaire, the analysis of the quantitative research and standard interviews with juveniles sentenced to imprisonment in correction institution, qualitative analysis of the research. The research was conducted in Juvenile Interrogation Isolator – Correctional Facility of Kaunas from

January to March in 2012. Juvenile convicts' survey was carried out taking into account the fact that convicts are busy in the correction facility. They were divided into groups of 20 convicts in the classroom, where the authors of the article worked on the project "Development of Parental Skills" in this institution. The questionnaire survey forms were distributed, the goal of the research was explained, the respondents were instructed regarding filling in the questionnaire forms and confidentiality of the responses was guaranteed. During the research 120 questionnaire forms were distributed and returned; however, only 102 forms were properly completed. 102 forms returned and were included into the research striving for as reliable scientific research results as possible.

Findings – the study revealed that many juveniles had been raised in the single headed families, grew together with their grandparents or in the social risk families, which are distinguished by the lack of parental responsibility. In this case it is obvious that the teenagers had no examples of developing positive social skills in their environment that could enable them solving difficult situations of their lives, changing the life styles and to form attitude towards socially accepted life. It can be proposed that the lack of social skills as well as the example of socially acceptable life style within the family is one of the main factors influencing the negative nature of behavior of the juveniles sentenced to imprisonment in the correction institutions. It is also very important to note that the respondents participating in the research had no adequate concept of spending time together with their parents. The vast majority of juveniles filling the questionnaire of qualitative research stated that they spend their free time together with their parents; however the qualitative interview focused on the details of how the respondents spent their time together with their parents. In some cases the respondents stated that "we did nothing...", "Well, I don't know..., we did nothing together...or maybe my father told me to do something", "I would be doing what I want and parents had their own things to do", "I had to do my homework and my parents...they did nothing together, what would they do?" It is also interesting that according to the results of the research the majority of the juveniles had no responsibilities at home. Resuming the findings we can say that it is obvious that many juvenile delinquents had no authoritative social skills training model within their closest family environment, which will change the way of life, would encourage acting positively in everyday situations, solve conflicts that arise and develop the concept of pro social life style.

Research limitations/implications – the sample of the research is aggregated of 15-18 years old minor males. The majorities of the respondents have been sentenced to imprisonment for the fourth time and were 17 years old. It is important to take into



account the fact that making the research in the same correction institution again, the sample group won't be the same and the juveniles can be convicted for other crimes as well as their experience within the family before conviction can also vary. The qualitative research of this kind can help studying the phenomenon in more detailed way which has significant practical importance and further research on this subject is required. This could help understanding the nature of criminal behaviour of juveniles better and could lead into creating effective prevention programs for the target groups.

Practical implications – the findings of the research lead to the modeling of new prevention programs adapted in the correction facilities for minor offenders in order to prevent the occurrence of criminal activities and anti-social behavior of the target groups.

Originality/Value – the research revealed the live style patterns of the juveniles sentenced to imprisonment in correction institution before conviction. This is the first available research on the subject of the connections between life style of young people and anti-social and criminal behavior.

Keywords: juvenile delinquency, life style, family, juvenile offenders sentenced to imprisonment.

Research type: research paper. The data was collected during the qualitative and quantitative research.