

Juvenile Justice and the Restorative Approach in Norway

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Abstract

This research section is part of a larger comparative study aiming to bring out different theoretical and practical approaches, theories and studies in juvenile justice field from different countries. Comparative study between countries are relevant as they be used as crucial models/best practices, for developing countries in implementing new models and practices of restorative justice and also helping them to move forward to new approaches, challenges and promising practices. Justice, more specifically juvenile justice is a complex issue in per se and is strongly related with a lot of factors as economic, social, psychological, tradition and historical.

Children, who often offend, live in families facing difficulties such as poverty, substance abuse, parent separation, educational problems such as school leave, exclusion or jobless; they may be involved in risky behaviors during this time affected by one of the above mentioned factors. As stated in Article 40 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, every child in conflict with the law has the right to be treated in a manner that takes into account “the desirability of promoting his/her reintegration and his/her assuming a constructive role in society”. As a matter of fact there is a need to increase knowledge and find best practices and methods for children who deal with the justice, facing (suspended) sentences involving deprivation of liberty, shifting the old conviction/method of punishment, into restorative and positive justice with the aim of ‘rehabilitation/reintegration and empowerment’ rather than punishment. Unlike retributive justice which is primarily concerned with punishing the crime, restorative justice focuses on repairing the injury that crime inflicts. From the beginning, this research was focused in studying and interpreting some important key actions in order to have positive and restorative justice models applied in Albania.

Keywords: children’s rights, juvenile crime, juvenile court, recidivism, restorative justice, child friendly justice.

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