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ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC PAPER

RESILIENCE AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: ROLE OF FAMILY

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ABSTRACT

Disturbed relationships in a family and its dysfunctionality can present a prerequisite, but often a cause of juvenile delinquency. If there are no harmonius family relationships, a family environment is quickly transformed into one of the most influential factors of juvenile delinquency. With this in mind, the author points to the extent to which the family structure and some of its characteristics may contribute to the development of criminal behaviour in minor age. This empirical research features inmates of the Banja Luka Juvenile Correctional Facility and their respective families in order for the causes of criminal behaviour of the former and characteristics of the latter to be examined. The results gained mostly reveal that inmates originate from incomplete and dysfunctional families, which is reflected in their criminal behaviour. In addition, these results are important for corrections officers as well, who create and implement respective correctional treatments upon which the success of inmates' resocialisation deepends.

Key words: *family, juvenile delinquents, correctional treatment, resocialisation.*

JEL classification: *J12, M14*

INTRODUCTION

A disturbed system of values and anomy of a society create ideal conditions for the development of disruptions of behaviour in children and the young [1]. Juvenile delinquency is a phenomenon that occurs as a result of inadequate socialisation, moral education, and living conditions of a child. Yet, once it has occurred, it is necessary that the most efficient measures be taken in order for such behaviour to be supressed and corrected. In some situations, when certain procedures and measures fail to yield proper results or in case of a serious crime, minor offenders are committed to juvenile correctional facilities. Such institutions conduct programmes of resocialisation of juvenile delinquents, that is, programmes aimed at changing attitudes towards criminal behaviour in the latter and towards building an acceptable value system in them, with a view to enabling them to complete their elementary education and gain professional skills, as well as to adopt work habits and develop social competences [2].

FAMILY AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The aetiology of juvenile delinquency is seen through the prism of the aetiology of criminality in general. With regard to that, the former is possible to explain only by synergy of one's social environment factors and their individual characteristics, that is, factors related to the personality of a delinquent. In professional literature of the field, great significance, when socialisation is concerned, is attributed to a delinquent's family and its functionality. Therefore, the family can, on the one hand, present a positive factor in proper socialisation of a child and, on the other hand, be a negative factor that leads to the occurrence of delinquent behaviour in its youngest members [3]. Apart from the positive impact of the family on the development of a child's personality, it can have a completely different, negative and destructive impact as well. If the function of the family is disturbed, this could have a negative impact on the child in question and it could lead to the emergence of deviant behaviour. According to some authors, deviant behaviour is a symptom of disturbed family relationships and inadequate parenthood [4]. In addition, there a number of authors who have dealt with the impact of family factors on the emergence of delinquent behaviour in the young [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], taking into consideration the fact that the family is a psychosocial milieu that reflects social values. For that reason, we should turn to the family in our search for the causes of delinquent behaviour in the young, since it is the environment where they should feel the greatest level of security. However, over the years and in every possible aspect, the family has suffered a series of destructive experiences that have resulted in its functions being disturbed [10]. Incomplete families, in which one parent assumes the functions of another one, and families struck by unemployment, poverty, marginalisation, and social exclusiveness, create a fertile ground for an overall disorganisation of the family, which, subsequently, strikes children growing up in such families in terms of their behaviour [11].

Although there are numerous exogenous and endogenous factors that affect delinquent behaviour in children and the young, we focus only on the family as one of the key factors and causes of such behaviour. Regardless of our decision, the impact of other aforementioned factors should not be minimised by no means.

METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH
SUBJECT MATTER AND GOAL OF THE RESEARCH

The subject matter of the research is determining the extent to which the structure of a family and its features can be one of criminal factors for the development of juvenile delinquency. In line with the proclaimed subject matter, the main goal of the research is to determine the relationship between the structure of a family and its functionality, as well as demographic characteristics of such families, and to determine how significant such a relationship can be for the implementation of the process of resocialisation of juvenile delinquents in respective correctional facilities

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

Leading hypothesis: The author assumes that there is a statistically significant relationship between the structure of a family and its functionality, as well as demographic characteristics of such families, and that these indicators can prove important for the implementation of resocialisation of juvenile delinquents in respective correctional facilities.
Supporting hypotheses:
(H1) The author assumes that there is a statistically significant difference between the structure of a juvenile delinquent family and its dysfunctionality.
(H2) The author assumes that there is a statistically significant difference between the structure of a juvenile delinquent family and the population category to which they belong.
(H3) The author assumes that there is a statistically significant difference between the structure of a juvenile delinquent family and their place of residence.
General and basic methods used in this research are as follows: analysis and synthesis method, induction and deduction method, documentation content analysis, theoretical description method, and comparative method.

POPULATION AND RESEARCH SAMPLE

The research encompasses the overall juvenile delinquents population in the Republic of Srpska that have been committed to respective correctional facilities. With regard to this, the sample features minors that were committed to the Banja Luka Correctional Facility from its establishment in 2006 until 2020. During the period designated, there were 102 juvenile delinquents committed to the aforementioned facility, and they are all analysed in the paper. In terms of their age and sex, they are all male delinquents aged 15-21, with the research being conducted in the period of February-April 2020.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

In this section of the paper the author features the stated hypotheses and research results gained. With reference to the (H1) hypothesis, the data displayed in Table 1 shows that, out of total of 102 juvenile delinquents, 32 or 31.4% of them come from complete families, whereas 70 or 68.6.% of them come from incomplete ones. When functional families are concerned, the author determines that there is a balanced distribution of juvenile delinquents as regards complete and incomplete families. By observing the data that indicates the number of dysfunctional families, the author determines that 19 or 25% of them belong to complete families, while the number of juvenile delinquents belonging to incomplete families is 57 or 75%.
Given the data in Table 1, it is clear that there is a statistically significant difference between the structure of a juvenile delinquent family and its dysfunctionality, which is confirmed by calculating the chi-square. The established $\chi^2 = 5.624$ at df = 1 is statistically significant at the level lower than 0.05, which confirms our H1 hypothesis that incomplete families of juvenile delinquents feature much more pronounced dysfunctionality than complete ones.

Table 1. *Structure and dysfunctionality of family*

Family structure	Family functionality					
	Functional		Dysfunctional		Total	
Complete	13	50%	19	25%	32	31.4%
Incomplete	13	50%	57	75%	70	68.6%
Total	26	100%	76	100%	102	100%
Df	1					
X^2	5.624					
C	0.229					

With regard to the second supporting hypothesis (H2), the data shown in Table 2 reveals that most juvenile delinquent families belong to domicile population (68 or 66.6%), with 20 or 19.6.% of them belonging to displaced population and 14 or 13.7% to refugees. When the structure of domicile families is concerned, 27 or 39.7% belong to the category of complete families, whereas 41 or 60.3% of them are incomplete. In case of displaced population and refugees, these figures are 3 (15%) and 17 (85%) and 2 (14.3%) and 12 (85.7%), respectively.
As the data in Table 2 clearly shows, there is a statistically significant difference between the structure of a juvenile delinquent family and their respective population category, which is confirmed by chi-square. The established $\chi^2 = 6.582$ at df = 2 is statistically significant at the level lower than 0.05, which confirms our H2 hypothesis that incomplete families of juvenile delinquents are mostly found in the domicile

population category, but also that in other two categories analysed the share of incomplete juvenile delinquent families exceeds that of complete ones.

Table 2. *Family structure and population category*

Family structure	Population category							
	Domicile		Displaced		Refugees		Total	
Complete	27	39.7%	3	15%	2	14.3%	32	31.4%
Incomplete	41	60.3%	17	85%	12	85.7%	70	68.6%
Total	68	100%	20	100%	14	100%	102	100%
Df	2							
X^2	6.582							
C	0.246							

Finally, Table 3 features the data related to the claims stated in the third supporting hypotheses, revealing that 37 or 36.3% of juvenile delinquent families live in urban areas, followed by 40 or 39.2% of them living in suburbia, and 25 or 24.5% living in the country. With regard to complete and incomplete families in urban areas, the figures are 19 (51.4%) and 18 (48.6%), respectively. With regard to the same feature, there are 7 (17.5%) complete families and 33 (82.5%) incomplete ones, whereas the respective figures in terms of country famies are 6 (24%) and 19 (76%).

Table 3. *Family structure and place of residence*

Family structure	Place of residence							
	Urban area		Suburbia		Country		Total	
Complete	19	51.4%	7	17.5%	6	24%	32	31.4%
Incomplete	18	48.6%	33	82.5%	19	76%	70	68.6%
Total	37	100%	40	100%	25	100%	102	100%
Df	2							
X^2	11.066							
C	0.313							

As a result, Table 3 reveals that there is a statistically significant difference between the structure of a juvenile delinquent family and their respective population category, which is confirmed by calculating chi-square. The established $\chi^2 = 11.066$ at df = 2 is statistically significant at the level of 0.01, which confirms our hypothesis that suburbia and the country display a greater number of incomplete juvenile delinquent families as opposed to complete ones, while these figures are much more balanced in urban areas.

CONCLUSION

The incomplete family presents a potential for the emergence of juvenile delinquency. Based on numerous research, it is concluded that the majority of juvenile delinquents originate from such families. The structure of a family is a significant prerequisite for its functionality, since disruptions in this aspect often exert negative influence on the overall family system. In case of structural collapse and disruptions in family functionality or in case a family fails to perform its role in moral education of an individual, they are certain to develop a form of deviant behaviour.

The results of our research point to the fact that, in most cases, juvenile delinquents families are incomplete, with a pronunced level of dysfunctionality, which refers to a disrupted family environment that causes the emergence of juvenile delinquency in children, among other things. Furthermore, incomplete juvenile delinquents families are more likely to occur within the domicile population category, but they are more common in the categories of displaced population and refugees as well. In addition, these figures point to the fact that the 1992-1995 civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the migrations it caused had an impact on the financial situation and family relationships in general population, which was reflected in the functionality of a number of families and, subsequently, in the deviant behaviour of children raised within them. To conclude, an interesting piece of data revealed by the research is that suburbia and the country feature a greater number of incomplete juvenile delinquents families in comparison with urban areas, where the ratio between the complete and incomplete families is rather balanced, despite the fact that the latter are exposed to more risk factors than the former two. This is the first time the author has recorded such phenomenon.

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