Family as a Predictor of Criminal Behaviour among Juveniles

Abstract

The aim of this research is focused on identifying the criminogenic factors inherent in the family of children remaining in youth detention centres. This study used a survey as its research method. The analysis of documents (court records, and facility documents) for the family situation of minors was the research technique used here. The study focused on three youth detention centres and shelters for juveniles located in the Silesia Province. The study was carried out in November and December 2010. 50 files of 26 minor boys and 24 minor girls were analysed. Summarizing the research results, it can be concluded that the impact of family on the proper socialization process of children raised in these families is undeniable and significant. Negative factors in the family environments of respondents influenced the formation of negative events which result in the process of demoralization and juvenile delinquency.

Key words: social maladjustment, crime, juvenile, risk factors, multiproblem family.

Introduction

There is a lot of empirical evidence supporting the relationship between juvenile delinquency and family characteristics. An overview of such studies was conducted by B. Mincey and N. Maldonado (2011, p. 5) among others, who on the one hand point to the factors that protect against deviations (protective factors), including good marital relationships, positive paternal relationships and attachment to