

Bullying Perpetration and Victimization in Juvenile Institutions

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Abstract : This study investigates the prevalence of perpetration behavior and victimization in juvenile correctional institutions. It investigates the dimensions of institutional environments and explores which environmental features relate to perpetration behaviors. The project focused on two hundred and eighty nine male and female young offenders aged 12 to 21 years old, in eight juvenile institutions in Malaysia. The research collected quantitative and qualitative data using a mixed-method approach. All participants completed the scale version of Direct and Indirect Prisoner behavior Checklist (DIPC-SCALED) and the Measuring the Quality of Prison life (MQPL). In addition, twenty-four interviews were carried out which involved sixteen residents and eight institutional staff. The findings showed that 95 per cent reported at least one behavior indicative of perpetration, and 99 per cent reported at least one behavior indicative of victimization in the past month. The DIPC-SCALED scored significantly higher on the verbal sub-scale. In addition, factors such as harmony, staff professionalism, security, family and wellbeing showed significant relation to the perpetration behavior. In the interviews, the residents identified circumstances, which affected their behavior within the institutions. This reflected the choices and decisions about how to confront the institutional life. These findings are discussed in terms of existing literature and their practical implications are considered.

Keywords : juvenile institutions, incarcerated offenders, perpetration, victimization

Conference Title : ICSSL 2016 : International Conference on Sociology, Criminology and Law

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : January 18-19, 2016