Module 7 Discussion Board

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Juvenile offending or delinquency is the act of contributing and doing unlawful behavior as minors. There is a special criminal justice system that deals with the juveniles. According to the US, a person below 18 is considered as juvenile however many states consider the below 17 age as juveniles. In recent years many adolescents are arrested for nonviolent crimes this is not only because of the aggressive youth behavior but also due to the flaws in the criminal justice system and zero-tolerance policies.

In the past juveniles were also treated like adults when they commit any crime because there was no specific law that separates them from the adult criminal justice system. This influence juveniles negatively as they had to face emotional and sexual abuse in the jails and often they end up committing more crimes after their release thus increasing the odds of recidivism. Progressive reformers attempted to change this system and make a separate criminal justice system for juveniles (Rennison & Dodge, 2016). They also built a special education system for the juveniles that will help to educate and rehabilitate the juveniles. However, despite all these efforts the main problem was to determine the age limit at which one is considered as a juvenile.

Most of the countries in the world consider an 18-year-old as an adult and below 18 are considered juvenile (“NC DPS: Raise the AgeâNC,” n.d.). Depending upon the severity of the crime a juvenile is charged as an adult. However, most of the juveniles are charged with the nonviolent crimes and therefore they need to be placed in the rehabilitation centers where they should be able to access education so that they can become a good citizen after their release. It is, therefore, important that juvenile incarceration should be different than the adult incarceration as juveniles are not aware of the laws and should be given a second chance while adults know about the laws and are typically involved in violent crimes.

**References**

NC DPS: Raise the AgeâNC. (n.d.). Retrieved August 1, 2019, from https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/juvenile-justice/key-initiatives/raise-age-nc

Rennison, C. M., & Dodge, M. (2016). *Introduction to criminal justice: Systems, diversity, and change*. Sage Publications.