Combating juvenile delinquency

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# **Combating juvenile delinquency**

## **Juvenile reduction efforts/ programs in Atlanta**

The Department of Juvenile justice in Georgia has its legal authority in every city of this state including Atlanta. The Department of Juvenile justice in Georgia is running many programs that aim at preventing the Juveniles from adopting criminal activities. The department has adopted various practices which aim at making better the juveniles attitude toward life. Majority of the department's programs are designed in such a manner that the juvenile is kept in close association with his or her family and the Juvenile protection unit of the Department of Juvenile justice in Georgia. Following two programs of the department of the juvenile justice in Georgia are among the most popular programs for juvenile reduction efforts.

*Behavioral health services:* The behavioral health services program offers the all-inclusive medical treatment of the juveniles who are under custody of the department of juvenile justice. The services offered to the juveniles under this program includes the treatment against the harmful sexual behaviors of others, the treatment against the mental health issues and the general counseling of the juveniles. These medical services provided to the youth by the department of juvenile justice are substance oriented and are based on the evidence-based intervention(Light, 2014).

*Chaplaincy services*: The chaplaincy services program of the department of juvenile justice at Georgia ensures that the Juveniles are not been deprived of their religious rights. This program of the Juvenile department includes providing counseling that is specifically tailored on a religious basis. This program also aims at providing crisis intervention training and mentoring of the juveniles. This program is further divided into segments that are designed in such a way that a juvenile, upon completion of the program, is ready to become a healthy participant of the society. These segments include restoring the hope, teaching spiritual disciplines to youth, mentoring and involvement in a ninety-day commitment to community program(Huckleberry, 2014)

## **Sociological theories**

Rutter and Gilled have highlighted in their article *Trends and Perspectives* various theories that they believe underlie the community involvement in preventing juvenile crimes(Rutter & Giller, 1983). The behavioral health services program appears as based upon the theory of structural functionalism and delinquency theory. This theory suggests that there are some structural flaws in the upbringing of the children which makes them adopt violent practices. The behavioral health services program is therefore designed to cater to the needs of the juvenile suffering ailments such as the mental distortions caused by the family or personal issues.

The theory of differential opportunity put forwarded by Coward and Ohlin in the 1960s suggest that the psychological reasons remain predominant in making the juveniles adopt the criminal behaviors(Matsudo, 1988). The theory also suggests that many different types of societal differences often lead to the development of a juvenile mindset. The chaplaincy services conform to this theoretical paradigm this resulting in making the juvenile healthy part of the society.

**Improving the community's juvenile delinquency prevention efforts**

There has always remained space for improving juvenile prevention efforts. The efforts at present are based largely on improving the conditions, once the juvenile has committed an offense. This shows that the social development programs that are based on developing the quality life aspects of minors lack effective plannings and proper materialization. For example, as Agnew argues that proper development of social programs for minor helps in eliminating the tendencies of minors towards criminal activities(Agnew, 2001). There are some more efforts that can be practiced in terms of reducing the minor’s attention toward crime. At present, there are much less public programs that are designed considering the psychological aspects of the general public. Almost every participant of the social program is targeted on similar situations. Same is true for the minors. They are not judged individually rather they are made to learn things collectively, which at times don't suit some minors.

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