Analysis of the Involvement and Participation of the Family in the Process of Re-Socialization of Adolescent Offenders

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Abstract

The objective of this research was to analyze the relationship and participation of the family in the process of re-socialization of delinquent adolescents. The focus was qualitative, because it was about understanding the perspective of the participants. The population was conformed by the families of adolescent offenders who go through the re-socialization process in the department of La Guajira. The results show that the families do not get involved or inquire about the performance, behavior and attitudes of the young people, so it is concluded that one of the strategies to implement in the institutes is to reinforce the school project for parents that generates alternative links and participation of the family in the process of re-socialization of the adolescent.

Keywords: Cultural Identity, Social Security, Socio-economic levels

Introduction

Adolescence is associated with a period of development of rapid changes, where boys and girls have a higher level of vulnerability to risks, such as increased antisocial behavior and juvenile delinquency, drug use or school dropout, among
others [1]. It is also the most complex stage in the development of a young man on his way to adulthood; during this period, the greatest difficulties in the educational process usually occur due to frequent physiological and emotional disturbances and deviations of character [2]. On the other hand, the levels of participation, warmth and support in family relationships, specifically between father and son, influence the psychological adjustment of the emerging adult [3]. Reason why, family conditions in childhood and adolescence have been seen as one of the most important factors that affect the course of a person's life [4]. In this sense, the family helps young adults through material support, such as joint residence in a parent's home or financial subsidies for parents and the availability of parents as a source of comfort and guidance for young adults [5]. Research suggests that children and youth who experience transitions in the judicial system are more likely to come from disadvantaged family backgrounds [6]. They also have less stable family relationships and less social support compared to young people who have family support [7]. Therefore, juvenile delinquency is one of the topics that has generated many debates in recent years and ways to control it must be improved regularly [8].

Regarding the department of La Guajira, the Police Command reported the increase in 60% of the cases of children caught in flagrante delicto, for participating in punishable acts in crimes such as theft, extortion, illegal carrying of firearms, micro drug trafficking and murders, for the year 2013. The statistics indicate that in Riohacha alone, two minors are accused of participating in the same number of homicides, two in personal injuries, nine in theft, five in extortion, one in the possession of narcotics, one in reception and one in possession of weapons for a total of 21 juvenile offenders; while in the previous one, 32 cases of children caught in flagrancy were recorded for different crimes [9]. Therefore, this research arises from direct and participating observation, conducted on these adolescents classified as minors in conflict with the law and during their process of re-socialization in existing measures, according to the code of childhood and adolescence law 1098 of 2006. Thus, there is a need to analyze and reflect on the importance of the involvement and participation of families in the youth and adult development process of adolescents.

**Methodology**

The focus of this research was qualitative, because this type of study is selected when seeking to understand the perspective of the participants (individuals or small groups of people to investigate) about the phenomena that surround them, to deepen their experiences, perspectives, opinions and meaning, that is, the way in which participants subjectively perceive reality [10]. Similarly, the research is based on the individual subjective experiences of the participants, so the methodological design is ethnographic, because it consists of detailed descriptions of situations, events, people, interactions and behaviors that are observable [11].
As for the study population, it was made up of the families of adolescent offenders who undergo the re-socialization process in the Department of La Guajira.

**Research instruments**
A focus group was made as a collection technique, which was made up of 10 people each representative of adolescents with a criminal history. For the conformation of the group, the following characteristics were taken into account: being of legal age, legally responsible person of the adolescent and permanent cohabitation with the adolescent. During the development of the focus group, a questionnaire was developed, which was formed by 10 questions, whose purpose was to analyze the relationship and participation of the family in the process of re-socialization of adolescents.

**Data analysis**
At the end of the focus group, verbal and non-verbal analyzes were carried out during the technique process, then the content was evaluated, confirming the opinions of the participants and their perception in the social current with respect to the link and the participation of the family.

**Results**

*Characterization of the social function of the family of adolescent offenders in the Department of La Guajira.*
Taking into account the development of the interview with the families of adolescent offenders of the department of La Guajira, it was affirmed that the unit of coexistence of the adolescents is integrated in its majority of extended family. According to [12], this category includes biologically related members and is made up of a maximum of two generations, which usually occurs for different reasons, of the main ones that were demonstrated, was due to separation or divorce cases, widowhood and single mother or father.
With respect to cultural identity, families belong to ethnic groups such as Creoles, mestizos, Afro-Colombians and indigenous people of the Wayuu culture. In the religious aspect, the results showed that there is a diversity of beliefs, since some families belong, attend or identify with the Catholic, Christian or Jehovah's Witnesses. Taking into account the above, the parents interviewed expressed that their children at some point also made part of the religion when they were children, however, adolescence was synonymous with changes, not only in the corporal but in the behavioral and spiritual, since this stage they stopped attending the meetings that were done by the churches according to their preference. In this regard, in [13] there was a negative association between individual religiosity and the justification of ethically suspicious behaviors. While in [14], no relationship was found between religion and inappropriate behavior.
With reference to the issue of social security, most families belong to the subsidized health system and the most frequent health promoters are: Salud vida,
Caja copy, Comfaguajira, Barrios unidos, Dusakawi, Caprecom and Share; and in the contributory scheme are EPS Saludcoop and Nueva EPS, which means that adolescents have access to health, since they are affiliated with a health regime, that is, they are guaranteed access to the different medical services they are stipulated in the law. Regarding the academic training of parents, it turned out that the majority only attended some degree of primary school, while a few culminated their training as high school graduates, others are technicians and only one person has a professional degree. Also, in the case of adolescents, it was found that only a minority has completed high school, another small group began their primary basic education but did not finish. These results coincide with the findings in [15], where it was found that criminal behavior is associated with the low level of education of parents.

On the other hand, one of the important aspects within the social functions of the family is the socioeconomic level, where the family of the adolescents, the majority has informal jobs; the fact that they are productive people for the support of the household and varying with the income that goes from a legal minimum wage in force to two is highlighted, because the informal and independent employment allows them to decide on the profits they wish to obtain. The remainders of the parents are formal employees and their monthly income equals or exceeds the minimum legal minimum wage in force thereafter. According to the above, it is evident that the parents are fulfilling their co-responsibility with regard to the basic needs of their children, which leads the parents to analyze why their children are involved in situations of high risk and criminality by obtaining of money, when they, as a father figure, supply their needs.

The social interaction of the family taking into account their systems, symbols and ideas during the process of re-socialization in adolescent offenders in the Department of La Guajira.

According to the results obtained, most of the families stated that adolescents, when they live with their grandparents, see them as an authority figure, however, they do not disobey or understand what they have ordered, in the same way, adolescents in their growth process seek their own identity within the family and it is necessary to take into account that interpersonal relationships allow reaching certain objectives necessary for development in a society. On the other hand, it is considered that the family does not opt for appropriate guidelines in the education and training of adolescents with respect to development in society, which is why some parents are permissive when teaching their children the relationships that should have with the rest of the people. These results are consistent with the findings of [16], where the analyzes indicated a complex association between identity and the formation of intimacy by family members.

Also, according to the information obtained, the communication within the family is regular, because the adolescents do not take into account the advice and calls for attention, which is why the parents solve the problems in an inadequate way, opting for verbal or physical aggression and with indifference. On the other hand, the relatives consider that they have been regular with respect to the parenting guide-
lines because they have failed to teach the values and principles, giving them freedom in their decisions. Likewise, it is considered that parents have not yet assumed the necessary role during the upbringing of their children, showing disinterest in educating on principles and values. These results are consistent with the findings of [17], where it was found that there are parents who give poor instructions to children, do not structure their behavior and do not reward or punish properly. However, in [18] it is stated that there is a need on the part of parents to control their children, thus restricting them to develop a delinquent personality. It should be noted that adolescents are exposed to imitate what they observe in their environment and in this case young people look at discourse behaviors, because it does not exist or is not oriented in the best possible way for the changes that occur in their environment.

**Participation and involvement of families in the process of resocialization of adolescent offenders in the Department of La Guajira.**

According to [19], as far as the link is concerned, in this context, we perceive that the family "the family bond" cannot be understood as a reality of an instinctive nature. In this link, the truth of the people is implied each time, reason why the family also has not to be reinvented. Certainly every concrete family that unites original and unique people also has a unique human tone. In relation to the situation of adolescent offenders in the Department of La Guajira, who comply with the measures at the Caimeg Departmental Reeducation Center, said measures or sanctions are imposed by the Criminal Court for Adolescents and where resocialization is sought with the respective decision about the criminal behaviors carried out by young people.

Likewise, it was initially determined that the parents maintain a participation with the adolescents during the process, but they do so because of the responsibility they have as a parent or because the ICBF obliges them to comply with their co-responsibility. Parents express that their children with inappropriate attitudes discourage them from continuing to support them. Likewise, it was determined that the parents establish contact during the process of re-socialization of adolescent offenders, mainly with officials of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, which in the process of the young person is a family defender who handles them in conjunction with the psychosocial team conformed by a psychologist and a social worker. On the other hand, most of the cases of these young people are defended by lawyers belonging to the Ombudsman's Office, because the parents do not have the economic capacity to hire a private lawyer, however if there are families that have used the particular services of lawyers. Another institution with which they maintain contact is the Caimeg Departmental Reeducation Center, in its two venues: the preventive detention center and the non-private headquarters, bearing in mind that it is the operator supported by the ICBF for the adolescents to carry out their re-socialization process. In this sense, [20] establish that within the framework of family participation, the progress of knowledge and research is only useful to the extent that it acquires the commitment of its implementation. The participation of the family should be part
of complementary learning strategies, be integrated from a systemic approach, in the places where children and adolescents live in order to promote learning. Similarly, the Caimeg Departmental Reeducation Center, where young offenders develop their process of re-socialization and are served by an interdisciplinary team consisting of professionals in Psychology, Social Work, Nutrition, Medicine, Pedagogy, Dentistry and Occupational Therapy. In addition, the corresponding assessments are made according to the area and diagnosis, the different strategies for the re-socialization of the adolescent are implemented and it is directed to the family development of the adolescents. Most parents stated that when they have the opportunity to participate in events held by the center, they do so with availability, although other families reported that they do not participate because the workday does not allow them to attend the programs they do at the center. It also happens with the schedules and times of visit that Caimeg provides, for some parents it is very little time that the center offers for the visit of their children, because they mentioned that not all the times they can manage to go to the visit, and that when they have the opportunity consider that the stipulated time is not enough, whereas the parents who visit their children frequently consider that the time and space that the center offers are of satisfaction and enjoyment with their children, the adolescents who are frequented by their relatives consider that they feel good when they see their relatives. This means that families are little interested in meeting visitors, while some are excused with the work, others express that it is because of disappointment with the behaviors that their son did. Regarding the interest to know the process of re-socialization of their children and the participation of them, it was found that the families do get involved or inquire with the psychosocial team of Caimeg about the performance, behavior and attitudes of the young people and only know of said process if the interdisciplinary team is the one who informs them, which denotes the lack of disposition on the part of the parents. The previous results do not agree with the statements by the authors [21] [22] [23] [24], who agree that some forms of participation such as monitoring and progress of academic and personal performance, can help balance two aspects important and sometimes opposed in the own development of the young person and adolescent, on the one hand to promote their autonomy and independence and on the other to maintain the closeness and the connection with the fathers and mothers, to what contributes with an adequate social development.

Conclusions

It was concluded that the majority of families is integrated by families of nuclear type, extensive, single-parent and extended, reason why the most frequent reasons that encourage changes in attitudes in adolescents are caused by family dysfunctional and socioeconomic status, which influences in a relevant way to commit dissocial acts. On the other hand, family participation plays an important role, because it influences the generation of favorable relationships in situations of problems. Likewise, the visiting hours provided by Caimeg are insufficient for pare-
nts to share with their children, due to their schedules and work times. However, a large part of the families is not very interested in complying with the visits, although some of them make excuses with the work, others express that it is because of disappointment with the behavior of their children. Regarding the interest to know the process of re-socialization of their children and the participation of these, it was found that the families do not get involved or inquire with the psychosocial team of Caimeg about the performance, behavior and attitudes of the young people. Therefore, one of the strategies to implement in Caimeg as an institution for the internment of adolescents is to reinforce the school project for parents, which generates alternatives for family involvement and participation in the process of re-socialization of the adolescent, based on invitations to Parents to participate in scheduled events, which is essential to strengthen family ties. It is considered that families need to be oriented in terms of the patterns of parenting, because in the family there are problems, and it is necessary to implement pedagogies within families.

References


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Received: June 15, 2018; Published: August 7, 2018