

**“BABEȘ-BOLYAI”UNIVERSITY CLUJ-NAPOCA
FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK**

DOCTORAL THESIS

SUMMARY

EXPLANATORY AND PREDICTIVE SOCIOPSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND SOCIAL REINSERTION

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2013

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Keywords: juvenile predelinquency and delinquency, multiple causal, limited rationality, delinquency risk factors, social reintegration strategies, juvenile justice, juvenile delinquency prevention

SUMMARY

Juvenile delinquency, at national level, is a phenomenon that has determined, in recent decades, researchers focus on several areas of study (sociology, psychology, criminology, medicine, education, etc.) for explaining and predicting the deviant and delinquent behavior of adolescents, in the purpose stated (repeatedly) to combat it.

Although a vision that integrates all these dimensions is still a desideratum, in our approach we pursue through integrative socio-psychological approach, investigating at multidimensional level the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency: sociological, criminological, psychological and statistically, taking into account, at the same time, the need to supplement the informational-explanatory and predictive criterions with the operationalization of results criterion in order to improve suggested practical applications. Also, the capture of multidimensionality of this phenomenon allows both understanding and predicting the evolution and dynamics of juvenile delinquency.

In this thesis we have subsumed our research efforts to the reformulated purpose to reduce and control juvenile delinquency, because we believe (in the Durkheimian sense) that the phenomenon of delinquency, in general, and the effect of juvenile delinquency, in particular, are characteristic of any society (both the consolidated democracies and those in transition).

I was motivated to opt for this socio-psychological integrative approach of juvenile deprived of his liberty by the desire to answer some questions:

- Juvenile deprived of freedom is criminal or victim?
- What factors influence the occurrence of delinquent behaviors?
- How these factors interact to "facilitate" crimes?
- What to do, how might reduce and control this phenomenon?

Beyond the impressive number of dramas and stories of life that I have heard (from all categories of prisoners-those sentenced to life imprisonment, backsliders, youth, women) stories that are obtained in periods of time (from a few days to several months or even years), early onset delinquency of minors and extremely limited alternatives in some risk situation of their (like knowing right how to relate to the child that I had in my face: as a perpetrator or as a victim?), I was determined to make efforts in studying the behavior of juveniles deprived of their liberty.

Later, I understood that psychological approach (although allows me analysis of child behavior) is insufficient for understanding and explaining the factors that contribute to early manifestation of pre-delinquent and then delinquent behaviors at minors.

One-side approach (from the perspective of their own field research) made naturally by most researchers inevitably led to results that could be operationalized in specific intervention, but were insufficiently corroborated with research findings in other areas affecting efficiency and ecological validity approach to this multidisciplinary field.

As a practitioner, I have found that I have privilege and at the same time the opportunity to investigate the dynamics of juvenile delinquency "from the inside of the system", both from the point of view of the specific requirements and regulations of the prison environment, and especially in terms of informal and relational aspects, which are often difficult to be "radiographed" by those who study certain aspects of the phenomenon and "access" formally the prison universe and only for limited periods of time.

Those mentioned above, as well as the own observations, have led me to continue studying the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency from the prison (prison, rehabilitation center)

to the community (environment, school, family), in other words, from the retrieving intervention to the proactive prevention. We hope that the results of research efforts of practitioners in the prison system will be combined with results of other research efforts of specialists and practitioners from the local community and the country in order to achieve, jointly, effective integrative strategy for dealing with this phenomenon. Also, as a practitioner, I understand that diversification of study methodology and the collection and interpretation of the data is an essential condition intended to ensure the effective understanding of this phenomenon.

Reduction and control of juvenile delinquency, as a phenomenon that has many consequences both at macro and micro social level and at the individual level, can be achieved only after understanding and explaining the etiology, dynamics and evolution of criminal behavior doubled with prediction/forecast of the future evolution of the phenomenon.

By doing so I had in view to identify, understand and explain the main risk factors involved in the development and manifestation of delinquent behaviors, individual and social factors and how they interact and reinforce each other causing committing antisocial behavior. Studying these factors may allow the researcher, whatever of field of study, to find concrete and practical ways to help to the transformation of individual risk factors (psychological) and the micro social factors (family, school and group membership) into protective factors and support for confused child.

In any quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the phenomenon of adolescent criminal deviance, the results, regardless of the size analyzed, needs to be operationalized using a complex methodology that takes into account both the real nature of the crime (the defying of law behavior of adolescents) and subjective feature (related to biological and psychological peculiarities of development of adolescents; difficulties encountered in the primary and secondary socialization, influences of the main agents of socialization, etc.).

Thus, the research methodology includes methods and techniques specific to investigated dimensions (sociological inquiry, observation, interviews, psychological tests, case studies, psychiatric study of criminal cases, statistical analysis, etc.) to clarify on understanding and predicting phenomenon related to juvenile delinquency as well as to the effective and real possibilities of intervention in Cluj county.

In researching the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency (one of the major practice areas of sociology, psychology and criminology) an order of importance should be given in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, because these coordinates allow both to explain the phenomenon, and outline some future directions of action, and also to develop prevention programs that capture the multicausal determinism of phenomenon.

The thesis is structured *in two parts*.

The first part is the theoretical foundation of the main issues that aim directly the juvenile delinquency phenomenon by consulting both the literature that has recently emerged in the field and the current bibliographic sources consulted through their value. Theoretical contribution is represented in this first part of the study, through selection and defines in order to clarify the key concepts, theories and approaches in research, using, when we considered necessary, the presentation of relevant statistical data. Thus, we considered it necessary to approach and summarizing key information that reveals the current state of knowledge about: teens - the stage in ontogenetic development, socialization and social courts and the importance of social control in steering the minors behavior; conceptual delimitations on juvenile delinquency and its specifying forms of manifestation from criminological perspective mentioned the multidimensional approach needed in this phenomenon; the etiology of criminal behavior through the different epistemological approaches and legal approach of the juvenile delinquency phenomenon.

In the second part, through empiric exploratory-investigative approach we performed analysis (qualitative and quantitative), explanatory and predictive, on juvenile delinquency and social rehabilitation, following through descriptive analysis of the statistics data the dynamics

evolution of juvenile delinquency in the last decade both in Cluj County and the national level . We also conducted analysis of associated risk factors influencing the onset of the juvenile criminal behaviors through studies on the impact of risk factors in the development of pre-delinquent and delinquent behaviors - studies made on juveniles deprived of their liberty and non-delinquent minors. For the sake of convenience, in another study we demonstrated the possibilities of influencing the decisions of juveniles deprived of their liberty. Through case studies we followed the quality presentation of the etiology of delinquent behavior, the practical methods of intervention and prospects for social reintegration of juveniles deprived of their liberty.

Also, based on the results of research and the actual knowledge of the realities of juvenile justice area, I made suggestions and recommendations in order to improve the approaches to delinquency prevention.

In the first chapter we considered necessary to define the main aspects of adolescence, presenting the main stages from psycho sociological terms as important periods during ontogenetic development, referring briefly the main characteristics of this period of development and the difficulties encountered in the educational process due to frequent physiological disturbances, affective disturbances, changes of character and conduct disorders, often accompanying the growing up.

Adolescence is a stage of ontogenetic development very intensively studied by researchers from different fields of activity (legal, sociological, psychological, educational, medical, etc.) And will remain a controversial topic because it is subject of multifactorial determination and conditioning, aspect that determines different opinions from researchers. The diversity of opinions on teen lies in the complexity of this period of human development and in adolescent status which is, adaptively, between childhood and adulthood.

To analyze multidisciplinary and multifactorial the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency it is imperative to frame it from age psychology perspective as stages or chronological intervals in ontogenetic development.

Although there is no consensus among scholars, even about the chronological stages of child development, however most authors, when mention the specific issues of adolescence, covers the three important stages of ontogenetic and mental development of the child (Șchiopu, U., 1997, p 206):

- *Preteen / puberty* stage, between 10-14 years
- *Adolescence stage of itself*, between 14-18 years
- *Prolonged adolescence / post-adolescence* status, between 18-25 years

Legal classification of juvenile delinquency phenomenon is mandatory, necessary but not sufficient to identify the general characteristics of adolescent development and understanding the peculiarities of this age in order to achieve an objective analysis of the multifactorial determinism of this phenomenon.

Beyond the undeniable changes and evolution of adolescent, biologically and psychologically, adolescence presents three important features (cited Șchiopu, U., Green E., 1997, pp 206-214):

1. development of self-consciousness;
2. asserting their identity;
3. social integration.

The crisis of adolescence (Șchiopu, U., 2008) often occurs due to tendencies of instability personality when teenager develops a conscience normative and motivational oriented to deny and reject the adult models and search their own models.

Depending on the success or failure of the process of socialization (the family, school or group membership) teenager may face some difficulties that can guide its behavior in the wrong direction.

Thus, adolescence is marked by a phase of rebellion, the young will no longer be tempted to obey adults rules (parents, teachers who will be remembered in the "peer" group only to highlight the conflict between generations) will try to do everything possible to be noticed, he will focus on clothing, eccentric behavior (from loud laughter to more serious as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, running away from home or committing offenses) to demonstrate that it is prepared to assume the role of adult.

After summarizing the main features of adolescence, **in the second chapter** we present the importance of socialization on individual development, in its main forms, along with the most important and recognized forms of socialization (family, school, group affiliation), highlighting the role of media and the Internet, becoming more pronounced, in the socialization. We also emphasize the role, form and means of expression of social control in the process of socialization and re-socialization of children in the community.

Socialization is defined as "the process by which the individual in interaction with peers, gain skills, knowledge, values, norms, attitudes and behaviors" (Rotariu and Iluț, 1996, p.91).

All forms of socialization (primary, secondary, continuous, adaptive and predictive) are designed to enhance individual social adaptation by developing skills and abilities of compliance or assimilation of rules, norms, values of group membership or the reference group.

The socialization intensity is highest in childhood or in the transition from one stage of life to another, but it is done throughout life, so that may occur correlated processes of socialization as dissocializing and resocializing processes.

Some sociologists consider that re-socialization is a process of refocusing and reshaping the deviant individual personality, its rehabilitation in relation to socially acceptable norms of conduct. It involves fundamental changes in the behavior and conduct of individual lifestyles, involving abandonment of one and adoption of another, by directing the individuals diverted behavior to social purposes.

Through social control, as the main organization factor of individual behaviors and social relations, the society forms and requires to individuals the motivation of assimilation and respect of its desirable values and social norms, rewarding ethical and legal model behaviors and rejecting those that deviate from this model. Thus, *the positive social control* is based on individual assimilation and awareness of values, norms and rules of social life and their motivation and conviction to respect them while *negative social control* relies mainly on individual fears that will be sanctioned for violation or non-compliance of social norms and rules.

The means of social control (psychosocial, institutionalized or not institutionalized) consist of a series of instruments of pressure and persuasion, organized and unorganized, implicit and explicit, direct and indirect, formal and informal, conscious and diffuse, and so on, designed to influence individuals to respect legal and moral norms (Drăgan I. 1985,p.165; Vlăsceanu L.1998, p.137).

The nuanced analysis of the relationship established between the various components and functions of social control and socialization process do not lead to a direct conclusion of causal link between failures and shortcomings of these processes and juvenile deviant behavior. It still reveals some characteristics of antisocial behaviors as dysfunctional effects of socialization, integration and social control, and a gradual transition from maladjustment, non-integration and marginality (as forms of social deviance non-criminal) to juvenile delinquency and crime (as forms of criminal social deviance).

In **Chapter 3** we presented the conceptual boundaries on deviance-delinquency-juvenile delinquency, highlighting the differences between pre-delinquent and delinquent behaviors of adolescent through criminological perspective. We also identified and described the location of the main causes of pre-delinquent and delinquent behaviors of children, followed by shaping a personality profile of juvenile delinquents. The legally presentation of the main manifestations of crime, in general, and juvenile delinquency, in particular, justify more to emphasizing the need

of the multidimensional and integrative approach of deviant and delinquent behaviors exhibited by minors.

In modern societies the main types of formal sanctions are represented by courts, rehabilitation centers and prisons. Formal sanctions and laws are used against those who fail to comply. Thus, crime/offense can be defined in a simple way as any behavior that violates any law.

Juvenile delinquency, although representing only a form of deviance, is a complex phenomenon that defines all behaviors of minors in conflict with the values protected by the criminal standard.

Legal perspective can not make categorical boundaries between youth and delinquent behaviors and the specific features of adult criminal behavior, because it does not identify the causes, but only unilaterally set up a criterion, with which we discriminate between illicit conduct, deviation from legal norms and socially accepted behavior. For this reason, the concept of juvenile delinquency is merged, most times, with the criminality/offense, therefore the existence of ambiguity in the use of terms such as crime, delinquency, etc.

The notion of deviance/delinquency is not very easy to define, it requires rather how to define the phenomenon of deviance / delinquency by specifying its etiology and description after analyze of predisposing, enhancers, boosting, triggering and aggravating causal factors of it.

The juvenile pre-delinquency is all deviant behaviors of young people which, without illegal content, can, under certain conditions, to commit antisocial acts.

The juvenile crime causation take into account two types of factors, namely: internal factors or individual and external factors or social. Internal factors include characteristics and neuropsychological structure, characteristics proper of the youth. Among the external factors, the most important are: socio-cultural, economic, socio-emotional and educational factors of human groups of the child, beginning with the family.

The ratio between the two categories of factors is a controversial issue, psychologists emphasizing the psychological factors and sociologists the socio-cultural factors. There are many causes of juvenile delinquency, resulting from interference of many and varied factors.

Multidimensional analysis of delinquency creates the possibility of understanding the phenomenon at different levels:

- *Statistic* dimension show size scale and evolution of the phenomenon (in percentages, averages, factor analysis) in conjunction with various social indicators (economic, cultural, geographic, etc.);
- *Legal* dimension shows types of violated rules, the seriousness of the damages, their social dangerousness, types and methods of socialization sanctions;
- *Sociological* dimension put delinquency compared to many phenomena of social disorganization, lack of adaptation and marginalization;
- *Psychological* dimension highlight the structure of delinquent personality, motivations, motives of committing the crime, the offender's behavior in relation to the offense committed (judgment, irresponsibility);
- *Economic* dimension may indicate the so-called cost of delict by highlighting direct and indirect consequences of various crimes;
- *Prospective* dimension attempt a foresight vision for the future dynamics of the phenomenon and the propensity to delinquency of certain individuals or groups.

Although a vision that integrates all these dimensions is still a desideratum, in our research approach we followed to surprise multidimensionality of this phenomenon by addressing statistical variables, criminological, sociological and psychological understanding and allow the prediction of the evolution and dynamics of juvenile delinquency.

Chapter 4 deals extensively with numerous theories on the etiology of criminal behavior through the different epistemological approaches. If influence of *internal (endogenous) risk factors* on antisocial behavior is highlighted by *biological, psychiatry and psychology theories*,

and influence of *associated risk factors (endogenous and exogenous)* on antisocial behavior is emphasized by *psychosocial theories*, the influence of *external (exogenous) risk factors* in manifestation of antisocial behavior committed by juveniles is highlighted by *social theories*.

Recently, emerged an intermediate point of view about the etiology of juvenile delinquency represented by *sociopsychology* and *the theory of multiple causation* or factors that conceives crime as the result of many and varied factors. They can not be divided into general statements, so can not be formulate a unified view of the etiology of juvenile delinquency. Followers of multiple causality perspective theory considers that each factor, taken individually, is of some importance, but delinquency is at the intersection of several factors.

Thus, we can say that the identification process of causes is difficult and painstaking, involving careful analysis of the context in which the crime occurred, the minor's social path before and during the commission of the offense, its performance and the intellectual discernment and the degree of social maturity, etc.. Theories as a whole, are probabilistic theories indicating only a trend phenomenon, but not a certainty. None of them provides a complete answer to the question of criminal act causality, which continues to be susceptible to new interpretations and meanings.

But, for a complete knowledge of the causes that generate delinquency among minors and young people, is necessary an interactive analysis of all theories, to retain the relevant explanations and factors specific to a particular territorial and social area, and a multidisciplinary approach of the field in discussion, in order to develop etiological and predictive models, able to capture as wide as possible the variety and complexity of various factors of delinquency. The work out of etiological and predictive models requires analysis at three levels: macro social level, micro social level and individual level.

Since etiological analysis does not provide sufficient guidance on propensity of youth delinquency, it needs to be supplemented by the predictive analysis, that allow to draft future trends of the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and to develop efficient programs and intervention strategies, effective and measurable.

In Chapter 5 we presented in a condensed form the main aspects of the legal approach to the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency. So, after a brief presentation of the history of the development of juvenile justice, we referred to the legislative aspects of the criminal perspective and from an institutional perspective regarding juvenile delinquency, noting the age of criminal responsibility for minors and educational measures or sanctions that may apply to them.

Juvenile justice pursues two main objectives: child welfare and the respect of "principle of proportionality". This well-known principle is an instrument for curbing punitive sanctions, generally in relation to the seriousness of the offense. For juvenile offenders, must take into account not only the severity but also the circumstances and personal characteristics.

Regarding the age of criminal responsibility, Romanian Criminal Code (C.P. art.99) establishes *three categories of minors*:

- *Minors under 14 years* who do not respond to anti-social acts committed as there is a presumption in favor of their absolute lack of discernment;
- *Minors who have reached 14 years*, but not exceeding 16 years, with criminal liability if it proves that they committed the act with discernment;
- *Minors who have 16 years* and criminally liable.

Educational measures are specific penalties for minors, applied to rectify their behavior through education and rehabilitation. Under Romanian law (art. 101 CP) in this category are: reprimand, supervised freedom, hospitalization in a rehabilitation center and hospitalization in a medical-educational institute.

In addition to educational measures, *penalties* for juvenile criminal behaviors are *fine* or *imprisonment*.

Although the prison is considered the main institution used for "socialization" of offenders, it maintains many controversies, through the dilemma regarding its essential purpose: to punish or correct.

If the prison system until recently was considered a self-sufficient institution, "the world beyond bars" being inaccessible to community, in recent years penitentiary institution underwent significant restructuring and reorientation through openness to society that basically it serves.

For any person, minor or adult, imprisonment in the penitentiary is a special situation, with ample resonance in its living environment, both during imprisonment and, afterwards, in freedom.

Specialized studies (Gheorge, F., 1996, p.121) shows that, at the minors who enter in prison for the first time, appear multiple somatizations (weak, have trouble sleeping, crying, sore leg, are disoriented in time). In this case, the shock of incarceration in prison is directly proportional to the preexisting emotional disorders, those sensitive, socially and emotionally immature, sick, usually suffer the most. In this period the disappointment take place to desperation, because minors are abandoned by family, the private goods are forcibly take out and the contact with mentalities and lifestyles difficult to understand for them, make them fast enough to adhere to informal norms and values in conflict with those promoted by the prison administration.

In our country, the main function of the prison, or juvenile rehabilitation centers have moved gradually its emphasis from the custodial field (which sought to isolate the offender from society through the social danger which he represent) to the educational -recuperative field (psychosocial and therapeutic), through numerous educational and psychosocial programs in order to decrease the risk of relapse and increase the chances of rehabilitation and social reintegration.

If we talk about social reintegration, it is imperative to emphasize that previous approaches in terms of socialization, social adaptation and social integration of adolescents were doomed to failure because one or more factors involved in the educational process (family, school and / or community) had managed inefficient or poorly the procedural skills required for social integration.

In prisons and rehabilitation centers regenerative intervention is made through educational programs, psychological and social assistance designed to recalibrate and rebalance psycho-behavioral the child before its release.

Thus, in juvenile rehabilitation centers and in prisons who have custody of minors, their daily schedule have a high educational and recreational activities, being carried regenerative health education programs, knowledge and cultural activities, occupational activities , sports leisure, hobby activities, moral education activities, training of personal autonomy.

Also they have moral-religious assistance from the priest of the penitentiary or from other priests according to their religious option, based on free religious expression.

Psychosocial support programs aimed primarily to restructure the attitude and behavior of person, to develop the networking and communication skills, programs aimed to reduce aggression, programs of conflict management, moral support and personal development, self-discovery and self-esteem growth programs, as well as advice on specific issues.

Regarding the reform of the penal system in Romania, is noteworthy the interest of international organizations aimed at protecting human rights, which referring to the situation in our country regarding of child and its conflict with the criminal law, recommended to speeding up the set up of juvenile courts, insisting at the same time, in the juvenile delinquency prevention activities organized both by state institutions and the community. Thus, were provided explicit attributions of such services like probation/social reintegration and surveillance, meanwhile probation counselors prepare mandatory assessment reports, required for minors accused or defendants, and ensure surveillance of juveniles sentenced to educational measure of supervised freedom.

Unlike the current system of criminal justice, restorative justice focuses on three categories of customers: victims of crime, offenders and community members, giving them all equal attention and opportunities.

Differences between (traditional) classical paradigm of justice (retributive and rehabilitative) and modern paradigm (restorative justice) are:

a) *classical paradigm (traditional)* focuses on punishment or treatment of offenders, victims have a peripheral role in the process, the community is represented by state institutions and parties is on opposite positions;

b) *modern paradigm (restorative justice)* focuses on repairing the damage caused by the criminal to victim / community, members and community organizations are active, the process is characterized by dialogue and negotiation between the parts and the victims have a central role in the process.

Consensual ways of resolving conflicts between victims and aggressors have known various developments and names, such as *community justice*, *reparative justice*, *restorative justice*; in practice it is often known as *mediation* (Graham, WG, 2001).

In Romania it is possible to apply restorative justice in two forms: mediation and postconviction restorative justice.

If in traditional justice, the correct (blind) application of law is a priority factor, almost a century ago this approach was reviewed and developed the concept of "sociological jurisprudence" which means that the law must seek the relationship between itself and the social effects created, which are prerequisites of strategic changes of justice role by developing therapeutic function.

Therapeutic justice focuses on how "socio-psychological" laws and legal processes affect individuals involved in the criminal justice system. By examining the effects of the law in this way, therapeutic justice may show how laws and legal processes can actually support or undermine the public goals set to be reached by the criminal law. (D. Carson, D. Wexler, 1994, p.79).

Therapeutic justice doesn't block the realization of justice act, but suggests that mental health and psychological aspects of the criminal process should be examined to inform on the potential to succeed in reaching the goals.

Therapeutic justice, as tool for acquiring new perspectives on questions concerning the effects of how to apply the law, not resolve conflicts between competitive values, but rather seek the informations needed to promote certain goals and to feed normative debate on the legitimacy or priority of competitive values (D. Wexler, R. Schopp, 1992, p.361).

In the second part which comprising statistical analyzes explanatory-descriptive, studies, surveys and case studies, we considered appropriate, in **Chapter 6**, an analysis of dynamics of phenomenon downward national, regional and county level, by making a transversely and longitudinal radiography (period 2001-2011) of the main statistical data that could be accessed on juvenile delinquency.

The efforts of descriptive-exploratory research, carried downward, reveal the conclusion of considerable decrease in the number of juveniles convicted of offenses that may call into question the adequacy of performing this task.

But looking at statistics from the year 2009, how can we explain the number of 13,134 juveniles accused nationwide, compared with the number of 528 juveniles sanctioned in national penal system (prisons and rehabilitation centers) and the number of 629 of offenses committed by juveniles in the county of Cluj?

Another difficulty of rational understanding, lies in the statistics analysis of the year 2008 when have been accused by the police a number of 13,831 juveniles, 594 were penalized nationwide with imprisonment or confinement in rehabilitation centers and, from those sentenced, 128 were minors from Transylvania.

This apparent inconsistency, regarding the statistical data, have led us to deepen our downward analysis of the dynamics of the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency with an analysis (conducted in Chapter 7) of the phenomenon in county of Cluj, following after that an upward step (additional), in which we can made predictions of the phenomenon studied.

Analyzed data, covering a period of 10 years, were collected through a sustained effort (both through consultation documents, activity reports from the institutions directly involved in the management of juvenile justice and studying archives) with the support of management and workers from Cluj County Police Inspectorate, Institute of Forensic Medicine Cluj and Probation Service Cluj.

In the county of Cluj the dynamic of offenses committed by juveniles in 2008 was 368, the number of forensic examinations conducted for minors, aged between 14 and 16 years, in 2008 was 195, the number of evaluation reports for minors of the Probation Service for the same year (2008) is 250, the number of juveniles observed in 2008 by counselors of the Probation Service is 106, and the control number (ie the number of minors in the custody of the External Department Cluj of Gherla Maximum Security Prison at 31.12 .2008) was 8, although the number of convicted minors for some periods exceeded 30.

The achievement of a common database for institutions involved in the juvenile justice system, would allow the observation and monitoring of adolescents who have committed offenses and the development of individualized intervention plans for both those sentenced to supervised freedom and minors released from prison. Also, would follow their behavioral route, which would allow recalibration of interventions in case of repetition of delinquent behaviors (relapse). The database would provide information on cases of relapse both statistically and nominal (offenses committed by minors in a certain period and the types of sanctions received) to take steps to balance psycho-behavioral the subject and to mitigate his vulnerability.

The database would also allow judges of the courts to have access to information about child behavior, contained in the evaluation reports prepared by the Probation Service to every request of the court, often without revisions. For example, in the case study KCA, the child was punished 5 times with alternately measure of internment in a rehabilitation center and 1 with imprisonment, for 6 criminal cases in which were investigated more crimes.

In chapter 7, through the three studies, we followed to identify explanatory and predictors factors of juvenile delinquency and social inclusion by analyzing the phenomenon in the prison (the tertiary intervention) and later by comparison between the juvenile delinquents and non-delinquents from community (the secondary prevention), to make inferences about the possibilities of intervention at national level (primary prevention).

In the field of juvenile delinquency, the prediction refers both to considerations of future dynamics of crime and its reduce to a reasonable amount, by the ability to take action on the causes and conditions that determine or favor it. Taking into account the great complexity of the causes and conditions that maintain this phenomenon, any outcome in this field has a probabilistic character and a different area of generalization as it involves developing programs and strategies for a large-scale social action.

Predictive research on the development of adolescent criminal behavior has; thus, a great complexity and a great operational value, because of its results depend on how much a number of young "confused" will be saved from the danger of slipping down on the slope of criminal deviance.

In these studies, we sought to identify the main combinations of risk factors that determine the transformation of deviant behaviors in possible delinquent behavior, to recommend measures to develop a prevention program to prevent their subsequent expression.

We also sought to establish associations between the main variables considered to be risk factors in commitment of offenses by juveniles deprived of their liberty and later to analyze the combinations of factors that can be considered "risk factors" involved in relapse.

Thus, in *study 7.1*, regarding the risk factors that influence the occurrence of juvenile criminal behaviors (study made on 301 juveniles deprived of their liberty for specific periods of time in External Department Cluj-Napoca of Gherla Maximum Security Prison) in the analysis of the frequency of appearance of individual, family and school risk factors, to juveniles deprived of liberty for offenses (both those with no criminal record and those with criminal repetitive behaviors), we can draw the following conclusions:

• After identify the frequency of **individual risk factors** we find that:

1. the minors engaged in adopting risk behaviors, so 85.4% smoking, 53.2% have consumed alcohol and 27.2% have consumed drugs or related chemicals
2. self-aggressive reactions or manifestations, represented by tattoos, cuts, scarification forearms and cigarette burns are present in a proportion of 57.5%, followed by a rate of 42.5% of craniocerebral trauma (resulting, as minor claims, from accidents or domestic violence), 34.6% of the juveniles had a history of ideas / attempts of suicide and a rate of 25.9% have been investigated psychiatrically.

Concerning the investigations and psychiatric expertises we observe that percentage is almost equal to the percentage of juveniles (23.2%), aged 14 to 16, who require mandatory medical and psychiatric investigation to establish discernment, before criminal liability.

3. run away from home or from institutions were present in 47.2% of investigated minors, 38.2% of them stating that they were previously institutionalized for some period of time.

• After identify the frequency of **family risk factors** we find that:

1. in terms of family structure in 47.5% of families the parents lives in concubinage, in 16.9% of cases minors lived with one parent, and from the percentage of 48.5% of cases in wich the parents were legally married, almost half (18.3%) were divorced.
2. in terms of family environment only 39.9% of juveniles said that they have benefited from a stable climate, while 60.1% of juveniles said that quarrels (48.5%), heavy drinking (33.6%) and physical aggression (25.2%) were present in their family environment in varying proportions.
3. Another risk factor identified to family level is the offense committed by the members of origin family, so that in a proportion of 48.8% from these families offenses were present (17.9% offenses of the father, 15.9% offenses committed by brothers and 4% offenses of mother).
4. the percentage of psychiatric illness in family members, according to the statements of minors, is 22.3%

•At **school level**, the minors difficulties are:

1. the classic failed, represented by the repeaters or expulsions, which were mentioned by a percentage of 71.4% of minors investigated.
2. the minors illiterate percentage is 22.3% from the sample.
3. the minors who have completed partially primary school is 32.2%, their intellectual performance not being higher than those illiterate.

The list of major risk factors investigated and identified as being present in varying proportions in juvenile offenders included in the study, may be a prerequisite for reconsideration the corrective interventions, conducted in both corrective-formative- education purposes, in the prison environment, and the recalibration of preventive interventions undertaken locally to overcome the formalism of institutional interventions and ensure the growth of efficiency of programs or interventions, in order to support the integration of minors in community.

Without analyzing the economic dimension of this phenomenon, it is well-known that it is much easier to prevent than to recover, although, apparently, the initial costs of implementing preventive strategies appear to be too high, in medium and long term the cost - benefit analysis prove their usefulness.

Also, the risk factors mentioned above can identify and develop programs and methods of intervention at different levels, that can be implemented only after a serious multidimensional analysis, a period of control and measuring the efficiency of interventions, through their operationalizations.

Following the share of risk factors investigated, we found that 51.7% of the juvenile have criminal record, which means that they had criminal start precocious and were subjected to the influence of factors with the role of maintaining in the adoption of recurrent deviant behaviors. We wanted to see if there are significant associations between risk factors investigated and the criteria related with absence/presence of criminal background to minors from studied sample. For example, if consumption of alcohol is present at 53.2% of juvenile delinquents, will follow in what quantity is present at minors with a criminal record or minors without criminal record, and if it might be consider a risk factor in maintaining the repetitive deviant behaviors.

By comparing the *minors with a criminal record* and *no criminal record* in terms of risk factors identified in the sample, we drew the following conclusions:

1. There are statistically significant association, even in moderate to low intensity, between the presence of criminal background and area of residence (urban); family structure (disorganized, concubinage, one parent or divorced); family environment (unstable); mental disorders of family members (mother, father); consumption of drugs and similar substances; self-aggressive behavior (tattoos, cuts); institutionalization of juveniles for certain periods of time; extraversion as personality feature (at introverts dominate the repetitive criminal conduct).

2. There are no significant associations, statistically, between the presence of criminal background and offenses committed by family members; educational level; presence of school difficulties; risk behaviors represented by smoking, alcohol, suicide attempts, running away from home or the presence of sleep disorders; cranio-cerebral trauma or presence of psychiatric disorders; personality features related to socially desirable answers; psychoticism level; neuroticism and behavioral disorders.

In this way, we can say that the factors from this second category are present both to minors without a criminal record and those with criminal records, in similar proportions, representing the risk factors in adopting criminal behaviors.

Development of models of intervention would be more effective if the first category of factors would be targeted by the prevention programs of relapse (at tertiary/ recuperative level), while focusing on the second category of factors would be prior in primary and secondary programs of prevention.

Plans, programs and intervention strategies for monitoring, mitigation and control of juvenile delinquency, involve (beyond statistical, sociological, psychological, legal dimensions) the economic dimension which aim the cost-benefit analysis, before implementing any intervention.

In *study 7.2* we sought comparative analysis of the influence of risk factors on non-delinquent behaviors versus juvenile offenders. The analysis of internal risk factors (individual) and external (family, school) on child behavior from the two investigated samples, consist of 326 juvenile delinquents and 326 non-delinquent juveniles, coming from Cluj County, the following conclusions were drawn:

If in both samples investigated, subjects are male and aged between 14 and 18 years, in terms of the environment of origin of the subjects, comparative rates between urban and rural areas (30.1% - offenders, 27.3% - non-offenders) do not differ significantly in terms of membership of delinquent versus non-delinquent group.

From the descriptive analysis of internal risk factors (individual) and external (family, school) on child behavior of the two investigated sample, consist of 326 juvenile delinquents and 326 non-delinquent juveniles, coming from Cluj County, we can draw the following conclusions:

1. **smoking** as risk behavior is present in juvenile delinquents in proportion of 85.6%, significantly higher than in the non-delinquent juveniles, 46%.
2. **trends**, strongly shaped, **of behavioral disturbances** are present in significantly higher proportion in offenders group (73.5%), compared with non-offenders (23.6%).
3. regarding **school difficulties**, their proportion in the group of offenders is significantly higher (72.1%), compared with the non-delinquent juveniles (43.3%).

4. **strongly shaped trends** of psychoticism are present in a proportion of 68.6% at juvenile delinquents, compared with 49.1% at non-delinquents minors, while **shaped trends** of psychoticism are present in a proportion of 20.6% at juvenile delinquents, compare with 4, 9% at non-delinquent juveniles.
5. in terms of **unstable family environment**, 61% of juvenile delinquents states that quarrels (16.3%), heavy drinking (19.3%) and physical assault (25.5%) were present in their family environment in variable proportions, compared with 51.5% of non-delinquent juveniles who have had such a family atmosphere. This result reveal that is a lower proportion of stable climate in the group of offenders (39%) than non-offenders (48%) and also by higher proportions of cases of alcohol consumption (19.3% vs. 4%) or physical aggression in the family (25.5% vs. 11.7%). Surprisingly, unstable family environment, with frequent quarrels, is perceived in a greater measure in non-delinquent juveniles 35.9%, compare to juvenile delinquents 16.3%.
6. **family disruption**, from structurally point of view, is present in a higher proportion in the group of offenders (60.4%) than non-offenders (24.5%). If the percentage of parents legally married is much lower in the group of offenders (39.6%) than non-offenders (75.5%), generally finding higher proportion of cases of broken families in the group of offenders, not the same thing we find in terms of the proportion of divorce / separation of parents, where the proportions are similar (15% from delinquents vs. 12% from non-delinquents).
7. **self-aggressive behaviors** such as tattoos, cuts or intentional burns are present in 56.9% in case of offenders, compare to 25.5% of non-offenders.
8. another risk factor identified to family level is the offenses committed by the **family of origin**, incidences of crime family was significantly lower (19.9%) in the group of non-offenders, than in the group of offenders (49.1%).
9. **trends**, strongly shaped, **of neuroticism** is significantly higher in the group of offenders (48.9%) compared with the other group (34.7%), the difference being statistically significant, although the presence of neuroticism shape trends is observed in greater measure in case of non-offenders (51.2%), than offenders 45.8%).
10. alcohol as a risk factor is present in 56% of juvenile delinquents from 48.5% in non-delinquent juveniles.
11. **run away from home/dromomania** or run away from institutions was experienced by 47.5% of juvenile delinquents, compared with 22.7% of the cases recorded in the group of non-offenders.
12. **craniocerebral trauma** were identified in approximately 42.3% of juveniles deprived of liberty than that of the group of pupils (22.7%) (stating that they have suffered various injuries or were victims of domestic violence).
13. 37.1% of the delinquent group compared with 4% of non-delinquent group was **institutionalized** for certain periods of time.
14. **ideas/attempts of suicide** were recognized by 37.7% of juvenile delinquents investigated, compared with 29.5% of non-delinquent juveniles.
15. the percentage of **psychiatric illness to family members**, according to the statements of minors is 34.7% in case of delinquents and 23.6% to non-delinquents.
16. the percentage of **consumption of drugs/similar substances** to minors deprived of liberty investigated is 31.6%, compared with 24.8% in non-delinquent juveniles. The differences are statistically insignificant.
17. **mental illness** reported by subjects are at a rate of 25.5% in juvenile delinquents compared to 5.5% for non-delinquent juveniles. The difference is statistically significant.
18. *Surprisingly, the proportion of cases of sleep disorders is lower in the group of offenders (35.3%) compared with the non-offenders (55.2%).*

We found that investigated risk factors are present both to juvenile offenders and non-offenders in the variables proportions and combinations, representing potential sources of risk in assailable the adolescents in adopting criminal behaviors.

Thus, from this analysis, we find that the study hypothesis was not confirmed as we found *higher proportions* for some of the investigated factors among *non-delinquent* juveniles (unstable family environment with frequent quarrels, trends shaped of neuroticism and sleep disorders common in non-offenders) or *similar proportions* among other factors investigated, compared to the two samples (parents divorce rate almost equal to that of the group of juvenile delinquents, alcohol, drugs/similar substances and present of suicide ideas). In other words, not all factors investigated (individual, family and school) are found in significantly higher proportions in the group of juvenile offenders, compare to juvenile non-offenders group.

An important issue that emerges from this study is represented by the prevalence of critical life events (parental divorce), risk behaviors (alcohol and/drugs), sleep disturbances and the presence of suicidal ideas, which coupled with lack of social appropriate support, represent the antechamber to depression, which is found more frequently to adolescents.

Thus, both in the development of programs of prevention (primary and secondary) and of the intervention (tertiary prevention), would be beneficial and desirable to target differently the risk factors affecting personal development, to reduce vulnerability and prevent crime behaviors among teenagers.

Please note that our approach has not a character and a purpose strictly theoretical, but a practical one, the present study containing elements of sociological and psychological research that confirms, unfortunately, the assumption that the family and its functional deficiencies are the main source/risk factor in the adoption of pre-delinquent and delinquent behaviors.

Thus, the main ways of intervention would be required to be implemented in family level doubled by interventions in school and community level, without forgetting educational, formative and supportive interventions (psychological and social) at the individually level, taking into account the particular age and context.

In the *study 7.3*, we investigated the influence of activation of cognitive schemes on processing information about decisions at juvenile offenders by checking the assumptions stated.

1. Influence of underlying cognitive schemas on decision process is a general mechanism that occurs in a prison environment, regardless of the state of relapse.
2. Regardless of decider context (community/area of detention), cognitive schemes used influences both the decision of adolescents from the community and those deprived of their liberty.

To verify the hypothesis, we used six independent samples of 60 subjects, each represented by two groups of non-delinquents teenagers from community and 4 groups of juvenile deprived of their liberty.

Adolescents' age from the community is between 14 and 18 years. From adolescents included in the study, almost 70% presented at least one of these behaviors considered as risk: tattoos, piercings, alcohol, smoking, consumption of ethnobotanical plants, school difficulties (second examination, the repeaters), running away from home.

Juveniles deprived of freedom age are between 14 and 18 years and the facts for wich have been convicted are: complicity to theft, robbery, accessory to robbery, theft, injury, rape, murder.

All subjects included in the study are male.

Because the decision precede the adoption of any conduct (simple or complex), this is implicitly the antechamber of criminal behavior. Therefore, we decided to analyze the behavior of real decision made by juvenile deprived of their liberty compared with that of non-delinquent minors, to pursue opportunities of influence in prosocial way the decisions of juveniles from a prison environment.

The decision is the first and most important sign of authenticity of human behavior. In the study conducted on the behavior of juvenile delinquents we followed the way on how real decision-making process can be influenced through the formulations of alternatives. Of course the complexity and variety of problems and problematic situations can be found both in the community and in the prison environment. Although the dynamics of human phenomena in detention space is specified, there are some universal elements that transcend physical or cognitive barrier between the civil society and the prison universe.

With all the changes in the interpretation of the final function of the prison, the human phenomenology of prison remains constant with the same psychological coordinates (helplessness, despair, resignation, failure). The shock of imprisonment, bearing the rigors of imprisonment regime as a result of execution of a criminal sentence, represents a limit situation for human and generates more often than not, short circuit behavior.

Thus, knowing some mechanisms (cognitive schemas) involved in making a decision, we can occur, through the way of formulations of problems, to influence real decision processes.

The cognitive mechanisms, either in simple or complex decision, have an important role in processuality of decision.

In this study, we sought universality activation of underlying cognitive schemas decision in relation to two important variables: the state of relapse (for juveniles deprived of their liberty) in a prison environment and the context/position of minor decider non-delinquent/deprived of liberty. Thus, we found that the formulation of alternatives influence the making of decision by avoiding or searching the risk, because presentation of alternatives in terms of earnings, most subjects choose for certainty, and the presentation of alternatives in terms of loss, most subjects choose the risky alternative (uncertainty).

The importance of the formulation of alternatives in different terms, which activate different cognitive schemes, who change the decision, finds numerous applications:

- The way in which questions are formulated by prosecutors to obtain evidence (different terms "touched"/"hit" in question may lead to different testimonies);
- Acceptance or non-acceptance of surgery by the patients according in which way is presented the chances of success;
- Acceptance or non-acceptance of medical interventions (maneuvers) as a result of self harm and self-mutilation made by prisoners, caused most commonly by claiming purposes;
- Prevent or abandonment of "food refusal", one of the methods used sometimes by prisoners to contact decision makers;
- Involvement or non-involvement of minors in educational and regenerative activities who are aimed to made social reintegration after release and balancing them etc..

So the formulation of the problem (linguistic framework) can improve the decision process in a prison environment.

Thus, we consider this study as a useful guide for further research on the real decision process, allowing us to influence, control or predict decision behavior in prison universe.

The case studies presented in **Chapter 8** completes our approach through qualitative analysis of the etiology of delinquent behavior, methods of intervention with their limits and difficulties, as well as prospects for social reintegration of juveniles deprived of their liberty.

Since etiological analysis does not provide sufficient guidance on the propensity towards delinquency of youth, it needs to be complemented by predictive analysis that allows drafting future trends of the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and development of intervention programs and strategies, effective and measurable.

Chapter 9. Implementation of national strategies for the prevention of juvenile delinquency is often done without being evaluated in advance, in terms of cost-benefit criterion, without clear procedures of implementation and, what not to say, without having sufficient human resources. After developing the strategies, in many cases, is missing the trying period, as

well as the measurement of their effectiveness, leading, thus, to their continuous application only from inertia.

To achieve cumulative effect of criteria related to objectives, costs and effectiveness in preventing the appearance and maintenance of juvenile delinquency is mandatory to follow (from statistics) dynamics and evolution of the phenomenon, to realize forecast and predictions on how the deviant behaviors will develop in the future.

Also, identifying and understanding how interact and share risk factors on juvenile crime can be achieved after analyzing the phenomenon dimensions in a certain area and to identify practical, real and effective applications, for social recovery and prevent juvenile pre-delinquent behavior of vulnerable children within a community.

Although most institutions involved in approaching this phenomenon made their own plans and strategies, consistency and effectiveness of preventive approaches will be affected by only one perspective of action, without make joint efforts to reduce and control juvenile delinquency. Lack of a real database on minors at risk (from different perspectives), impugn the effectiveness of steps taken in each institution involved in approaching the juvenile delinquency. For example, all activities and interventions in the prison environment will haven't continuity without further involvement of community and purposefulness of the approach will be known only if the minor will relapse (unwanted case). In this situation, it is concluded that educational, formative and recuperative approach that had been made in custodial environment was ineffective without making reference to efficiency and how the social support was received or not by juvenile after release.

Therefore, social reintegration requires continuous intervention at tertiary level as primary prevention (proactive strategies) and secondary prevention (interventions reactive) is maintained by tertiary prevention efforts (curative - recuperative) and supplemented by postvention.

Priority targets of the prison system and conducted psychosocial educational activities were to balance psycho-behavioral development of the juveniles deprived of their liberty for their social reintegration, thus *preventing relapse*.

At this level of tertiary prevention (regenerative) were made undeniable progress (personally seen as practitioner psychologist, with more then 10 years of experience in system) to decrease frequency and intensity of maladaptive behavior of self harm type, exhibited by juveniles deprived of their liberty.

In the county of Cluj, involving those truly interested in the evolution of this phenomenon in terms of its negative impact on both the child and the community can be start a program for monitoring and assisting children at risk.

This program can be implemented (lack of funding in anticipation) using european structural funds through an agreement of cooperation and partnership between local authorities, institutions involved in the management of juvenile delinquency, schools, youth organizations and social services at local level respecting the extended confidentiality rule. Also accurate and permanent information of community with the possibility of direct involvement in this project as a factor of social support would be by itself a preventive action.

The research result, got by a performed analysis of 10 years of study of the dynamics of phenomenon in the County of Cluj, outlined a picture of the main risks factors of criminal behavior committed by minors. Given the common elements to profile of national juvenile offenders and similarity of conditions for development and evolution of adolescent, research results could be generalized with caution because they capture only a part of the manifestation of the phenomenon.

The descriptive research by analyzing the statistical, criminogenic and social dimensions is an informative - explanatory.

We can say that *analytical part* has an explorer-predictive role by analyzing relationship between variables used in studies and highlight of those significant.

Limits of work and research perspectives

A scientific research, regardless of the complexity and deeper grounding has some limit, beyond the results. These limits inherent in any scientific approach offer the possibility to continue and deepen the study area.

If our work, we identify three types of limits:

- Limits on how to choose the investigated population
- Limitations related to the selected research methods and how to apply them
- Limitations related to the perspectives used in research.

The first set of limitations concerns the choice of the first study of population investigated, although it is represented by all juveniles deprived of liberty newly entered (301), are in the custody of the External Department Cluj from Gherla Prison during 2001-2010, provides a descriptive picture that allows inferences and generalization with caution of the results, only by reference to modal profile of juvenile offenders.

In the second study, sample of non-offenders minor comes from two schools in Cluj (which though in terms of variables sex, age and provenance are consistent with similar variables juvenile group).

In the study we analyzed by comparison juvenile delinquents and non-delinquents, although we used 6 groups of 60 subjects, the result of psychological study being extrapolated and generalized, we consider as a limit the small number of subjects, on one hand, and the small number of variables investigated, on the other hand.

All studies will be repeated/replicated as it will be considered necessary their deepening in different context, with a larger number of subjects and an increased number of variables.

The second set of limits and perhaps most consistently refers to research methods chosen and how they were applied.

In socio-psychological approach that I choose in making this step, I tried to keep in mind that in studying the same field / phenomenon, combined use of several methods and techniques (beyond being a principle with sociological methodology) better capture aspects phenomenon studied by compensating intrinsic limitations of each method.

Regarding the choice of sociological and psychological research methods, we consider a limit an insufficient number of questionnaires used, and the limit should be consistent in how they have been applied with reference to detailed anamnesis made for juvenile delinquents and making those items in questionnaires for non-delinquents.

In *qualitative methods*, such limits are the following:

- Double interview with observation and personal history only for juveniles deprived of their liberty.

- at non-delinquent minors they could not eliminate the desirability aspects of some of the answers.

Indirect survey limits:

- The questionnaire to pupils was both self-administered form and the collective application form, like to juvenile delinquents who received the needed support for completing the answer sheet (although it is recommended to use self-administered questionnaire in research school communities)

- To avoid loss of data obtained by self administered forms and to eliminate ambiguity and imprecision we tried (failed in all classes) collective management;

- It is possible that some answers are false, given that the survey question was not understood, and respondents did not ask further explanation;

Regarding the chosen instruments, we must specify that most previous studies broach the issue of juvenile delinquency using methods specific to the expertise of the researcher, while in our research we use statistical sociological and psychological methods and tools, such as observation, semi-standardized structured interview, personality questionnaires and indirectly self-administered questionnaire survey.

As a limit we also consider the procedure of the statistical analysis used to assess a connection between group membership delinquent or non-delinquent and risk factors most frequently quoted in the specialized literature, using only the independent samples *t test* for comparison of average values of unparametric correlation "Cramer phi" between nominal variables and distribution of difference frequency of "square hi".

Supplementation of uni and bivariate statistical analysis with a linear regression model for quantitative dependent variables and multiple logistic regression model for qualitative dependent variables, would allow prioritizing risk factors in terms of their importance, increasing the statistical consistency. However, in our explorative approach have repeatedly underlined that the interaction and combination of risk factors on behavior is specific and unique to each child, with major number, combination, frequency, intensity and timing in which these factors act and interact on budding personality of adolescent.

The third set of limitations concerns the perspectives used in research.

In this sense, this thesis, although had the intention to analyze the risk factors associated with occasional or repetitive criminal behavior of minors at the national level, it is limited (because of procedural grounds) to study the issue in the County of Cluj. This allows for inferences and predictions on the evolution of the phenomenon locally and generalization with caution of the results.

However, research should be considered and given the importance of research in national phenomenon of juvenile delinquency through the consequences deriving from it. We also mentioned in the paper the issues facing professionals from involved institutions in space of juvenile justice (from judges, probation counselors to social workers and psychologists in the prison system) on the large amount of work per unit of time which not frequently lead to performance rather quantitative indicators at the expense of quality.

At the same time, given the transdisciplinarity of chosen theme, our work has attempted to combine the psychological perspective with the sociological one, concerning explanatory and predictors factors of juvenile delinquency, through integrative socio-psychological approach.

As a psychologist, in retrospect, I think it was much easier option to study juvenile delinquency only psychologically, but this kind of approach results once again underlines the fact that man is a social being and requires multidisciplinary interventions both in the development and the improvement/optimization of skills.

Despite *these limitations of the present research*, we can see research perspectives to provide further explanations and more complex and detailed predictions of how risk factors interact in various combinations and intensities and generally influence the behavior of adolescents and particularly juvenile offenders causing, promoting or enhancing the expression of deviant behavior and/delinquent. So, some of the above limitations can be transformed into research perspectives, allowing us to deepen the study.

In any field of study, we can say that research continues, there followed many directions and possibilities for improving the current state of knowledge.

The research undertaken believe that the objective has been achieved through statistical dynamics radiography of the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency of national, regional and county level, bringing a clarification of the issues faced by both researchers and practitioners of the field. We hope that the results will be useful to researchers and professionals committed.

Own contributions

A research is motivated by the goal and objectives and the approach (theoretical, methodological and investigative) obtained by researchers to add further value to the current state of knowledge in the area studied. However, research / scientific approach developed is justified only to the extent that through results obtained are achieved some conceptual clarification or demonstrate causal relationships, correlation or association between the studied variables, allowing the understanding and explanation of the etiology of the studied phenomenon followed by predictions on its future development.

Having permanently in view the title "Explanatory and predictive sociopsychological factors of juvenile delinquency and social reinsertion", the approach we conducted aimed at identifying, understanding and explaining the main risk factors in the development and manifestation of delinquent behaviors, individual and social factors and how they interact and reinforce each other causing committing antisocial behavior. Studying these factors may allow the researcher, regardless of field of study, to find concrete and practical ways to help transform of individual risk factors (psychological) and the micro (family, school and group membership) into protective factors and support for wayward child.

The main contributions that we have made in this paper to the current state of knowledge in the field of juvenile delinquency we'll be presented below, taking into account that this paper is a combination of theoretical and empirical research. Thus, we will structure their contributions into two categories, referring both at the conceptual and empirical level.

At the conceptual level, the research conducted is characterized by:

- Defining phenomenon of juvenile delinquency from a multidisciplinary perspective and avoid enumeration of definitions;

- Presenting and synthesizing numerous theoretical approaches related to the phenomenon of crime, which are divided into five categories: biological theories, psychological and psychiatric theories, sociological theories, theories social-cognitive/psicho-social theories and socio-psychological theories;

- Assuming reformulation of primary objective reiterated of the penitentiary system of *social reintegration of prisoners* with proximal and achievable goal of *balancing psycho-behavioral and relational detainees*;

- Explaining the need for reformulation of the term *juvenile delinquency combat* with achievable goal of *reducing and controlling juvenile delinquency*;

- Underlining the need for clarification and reformulation of sentence "*punishing minors with internment in a rehabilitation center* (educational measure) or *imprisonment* (punitive measure)"

- Emphasizing the importance of using interface language used by specialists to evaluate (legal, medical, psychological, social, educational, etc) investigated minors to obtain accurate information given the low intellectual performance and difficulties in understanding specialized used terms.

At an empirical level, to highlight the main contributions to the approach, we refer to the results obtained in the studies.

As follows:

- I have presented statistical analysis of the dynamics of juvenile delinquency at national and regional level during 1990 - 2011;

- I analyzed the evolution of dynamics of juvenile delinquency in the county of Cluj, in the past decade by presenting comprehensive data on this phenomenon from the perspective of the involved institutions in specific activities in the area of juvenile justice;

- I analyzed the influence and association of risk factors in the development and maintenance of delinquent behaviors via survey on juveniles deprived of their liberty;

- I watched comparatively the impact of risk factors on the behavior of juvenile offenders versus non-delinquents, identifying further opportunities for action;

- I have demonstrated through research on decision-making, universality of activated cognitive schemas, in information processing, regardless of the studied variables and identified practical and effective ways to influence decision-making behavior of juveniles in the prison;

- I presented through case studies the etiology of criminal behavior, methods of intervention and prospects for social reintegration of juveniles deprived of their liberty;

- I illustrated some potential ways to streamline the activities in the tertiary prevention in penitentiary system in order to achieve the assumed strategies and action plans;

- I presented the opportunity to start an interinstitutional and community project (with structural funds) to local and county level, as a first step in monitoring, mitigation and control of juvenile delinquency, in particular, and protection, training, development and support of the child at risk, in general.

Although juvenile crime prevention initiatives are multiplying, like institutions that are tasked to prevent this phenomenon, it is necessary to create an institutionalized system, adequate of social protection of families and children in need or at risk and effective programs to prevent juvenile delinquency.

In Romania, it must need to create and to boost the institutions, not to copy existing models that could lead to loss of resources, actually so very poor. For confused adolescent, firm and coherent measures containing clear guidelines of conduct and social integration with a strong support and education would be more effective than sanctioning or punitive measures, knowing that young people generally react and not act to stimuluses, showing a behavior guided by the principle of "forbidden fruit".

Thus, factors favoring integration/reintegration of minors are represented by:

1. developing and implementing a national strategy (*downward*) for the provision of health (physical and mental) with programs for self-awareness, personal development and optimization of behavior, communication and networking in the home, school, group membership, professional environments.
2. corroboration Action Plans (*horizontal and ascending*) at local and regional developed by all institutions involved in assisting child development and socialization, education and training, intervention and recovery Department of Public Health, Department for assistance and child protection; Hall, County School Inspectorate, Inspectorate County Police, National Antidrug Agency, Probation Service, Prisons, NGO's, voluntary associations, religious cults, Department of Employment and Workforce Development, media etc.

If at macro level (politically, economically, administrative) results of studies and research can be a source of information for decision makers, at micro level (family, school and group membership) and individual level (psychological factors) can be developed programs, plans and proposals action to streamline the work of all those involved directly or indirectly in the research, approach and control of juvenile delinquency phenomenon.

Reduction and control of juvenile delinquency phenomenon will be achieved beyond plans and strategies for prevention and intervention only to the extent that there is an efficient and functional system to interfere mutually and simultaneously family, school, community and institutions involved directly in address of this phenomenon.

Finally, I would like to point out a fact, that I am convinced that we know and understand all those who operate in the area of juvenile justice, namely that a minor is not socially reintegrated when it is released, but will be truly social reintegrated when the society will provide real chances to accept him.

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