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LAW-BREAKING CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH FIELD THE CITY OF RETHYMNO – CRETE

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Abstract

It is an undeniable fact that law-breaking criminal behavior among young individuals constitutes a social phenomenon which has grown out of proportion nowadays. According to Pitsela 2000, 'Deviating behavior of young individuals involves the adoption of deviating rules and principles and especially the ones learnt within the framework of a subculture which contravenes the prevalent culture'.

It should also be noted that law-breaking criminal behavior of young people is particularly important since the young are the ones who will integrate in the social total and gradually take over positions and roles in various sectors of social life. Thus, it is evident that any form of deviating behavior from the young constitutes an alarming phenomenon which directly affects the harmony of the social total.

During the last two decades in Europe the rapid increase of law-breaking criminal behavior among juvenile immigrants has been the object of study of special scientists, the broader social total and the state in search of various ways to deal with this phenomenon. What follows is a survey conducted in the University of Crete in the city of Rethymno concerning the issue of law-breaking criminal behavior among young immigrants in Greece.

Keywords: Immigrants, Social Exclusion, Law-Breaking Criminal Behavior, Rethymno

1. Survey

1.1. Purpose of the Survey

The purpose of the survey conducted was the examination of the law-breaking criminal behavior of underage immigrants and the level of awareness of the students of University of Crete, concerning this issue.

1.2. Sample

The sample of the survey in this particular project did not meet any specific criteria, all the participants, 70 in total, came from the University body and ranged between 18 and 23 years of age.

1.3. Methodology

In order to be able to collect the necessary data, a written questionnaire, which consisted of 17 questions, was distributed to the participants. More specifically, during the process of formulating the questions there was an effort to use functional language avoiding 'slang', pretentious language or jargon. Apart from the use of the proper language it was considered wise to keep the questions short and clear and when there were multiple choice questions there has been an effort to cover all possible answers with an additional completion by the respondent of another probable answer at the end of the questionnaire.

Another point worth mentioning is that leading questions and negative questions were avoided in an effort to prevent confusion by the respondents in combination to proper formulation of the questions so that the respondents would not find them insulting and at the same time servicing the scientific purpose set from the beginning. From the 17 questions of the questionnaire the respondents were called to answer, 7 were closed type questions ranging from positive answers to neutral, do not know/answer, one of the questions requested a 1 to 10 marking depending on the severity of the problem of the question, eight questions requested the choice of four possible factors – cases – causes including the option of do not know/answer and finally there were two open type questions where the respondents were called to express, in their own words, ways of reducing law-breaking criminal behavior or anything else they would like to add at the end of the questionnaire.

Finally, some of the questions of the questionnaire were inspired by specific sources such as:

- Ioannidis, B., 2008. *New pedagogical approach. New perspectives about juvenile delinquency*. [online] Available at: www.healtheducationbeul.primedu.uoa.gr [Accessed 16 October 2008].
- Mavrogianni, G., 2003. *Child and juvenile delinquency*. [online] Available at: www.elesme.gr [Accessed 16 October 2008] (Questions concerning identification of law-breaking criminal behavior from the respondents).
- Moshopoulou, A., 2005. *Criminality of immigrants: Depiction of the phenomenon in the evening press 1990-1999*. Athens: Sakkoulas S. A. (Panagiotis Sakkoulas) (Questions concerning the profile of the offender and the causes).
- Nova-Kaltsouni, C., 2001. *Types of deviating adolescent behavior: The role of family and school*. Athens: Gutenberg (George Dardanos).
- Panoussis, G., 1990. *Contemporary issues of criminology*. Athens: Dania (George Dania) (Questions concerning the types of crimes of underage immigrants).
- Pitsela, A., 2000. *Penal treatment of juvenile delinquency*. Athens-Salonica: Sakkoulas S. A. (Panagiotis Sakkoulas) (Questions concerning the ways of treating such crimes).

1.4. Process of the Collection of Data

It is worth mentioning that anonymity was ensured during the process of the survey as well as the fact that there were no correct or incorrect answers so the respondents were called to choose the answers that expressed their opinion. Moreover, there was emphasis given on the fact that the results would only be used servicing exclusively the purpose of the survey. Each respondent spent approximately a quarter of an hour in order to fill in the questionnaire and the whole survey lasted a full week. The collection of the following data is presented in percentages and charts in order to comprehend the results more effectively.

1.5. Survey Results

More specifically the sample presents the following characteristics:

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
18-20	17	24.29%
20-22	43	61.43%
23+	8	11.43%
UNKNOWN AGE	2	2.85%
TOTAL	70	100%

The chart above shows in detail the age of the respondents. The highest percentage, 61.43% (43 people), are between 20 and 22 years of age while the age of 18-20 follows with 24.29%. Next is the age 23 and over with 8 people, 11.43% and there were also 2 people who refused to answer the question concerning their age.

GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MALE	16	22.86%
FEMALE	51	72.86%
UNKNOWN	3	4.28%
TOTAL	70	100%

The chart above shows that the majority of the respondents is of female gender, 72.86% while male respondents amount to 22.86%. There were also 3 respondents of unknown gender.

1.6. Question Analysis

Q1. From your personal experience do you believe that there is a problem of immigrant juvenile delinquency in Crete?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	25	35.71%
NO	14	20%
PERHAPS	26	37.14%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	5	7.14%
TOTAL	70	100%

To the first question of the questionnaire whether there is a problem of immigrant juvenile delinquency in Crete, it is evident that the majority of the respondents, 26 people (37.14%) opts for the neutral choice 'perhaps' which shows their uncertainty concerning the existence of the problem. The 'Yes' option follows with a small difference, 25 people (35.71%) and third is the 'No' option with 20%. Finally, a very small percentage 7.14% (5 people) answered 'I do not know/answer'.

Q2. If there is a problem, in a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 meaning 'very much' and 1 meaning 'not at all', how would you evaluate the problem of juvenile delinquency?

SCALE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	3	4.28%
2	5	7.14%
3	5	7.14%
4	9	12.85%
5	12	17.14%
6	10	14.28%
7	6	8.57%
8	8	11.43%
9	2	2.85%
10	1	1.47%
UNANSWERED	9	12.85%
TOTAL	70	100%

It is worth mentioning that the aforementioned question was answered by almost the total of the respondents even though it was designated to be answered by only those who had answered affirmatively in the previous question, however it is obvious that the scale of 5 was the most popular one with 17.14% showing a mediocrity in the severity of the problem. The scale of 6 comes second with the small difference of 14.28% followed by the scale of 4 with 12.85% and the scale of 8 with 11.43%. In the fifth place it is the scale of 7 with 8.57% while afterwards come scales 2 and 3 with 7.14% respectively. In the seventh place it is scale 1 with 4.28%, after that it is scale 9 with 2.85% and lastly it is scale 10 with 1.47%. 9 of the respondents did not answer this question since they had not answered affirmatively to the previous one.

Q3. Have you noticed in person or heard about law-breaking criminal behavior in the university campus?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	33	47.14%
NO	27	38.57%
PERHAPS	5	7.14%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	5	7.14%
TOTAL	70	100%

47.14% of the respondents stated that they are aware, either personally or from a third party, of acts of law-breaking criminal behavior within the university campus. 38.57% answered 'No' while the answers 'Perhaps' and 'Do not know/answer' amount to 7.14% respectively.

Q4. In the case of witnessing incidents of immigrant juvenile delinquency, did it involve a penal offence (breaking the law)?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	21	30%
NO	20	28.57%
PERHAPS	14	20%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	12	17.14%
UNANSWERED	3	4.29%
TOTAL	70	100%

To the question whether immigrant juvenile delinquency involved a penal offence, the majority of the respondents, 30% answered affirmatively while with a very small difference, 28.57% the negative answers followed. 14 respondents answered 'Perhaps', 20% and 3 respondents did not answer at all to this question which amount to 4.29%.

Q5. What was the penal offence involved in the immigrant juvenile behavior?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
THEFT	16	22.86%
BURGLARY	4	5.71%
VIOLENT ASSAULT	10	14.28%
VANDALISM	9	12.85%
DRUGS	6	8.57%
OTHER	4	5.71%
UNANSWERED	21	30%
TOTAL	70	100%

This question was addressed mainly to the respondents who had answered 'Yes' and 'Perhaps' to question 4, this is why there are 21 respondents (30%) who have not answered question 5 at all. Nevertheless, 22.86% opted for 'Theft' as the penal offence they noticed whereas 'Violent assault' follows with 14.28% and 'Vandalism' with 12.85%. Next it is 'Drugs' with 8.57% and lastly come 'Burglary' and 'Other' with 5.71% respectively even though the respondents did not clarify what penal offence they meant when they answered 'Other'.

Q6. To what extent is the state legalized to intervene in immigrant juvenile delinquency incidents?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
TO A GREAT EXTENT	35	50%
TO AN AVERAGE EXTENT	30	42.86%
TO STAY NEUTRAL	1	1.42%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	4	5.71%
TOTAL	70	100%

To the question concerning the intervention of the state on the problem of immigrant juvenile delinquency, the majority of the respondents, 50%, responded that the state is legalized 'To a great extent' to intervene while also the option of 'To an average extent' is of high rate, 42.86%, following in the second place. From the total of the respondents there were only 4 people, 5.71%, who opted for 'I do not know/answer' whereas only 1 individual, 1.47%, opted for the state 'To stay neutral'.

Q7. Do you believe that immigrant juvenile delinquency is of higher rate in the urban centers or in the periphery of the cities?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
URBAN CENTERS	46	65.71%
PERIPHERY	5	7.14%
BOTH	18	25.71%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	1	1.43%
TOTAL	70	100%

The overwhelming majority of the respondents, 65.71%, answered 'Urban areas' as the places with the higher rates of appearance of immigrant juvenile delinquency, followed by the

option 'Both', 25.71%, with great difference, where the respondents believe that the appearance of juvenile delinquency is equally present in both urban areas and the periphery. The option 'Periphery' was opted by a small percentage, 7.14%, whereas there is only one individual who opted for 'Do not know/answer'.

Q8. Which age group is more susceptible to juvenile delinquency?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
9-12 YEARS OLD	2	2.86%
12-16 YEARS OLD	22	31.43%
16-18 YEARS OLD	41	58.57%
ALL OF THE ABOVE	5	7.14%
TOTAL	70	100%

To the question concerning the most vulnerable age group to juvenile delinquency, 41 of the respondents, 58.57%, opted for '16-18 years old', which is the end of adolescence, followed in the second place by the option '12-16 years old' by 31.43% of the respondents whereas the option 'All of the above' was chosen by 7.14% of the respondents who obviously believe that the whole period of adolescence is more susceptible to such behaviors. Finally, only 2.86% of the respondents answered '9-12 years old'.

Q9. In your opinion which factors contribute to the manifestation of immigrant juvenile delinquency?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
FINANCIAL	12	17.14%
FAMILY	5	7.14%
PSYCHOLOGICAL	7	10%
SOCIAL	6	8.57%
ALL OF THE ABOVE	37	52.86%
OTHER	3	4.29%
TOTAL	70	100%

Examining the answers to the question concerning the factors which contribute to the manifestation of juvenile delinquency, it is evident that there is no clear option of a specific factor as the majority, 52.86%, opted for 'All of the above' including all four options and depicting the prevalent view that manifestation of juvenile delinquency is the result of a combination of factors. Taking into consideration the economic crisis in Greece, there was a relative small percentage, 17.14%, who opted for 'Financial reasons', followed by 'Psychological reasons', 10%, 'Social reasons', 8.57%, 'Family reasons', 7.14% and finally the option 'Other', 4.29%, without however any clarifications about which factor they consider important.

Q10. Do you believe that there have been important initiatives to reduce immigrant juvenile delinquency?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	3	4.29%
NO	46	65.71%
PERHAPS	14	20%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	7	10%
TOTAL	70	100%

The answers to questions 10, 11 and 12 should be seen in combination in order to draw conclusions about juvenile delinquency however, it is evident that 65.71% of the respondents,

46 out of 70, believe that there has not been any initiative to reduce juvenile delinquency contrary to the 'Yes' option which was answered by only 3 respondents, depicting the large gap between the two options. 20% holds a neutral position with the option 'Perhaps' while there are 10% who opted for 'Do not know/answer'.

Q11. Which important initiatives to reduce immigrant juvenile delinquency have you observed?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
POLICING	16	22.86%
STRICTER PENAL SANCTIONS	7	10%
FAMILY CONTROL	6	8.57%
INFORMATIVE CAMPAIGNS	1	1.43%
OTHER	6	8.57%
UNANSWERED	34	48.57%
TOTAL	70	100%

As a sub question of question 10, the above question was answered by the respondents who had answered affirmatively in question 10, this is why 34 people, 48.57%, have not answered question 11. More specifically, based on the answers of question 10 only 17 people who had opted for 'Yes' and 'Perhaps' should answer question 11 however, it appears that 36 people answered, 19 more than the expected number of respondents. Nevertheless, the option of 'Policing', 22.86%, seems to be in the first place followed by the option of 'Stricter penal sanctions' with 10%. 'Family control' and 'Other' are equally in the third place with 8.57% without any clarification on the respondents' part about what the option 'Other' means. Finally the option 'Informative campaigns' was chosen by one individual, 1.43%.

Q12. In your opinion how immigrant juvenile delinquency could be reduced in your country. (In a few words)

In the last question, open-typed, from the combination of questions 10-11-12 the respondents were asked to develop in a few words various ways of reducing delinquent behavior. Apart from 13 respondents who left the question unanswered the rest made various suggestions. In the first place, 25 people suggested Better Policing and more specifically, a respondent wrote 'the state should take important measures-actions which would help in reducing delinquent behavior such as better policing and stricter penal sanctions'. Many respondents combined Policing with the existence of Informative Campaigns which would inform both immigrants and natives. In the second place, 20 people suggested a Social Approach to the Problem through which immigrants would be socially integrated and educated and as a result communication between immigrants and natives would be established and immigrants' lives would be smoothed out. More specifically, a respondent wrote 'with their integration into the society in equal and human terms they can incorporate better in the society', and another respondent wrote 'the society and the state have to set a special framework for all immigrants and especially juveniles for their better integration in the society'. The rest of the respondents, 5-6 for each suggestion, suggested solutions through education, informative campaigns, psychological support and stricter penal sanctions.

Q13. Is there a juvenile in your family or social surroundings manifesting delinquent behavior?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	5	7.14%
NO	56	80%
PERHAPS	5	7.14%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	2	2.86%
UNANSWERED	2	2.86%
TOTAL	70	100%

To the question whether the respondents have personal experience from a juvenile in their surroundings manifesting delinquent behavior, the overwhelming majority, 80%, answered 'No' which means that the majority of people have not come in contact with a juvenile delinquent. In second place with a large difference the options 'Yes' and 'Perhaps' follow with 7.14% respectively whereas in the third place the option 'Do not know/answer' received 2.86%.

Q14. Do you believe that juvenile delinquency is directly related to the large migration flow into Greece from countries such as Turkey, Syria, Afghanistan etc.?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	34	48.57%
NO	6	8.57%
PERHAPS	28	40%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	2	2.86%
TOTAL	70	100%

In the aforementioned question there was an attempt to find out the percentage of the respondents who believe that one of the basic reasons for juvenile delinquency is the large migration flow into Greece. It appears that half of the respondents, 48.57%, attributed the problem of juvenile delinquency to immigration which combined with the option of 'Perhaps', 40% (28 respondents), amounts to the overwhelming majority of 88.57% who support the view that the migration problem in Greece is the source of the problem of juvenile delinquency. Only 6 respondents, 8.57%, did not consider immigration as the reason for juvenile delinquency while 2 people opted for 'Do not know/answer'.

Q15. Who do you consider underage immigrants?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
THIRD COUNTRIES	5	7.14%
WARRING COUNTRIES	15	21.43%
E.U. MEMBER COUNTRIES	0	0%
ALL OF THE ABOVE	42	60%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	5	7.14%
UNANSWERED	3	4.29%
TOTAL	70	100%

In an attempt to clarify which are considered underage immigrants in Greece, that is which nationality immigrants or which group immigrants, the respondents were asked to choose one of the aforementioned options. It appears that there is not a specific ethnicity or group of immigrants who prevailed since more than half of the respondents, 60%, opted for 'All of the above' which included immigrants from 'Third countries' (Bulgaria, Poland, Ukraine), 'Warring countries' (Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq) and 'E.U. Member countries'. Second preferable

option was 'Warring countries', 21.43%, which obviously believe that immigrants come exclusively from these areas. The options 'Third countries' and 'Do not know/answer' follow with 7.14% respectively while 3 people did not answer at all. It is worth mentioning that the option 'E.U. Member countries', 0%, is not apparently objective because this option is included in the next option 'All of the above', it simply was not considered as an important origin of immigrants.

Q16. Who do you consider is more susceptible to delinquent behavior?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
BOYS	51	72.86%
GIRLS	3	4.29%
BOTH	14	20%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	1	1.43%
UNANSWERED	1	1.43%
TOTAL	70	100%

There was an attempt in question 16 to find out if the respondents believe that delinquency is connected to the sex of the individual. It appears that 51 respondents, 72.86%, are of the opinion that 'Boys' are more susceptible to delinquent behavior than 'Girls', 4.29%. At this point, it should be mentioned that the majority of the respondents is women, a fact which cannot be disregarded in case of a potential prejudice or stereotype of women connecting boys directly with issues of delinquent behavior. However, 20% opted for 'Both' balancing in this way the dynamics of the 2 sexes for delinquent behavior. Finally, 1.43% answered 'Do not know/answer' and one of the respondents did not answer at all.

Q17. Do you believe that immigrant juvenile delinquency affects negatively Greek juvenile delinquency?

OPTIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	25	35.71%
NO	12	17.14%
PERHAPS	29	41.43%
DO NOT KNOW/ANSWER	3	4.28%
UNANSWERED	1	1.43%
TOTAL	70	100%

In the last question of the questionnaire the respondents were asked to answer whether immigrant juvenile delinquency affects directly Greek juvenile delinquency. The results showed that the option 'Perhaps', 41.43%, stands out from the rest followed by the option 'Yes', 35.71%, 'No', 17.14% and 'Do not know/answer', 4.28%, there was also one respondent who did not answer the question. It appears that 77.14% of the respondents connect directly immigrant juvenile delinquency with Greek juvenile delinquency.

2. Results

There has been an attempt to draw conclusions through this survey process which involved a specifically structured questionnaire with such questions as to derive information first about the profile of the underage immigrant, secondly about the approach to delinquency and third about the personal experience of the respondents concerning this matter. In order to examine the results certain questions of the questionnaire should be combined, so, questions 5, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16 concern exclusively the profile of the underage immigrant the respondents have in mind. All in all, it is safe to say that as far as the respondents are concerned, a juvenile delinquent is considered to be an underage immigrant who is at the end of his adolescence that is between 16-18 years old, male and origin from a variety of countries as the majority of the respondents believe that immigrants mainly come from third countries, warring countries and E.U. member

countries. So, this is how the profile of the immigrant juvenile delinquent was outlined establishing the fact that the prevalent stereotype existing for years, concerning immigrants and more specifically offenders, has not changed significantly, however what has changed is the origin of immigrants-offenders. A few years ago it concerned exclusively 1 or 2 countries such as Albania or Romania, while now the countries of origin vary and are mainly of Arabic origin.

Another important fact that has been established is that the activity of juvenile delinquents is focused, according to the respondents, mainly on urban centers which seem natural since the problems of unemployment and racism are more intense in these areas compared to the periphery which consists a more closed society and comes second in preference for permanent settlement from immigrants. Furthermore, the majority of the participants in the survey study in a University which is not situated in a big urban center and most of whom come from small towns which is why they have not witnessed in person many incidents of delinquent behavior from juvenile immigrants. Completing the profile of the juvenile delinquent it has been established that most respondents consider as causes of delinquent behavior of juvenile immigrants not only one category but a total of factors concerning their economic, family, psychological and social conditions which are apparently problematic which is why they are led to manifesting criminal behavior. Finally, the most usual offences committed by juvenile delinquents, according to the respondents, were minor ones such as thefts, burglaries and assaults which are directly connected to the reasons of their committing the crime, for example through a theft or burglary they are trying to cover their financial needs since many of them are confronted with survival problems.

In the second part of the survey process questions 6, 10, 11 and 12, the last three combined, were used to establish, according to the respondents, the ways of dealing with the problem of immigrant juvenile delinquency. The majority of the respondents believe to a great extent that the state should intervene on incidents of delinquency and by the term state we mean police authorities, social state, educational system and correctional authorities as a total in order to deal with the problem. From the combination of the three last questions (10-11-12) which also included an open type question, it appears that most of the participants consider that the state has not proceeded to important actions in order to deal with the problem depicting a phenomenon which continues to worry the society without drastic measures taken from the state. Nevertheless, the participants consider that to a great extent the classical measures such as more powerful and effective policing and stricter penal sanctions for various offences would be beneficial in the fighting or even reducing the problem of delinquency. This tendency was evident in the open type question where most respondents mentioned the measure of more effective policing which was combined with the creation of social measures such as informative campaigns for the public, further training and education of immigrants through a wide social network so that this problem can be eliminated and juvenile delinquents can integrate fully into the society and the Greek reality.

Finally, in the third part of the questionnaire there were questions, 1, 2, 3, 4, 13 and 17, concerning the experience of the respondents as well as their ability to recognize juvenile delinquent behavior. From the examination of the findings it has been established that although the total of the respondents have not actually experienced either within their family or in their social surroundings incidents of juvenile delinquency, they are in a position to recognize delinquent behaviors either within their closed university society or in the broader society of Crete where they consider that there is a problem of juvenile delinquency however not a serious one, verifying in this way previous findings which showed that criminal behavior is more intense in urban centers. Furthermore, most of the participants in the survey were in a position to characterize delinquent behaviors as penal offences because they were aware of the fact that the offences committed by immigrant juveniles were connected to breaking the law even if they were minor offences such as thefts and burglaries.

In conclusion, the participants in the survey acknowledged to a great extent the severity of the problem since they are of the opinion that it may grow to such a degree that it can negatively affect Greek juveniles whose rate of delinquency remains low and which would be normal eventually if the continual growing number of immigrants at school is taken into

consideration and the various social activities immigrants and Greeks are called to participate in together.

3. Conclusion

Generally, the preparation, the conduct and analysis of the survey concerning immigrant juvenile delinquency has been a great opportunity to establish that first university students are willing to participate and assist in various scientific surveys and second that they are informed and sensitized enough, despite their young age, about a serious and complex problem which has tantalized the Greek society for a number of years. It is worth mentioning that most university students are in favor of a human approach to the problem that is through has simulation, education and integration of juvenile delinquents instead of the traditional strict correctional measures which most of the times exclude immigrants from socialization and end up having a totally negative outcome. Thus, even if the problem continues to exist the solution is quite simple if the state and the proper authorities see to an organization of a whole system of infrastructure which will have as an ulterior purpose the prevention of criminal behavior and not its violent suppression after it has already manifested.

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