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| | <p align="center">Specialised Rehabilitation Centres and Their Role in the Reintegration of Juvenile Offenders: The Ain Laloui Centre – Bouira as a Case Study</p> | |
| <p>Sellami Lakhder</p> | <p>Dr. University of Oran 2 Algeria E-mail: l.sellami@univ-bouira.dz</p> | |
| <p>Tarafi Sadek</p> | <p>Dr. University of Bouira Algeria</p> | |
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| <p>Keywords</p> | <p>Deviance, juvenile delinquency, rehabilitation, reintegration</p> | |
| <p>Abstract</p> <p>Juvenile delinquency represents one of the most prominent social phenomena that disrupts the social order in any given society. It has been, continues to be, and will remain a fertile subject for researchers, as it constitutes a social problem from which various countries worldwide have long suffered, regardless of their developmental levels and standards. This is due to the complications inherent in this problem, which contribute to hindering the wheel of societal progress and development. While punishment for adult offenders (those with criminal capacity) involves their placement in correctional institutions established by the state for this category of criminals and deviants, the legislation of numerous countries, including Algeria, has entrusted the examination of juvenile deviance to specialised authorities in locations distinct from those designated for the placement of other criminals. Consequently, special institutions have been established for this demographic according to the nature and severity of the deviance. Among these institutions are those termed rehabilitation centres, which constitute one of the reformatory institutions that the state has adopted to address the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency. Their primary objective is to rehabilitate juveniles and ensure their departure from the criminal trajectory, which may lead them to undesirable consequences if left without reform. Additionally, rehabilitation centres possess other duties and functions that will be addressed throughout forthcoming research.</p> | | |
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Introduction:

Reformative institutions are defined as residential facilities that accommodate a category of juveniles whom the court orders to be placed therein. These are juveniles who have been deprived of ordinary care within their original families as a result of family breakdown, poor economic circumstances, environmental corruption, or severe juvenile deviance that necessitates temporary isolation until treatment can be provided away from external influences. These services are tasked with providing juveniles with moral and physical education, as well as academic and vocational training, to reintegrate them into society in accordance with official programmes prepared by designated ministries. These institutions are categorised into three types: open, semiclosed, and closed institutions. Each institution comprises departments for reception, placement, supervision, and aftercare. Rehabilitation centres constitute one type of institution.

On this basis, we can pose the following research problem:

- ❖ **What do we mean by rehabilitation centres? What are their operational mechanisms, and what constitutes their role?**

1. Definition of the Institution: The specialised rehabilitation centre in "Ain Laloui" is a public institution with a legal personality and financial autonomy. It was established pursuant to Executive Decree No. 89/85 dated 02/05/1989 and operates in accordance with Order 75/64 dated 26/09/1975, which established services and centres specialised in childhood and adolescence care. This institution specialises in receiving juveniles under 18 years of age who have been subject to one of the measures stipulated in Article 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

- The rehabilitation centre is located in the municipality of "Ain Laloui," which is situated approximately 15 kilometres from the wilaya of Bouira and 7 kilometres from the city of Ain Bessam on National Road No. 18.
- This institution is situated in a rural agricultural area with an estimated population density of approximately 7,000 inhabitants.
- It is bounded to the north by "Madani Saleh" Street, to the south by the municipal stadium in Ain Laloui and the National Office for Animal Feed, to the east by "Mohamed Bairi" Primary School, and to the west by agricultural land.
- This institution was inaugurated on 31/10/2002, when it received its first group of children.
- The centre accommodates approximately 120 juveniles.
- It is considered the largest centre in Algeria, and admission to the centre is conducted according to the following conditions:

In accordance with Article 8 of Order 75/64, the conditions for accepting juveniles at the centre are as follows:

- The juvenile must be subject to an educational measure;
- The juvenile must be physically and mentally sound and not suffer from any physical or mental impairment;
- The age of the juveniles must be between 14 and 18 years.

2. Organisational Structure of the Institution: Institutions are divided into three main structures, which are as follows:

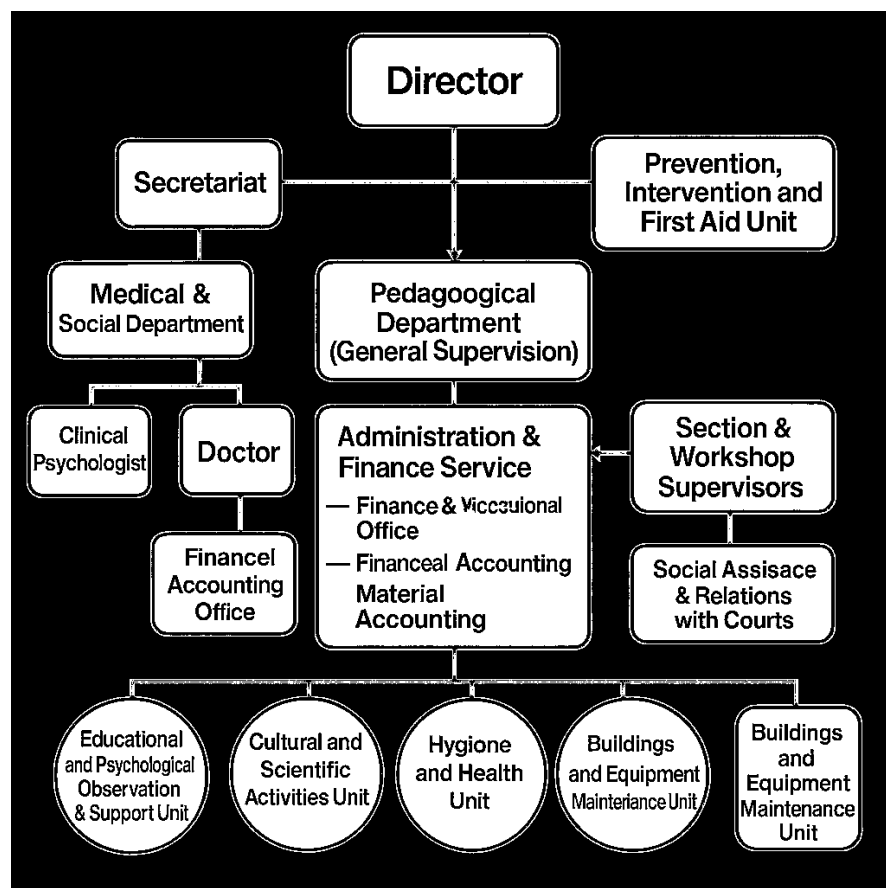
a. Physical Structures: The centre contains the following facilities:

- Administration: ten (10) offices;
- Supervision: one (01) office;
- Economic services: two (02) offices

b. Human Structures: The following chart illustrates the human resources present at the center.

Figure 1:

*Administrative Organisational Chart of the Services of the **Specialised** Rehabilitation Centre in Ain Laloui (Bouira Province)*



c. Services and Departments:

I. Services: The centre contains three services, which are as follows:

a. Observation Service: This service conducts a study of juveniles' personalities through direct observation of their behaviours, in addition to medical and psychological examinations from their admission for a period ranging from 03 to 06 months as a maximum possible duration. Among the objectives of this service are working to adapt the juvenile to the new environment within the centre.

b. Rehabilitation Service: This service provides juveniles with moral education and works to prevent their deviant behaviours by refining and correcting them, alongside academic and vocational training, to achieve social reintegration.

- **Academic training:** An external institution ensures the academic training of juveniles if they meet the conditions of age and level. It aims to provide juveniles with a culture of participation and engagement in study sessions, as well as ensuring education that allows each pupil to progress according to their ability.
- **Vocational training:** This allows juveniles to acquire a profession that suits their abilities for the purpose of social and economic reintegration. The juvenile receives a vocational training certificate from the vocational training center.

c. Post-Treatment Service: This service works to monitor juveniles' integration after they depart from the centre and maintains continuous contact with juveniles' guardians, encouraging them to establish permanent dialogue with their child or the juveniles entrusted to them to prevent them from making mistakes again.

II. Departments: The centre contains two departments: the literacy department and the level improvement department.

a. Literacy Department: This is supervised by a retired teacher who provides a primary programme specific to the juveniles' level by teaching them the fundamental principles of language, arithmetic, grammar, history, geography, and Islamic education.

b. Level improvement department: This department specialises in those with a seventh-year level and above, where they study Islamic education, history, geography, civic education, and sometimes French from 08:00 in the morning until 16:00.

3. Actual Activities and Programmes of the Institution According to Each Specialisation and Each Case:

I. Categories of Deviant Juveniles at Institutions: There are two categories of juveniles at institutions: delinquent juveniles and juveniles exposed to moral danger.

a. Delinquent juveniles: These juveniles commit offences such as theft, carry prohibited weapons or drugs, and carry bladed weapons, among other deviations and crimes that are punishable under Algerian law.

b. Juveniles Exposed to Moral Danger: The age of this category ranges from 8–12 years, and they are victims of family breakdown, such as divorce or the death of one or both parents, and those who are found on the street without a guardian, sponsor, or shelter.

II. Rehabilitative Programmes and Activities: Several rehabilitative programs and activities contribute to juveniles' reintegration and adaptation within the center, in addition to the multidisciplinary team that assists in their rehabilitation.

a. Rehabilitative Programmes: Several workshops contribute to this, which are as follows:

- **Basketry Workshop:** In this workshop, juveniles execute specific educational techniques through forms and subjects of an aesthetic and artistic nature, where they are supervised by an educator and receive professional certification.
- **Computer Science Workshop:** This workshop provides preparatory training for juveniles within the centre and develops their knowledge, abilities, and talents.
- **Handicrafts Workshop:** This workshop develops the abilities and talents of juveniles to enable their integration into social life through conducting educational activities and implementing pedagogical programs supervised by an educator.
- **Confectionery-Making Workshop:** In this workshop, juveniles are trained in making various confectionery items, and the internship duration ranges from 6 months to 12 months. The juvenile is granted a training certificate in coordination with the vocational training centre, according to the agreement concluded between them, to integrate the juvenile into the social environment.

III. Multidisciplinary Team: The multidisciplinary team consists of the following:

a. General Supervisor: The general supervisor is assigned under the authority of the institution director with the following responsibilities:

- Responsible for discipline and internal order in the institution;
- Ensuring security and cleanliness in feeding and accommodation structures;
- Correspondence with juveniles' families and courts.

b. Principal educator: Her duties include the following:

- Implementing prescribed programmes;
- Participating in meetings;
- Supervising trainees.

c. Educators:

- Formulating pedagogical programmes and implementing them for juveniles;
- Taking responsibility for the physical hygiene of juveniles;
- During their movement outside the centre, juveniles are organised.

d. Assistant Educators: These are:

- **Assistant Workshop Educator:** Implements prescribed programmes and assists the specialist educator in their duties within the handicrafts workshop.
- **Literacy educator:** Provides lessons to illiterate juveniles by teaching them the fundamental principles of arithmetic, language, and grammar.
- **Level improvement educator:** Teaches juveniles at the seventh-year level and above from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon, where they study Islamic education, history, geography, and civic education.

e. Assistant Sports Educator:

- An educator specialising in team sports and karate;
- An educator responsible for monitoring and accompanying school-attending juveniles during their attendance at external schools.

f. Specialist educator: Their primary task involves communication with courts:

- Communication with juveniles' families and coordination with them;
- Monitoring juveniles at courts and writing reports about their behaviours;
- Social investigation regarding the social condition of delinquent juveniles.

g. Nurse:

- Health monitoring of juveniles;
- Providing first aid;
- The juveniles were accompanied to the doctor outside the institution.

h. Educational Psychologists:

- Responsible for the administrative and pedagogical organisation of the vocational training branch at the centre;
- Participating in meetings of the multidisciplinary care team and the educational work committee;
- Assists educators and facilitators in preparing pedagogical programmes;
- Conducting interviews with juveniles' families to understand the causes of deviance and directing them to the best methods of caring for their children;
- Individual and group follow-up of juveniles during activities within departments and workshops;

- Participating in educational equipment and its implementation.

i. Clinical Psychologist: Their duties include the following:

- Diagnosing and interpreting mental illness;
- Follow-up on juveniles collectively and individually;
- Interview juveniles' families to understand the causes of deviance and direct them to the best methods of caring for their children;
- Participating in meetings of the multidisciplinary care team and the educational work committee.

4. Tasks and Mechanisms of Rehabilitation Institutions: The tasks of rehabilitation institutions vary according to their specialisations, the needs of juvenile residents, and their conditions. The most important tasks are as follows:

- Providing a balanced and adequate nutritional meal for their physical and mental development.
- Providing appropriate clothing.
- Healthcare and continuous medical examinations.
- Daily outdoor recreation.
- Direct conversation with visitors without barriers.
- The use of remote communication means administrative supervision.

If a juvenile violates the regulations related to the centre or the wing designated for juveniles in the correctional institution, one of the following disciplinary measures is imposed on them:

- Warning.
- Reprimand.
- Temporary deprivation of some recreational activities.
- Temporary prohibition from disposing of their financial earnings.
- Implementation of strict reformatory programmes on the basis of the recommendations and expertise of specialists in the field.

In addition, the tasks of rehabilitation institutions are generally and fundamentally represented in ensuring education, re-education, protection, and reintegration for juveniles placed by juvenile judicial authorities while overseeing their health, security, comfort, and development. All of this requires the existence of an integrated staff of employees, including administrators and specialists, who are directly entrusted, each according to their responsibility and specialisation, with care for and ensuring the safety of residents in specialised rehabilitation centres and, subsequently, their reintegration. This process involves numerous plans and programmes implemented by staff according to each case, as residents in centres differ according to the reason for their presence therein. Some juveniles entered the centre due to committing a crime or deviation, whereas others entered for other reasons, such as family breakdown. Consequently, the measures and programmes directed at the deviant category differ entirely from those directed at other categories. It should also be noted that the duration of the reform or re-education process varies according to each case, as there are cases that respond to rehabilitation programmes in a short time, whereas there are cases whose response is slower.

Conclusion:

Despite some deficiencies and obstacles faced by this type of correctional institution (rehabilitation), it cannot be compared with the excellent service it provides to society, as it serves as a vaccination injection that prevents the spread

of the criminal epidemic in the future. Today's delinquency is tomorrow's criminal in the absence of this type of institution. Therefore, the state and concerned authorities should pay greater attention to them and attempt to generalise, develop, and provide them with specialists, given the sensitivity of the demographics being dealt with and under prevailing circumstances.

Ultimately, juvenile delinquency is a serious global phenomenon that represents a significant threat to the stability of families and communities and impedes nations' development and progress because today's children are tomorrow men. If we prepare them properly, they will grow well adjusted and become assets to their homelands and builders. However, if we leave them to the mercy of fate, they become delinquent and deviant. The enormous energy they carry transforms into destructive energy for their homelands and nations, and society will reap nothing from them but afflictions and problems. Instead of being protectors, they become a burden on society. For this reason, we must surround this category with attention and care, provide them with the means of proper upbringing, and search for factors leading to their delinquency to avoid and address them. Today's child is tomorrow's man, and today's deviant is tomorrow's criminal if necessary measures are not taken to reform them.

Recommendations and suggestions:

- Multiple centres should be established across the national territory to address deficiencies and bring institutions closer to citizens.
- Providing correctional institutions in general with all capabilities, whether human or material, to ensure good rehabilitation and reform processes.
- Experienced personnel and specialists in the field of delinquent juvenile care should be employed.
- Benefiting from foreign expertise in the field of delinquent rehabilitation.
- Considering penal individualisation by creating a special apparatus for classifying delinquents according to each delinquent's characteristics.
- The necessity of complete care for the category of deviant juveniles, given the availability of criminal dangerousness, is to intensify necessary reform programmes in addition to aftercare.

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