

ABSTRACT

PHENOMENON OF PROFESSIONAL DEFORMATION OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS IN FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This descriptive and explanatory study of juvenile correctional officers (JCOs) of Fresno County attempts to fill, in part, the existing gaps in the arena of penitentiary social work. The study determined the demographical profile of the personnel of the Fresno County juvenile justice. However, the hypothesis was not confirmed. When looking into the sample of 80 JCOs, no statistically significant relationship was found between the term of employment in the correctional institution and the constructed index of professional deformation.

The author stated that JCOs responded to the survey with bias. Because of the social stigma and negative publicity, it appeared that JCOs mistrusted the motivations of the researcher or the purposes to which the findings could be used. This study presented a need of the further research of the phenomenon of professional deformation of juvenile correctional officers, as well as the use of different methodology and inclusion of incarcerated population as informants.

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