Chapter 2

The Role of a Social Worker in Children Dragged Into Crime According to the Turkish Penalty System in the Digital World

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ABSTRACT

Social work plays an important role in managing the process of planning, supervising, and ensuring the sustainability of protective and supportive measures applied to children who are dragged into crime and in need of protection in order to prevent incompatibilities that may arise in society. Social workers are actors in the field in the execution of the process. In this chapter, these practitioners who have made significant contributions to social work by giving reports and opinions about the measures taken by the courts about the children dragged into crime, determining the criminal tendencies of the children and the necessary precautions and training, are examined closely in the context of the Turkish legal system. The chapter includes the issues of judicial control, protective and supportive measures, preparation of a plan for the implementation of cautionary decisions, confidentiality, the role of the social worker and the social worker board for children who are dragged into crime and in need of protection.

INTRODUCTION

Social work is an important science and academic discipline that is developing all over the world (Payne, 2014). This discipline, which plays an important role in strengthening the bond between the society and the individual, ensures that the crime rates are reduced and the psycho-social and economic situations of children are improved (Milner, Myers, & O'Byrne, 2020). The improvement and development effect

of social work on the basic structure of society reveals the necessity of social workers and the profession related to social work (Thompson, 2020).

The speed of the communication network emerging with digital innovations endangers information security. Digital factors, which especially have an important impact on children's development, play an active role in children's dragging into crime (Karataş, 2020). Multifactorial influences such as family, social environment, physical factors, and psychology are effective in children being dragged into crime (Öğüt et al., 2020).

The negative psychological effects of digitalization create dissatisfaction in children (Helsper & Smahel, 2020). For this reason, protective, supportive, and health measures to be applied for children dragged into crime in the digital world, consultancy, education and accommodation, care, confidentiality issues should be investigated in the context of social policy. On the other hand, the relationship of children dragged into crime with the court and the judicial control system is another issue that needs to be investigated. The introduction of practices in Turkey in this direction is important in the context of policies, and protocols for social work.

The purpose of this chapter is to determine the role of the social worker in the protection and support of children dragged into crime in the Turkish penal system, to reveal the valid social work theories in determining this role, and to present the necessary suggestions according to the result. It is thought that the chapter will provide important insights for scientists, social work professionals, technologists, practitioners, and students.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The systematic review method was adopted in this chapter (Papaioannou et al., 2010; Tranfield, Denyer, & Smart, 2003). Within the scope of the purpose of the study, the research questions were determined as follows: Who is the child dragged into crime according to the Turkish penal system? What are the practices regarding protective, supportive, and health measures as well as counseling, education, and accommodation, care, and confidentiality of children dragged into crime? What are the roles of the social worker about children dragged into crime? The research questions were determined by taking into account the problems experienced by the children dragged into crime in the Turkish penal system and the need to determine the role of the social worker.

After the questions of the study were determined, a wide literature review was carried out (Petticrew & Roberts, 2008). The Turkish penal system, the Turkish Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Law, and other legislative provisions were examined and included in the study. The legislation was obtained as the current legislation from Turkey's official website. The theoretical framework obtained by the literature review and the information in the Turkish legal system were combined to form the concepts and sub-concepts. The content was created by determining the titles with the coding and classification methods (Belotto, 2018). After the content and titles were matched, headings were created (Green et al., 2007). After all titles and content were created, a separate analysis was performed for their internal consistency (Chowdhury, 2015). Finally, after the classification was checked, the final version of the study was created (Locke, Feldman, & Golden-Biddle, 2020).

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