

# Boot camps

Law



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Boot camps Affiliation: of Article: The of the article in discussion below is “ A National Study Comparing the Environments of Boot Camps With Traditional Facilities for Juvenile Offenders.”

Name of Journal:

The journal is called “ National Institute of Justice.” This journal is a publication by the same office whose main aim is to improve the present juvenile system as well as impact positively on juvenile correctional institutions and programs.

Date of Research:

The research was carried out in 1996 although it was published in this journal in August, 2001.

Author bio:

One of the authors Doris Layton Mackenzie who is also the lead researcher of this article is a professor in University of Maryland, College Park in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. The other author is Angela Gover who is an assistant professor in University of South Carolina, Columbia and works in the College of Criminal Justice. Gaylene Styve Armstrong is also an author and a visiting assistant professor who works with the Administration of Justice Department in Arizona State University West in Phoenix. Lastly, there is Ojmarrh Mitchell who is a research assistant professor in Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in University of Maryland. Other than Mitchell, the rest of the authors are PhD holders.

Funding Source:

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**Problem:**

The problem under research was that despite the growth in the boot camps' popularity over the years from 1990, the environment under which the correction to the juvenile offenders was carried out was still traditional using military-style methods of management. The research therefore aims to provide the staff of these boot camps with more control over the juveniles but at the same time maintain a safe environment for correction.

**Hypothesis:**

The hypothesis is that the use of boot camps in comparison with the traditional facilities for juvenile offenders is more effective and provides more positive impact on juvenile correctional programs and institutions.

**Methodology:**

The population studied was both the juveniles and the staff. The juveniles were 4121 and the staff 1362. The sampling technique employed was systematic sampling starting from the state to the agencies responsible for the boot camps and finally to the particular boot camps. This therefore made the sample to have 27 boot camps and 22 traditional facilities. The methods used to collect data were structured interviews and questionnaires. The questionnaires were administered to the juveniles and lower staff while the administrators were subjected to the structured interviews.

**Analysis: explain**

The analysis was done by use of factor analysis method where fourteen scales (Perceptual Environmental Conditions Scales) were used to measure the view of the juveniles and staff's environment of their facility. These scales used in the factor analysis included: control, resident danger, staff danger, environmental danger, activity, care, risks to residents, quality of

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life, structure, justice, freedom, therapeutic programming, preparation for release, and individual planning.

Charts and graphs used:

Graphs on responses to the Perceptual Environmental Conditions Scales by the youths and staff of the traditional facilities and also by the juvenile and staff of the boot camps are included in the research article.

Findings:

The findings were that the juveniles in boot camps had more positive responses to their environment and were better prepared to be released and even for more therapeutic programs in future. The staff in the boot camps also expressed the same positive environmental response and had more favorable working conditions.

Implications of research:

Boot camps are better to shape the future of the juveniles than the traditional facilities and hence should be embraced more. With the staff satisfied with their working conditions in boot camps more correction is done with less military-style control and management.

References

Mackenzie, D. L., Gover, A. R., Armstrong, G. S. and Mitchell, O. (August, 2001). " A National Study Comparing the Environments of Boot Camps With Traditional Facilities for Juvenile Offenders." National Institute of Justice.

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