Juvenile Detention Facilities

Do they actually meet the needs of juveniles? Do they provide education and courses for self-improvement and formal education?

When the issue of juvenile detention facilities is under consideration, one of the most important things to keep in mind is that crimes can be different. Furthermore, juveniles tend to commit minor crimes, which is the reason why they should be able to come out of prison and get back to living a normal life as soon as possible. Even though it is not easy psychologically, one of the best ways to make sure juveniles will no longer engage in any criminal activities is to provide them with knowledge, a feeling of hope, and a set of skills while they are in prison. For this reason, it is important to make sure every detention center or correction facility has tons of educational programs for juveniles and provides them with the opportunities to make use of those programs.

Speaking about the United States of America, it is vital to keep one thing in mind: the situation typically changes depending on the state in question. Some of them many have great educational programs for juveniles, all the necessary equipment or even manage to meet the needs of juveniles with disabilities, while the only thing such facilities have in another state are some old and traditional books provided by the government a long time ago.

Let us take a closer look at the issue under consideration in the state of Connecticut. According to a conducted study, most detention centers in this state have standard textbooks provided by the district. Yet, there are specialized programs in 23% of all detention facilities in the state of Connecticut (Macomber, et al. 2010). Almost half of the centers are equipped with computerized software, as well
as workbooks and a variety of other learning materials. Quite often, Smart Board technology is used by teachers during classes.

However, there is no unified program across all detention centers in the state, which may create chaos. What is more, the achieved results will be different as well, as there is no set of educational rules to adhere to.

Taking everything into account, what one should keep in mind is that doing poorly in school is often one of the reasons why children and teenagers become involved in various criminal activities in the first place. That is the reason why it is important to improve not only the educational programs in detention centers, but also change the approach to the national educational system in general.