ABSTRACT

Introduction and Rationale

The study is aimed at understanding ‘reintegration’ of juveniles in conflict with law as practiced in the Indian context. This led to analyzing practices of reintegration in various parts of the country. The study highlights various studies of practices/models located in other countries in the Literature Review Chapter. They are decade-old practices with proven results. Practices highlighted from India are different from these models. Although based on similar principles and intended with a logical outcome, they are more a response to emergent field realities with an eclectic approach. Despite this, the impact and outcome of these practices had/have in the life of JCLs been significant, most of which remain trapped in the institutional memory of the implementers. They are replicable and hence are in need of systematic documentation. The present study is a response to such emanating necessity.

Research Methodology

The present study has a qualitative approach using tools of qualitative research. It is exploratory in nature, using the multiple case study design with an inductive approach. Primary source of data are in-depth interviews with people who were/are directly involved in a reintegration practice, including interviews of reintegrated children wherever accessible. Apart from these interviews with key informants have been used to enrich and triangulate the data collected. Secondary Sources of data collection included reports of organisations that were made available to the researcher, any data of children if existing and ready to be shared, sections of legal documents specific to ‘reintegration of JCLs’ and studies highlighted through the Literature Review Chapter. These helped in collating the data collected and drawing comparisons.

The objectives of the study are:

- To understand the processes of reintegration of JCL and identify the gaps in implementation of laws and policies with regard to JCL.
- To understand the perceptions of reintegration among juvenile justice officials, NGOs, and experts in relation to JCL.
- To identify reintegration models/practices for JCLs in the Indian context and arrive at necessary and desirable factors for good practices in reintegration.
- To identify factors responsible for influencing a successful reintegration process.
Major findings
Practices of Reintegration Studied in the Indian Context

NGO Placement Model Vis-à-vis Prison Fellowship Model, New Zealand: Aftercare, mentoring & Financial back up.
The organization practicing the ‘NGO Placement model’ has allowed case interviews adding a different dimension and perspective to the model, therefore, from the lens of children themselves. This model is designed and practiced for boys who are under the JCL category. This has characteristics common to the Prison Fellowship program practiced in New Zealand. The program follows a community-based mentoring strategy that lays emphasis on guiding the individual child towards a self-reliant, confident individual. It also extends the necessary start-up to the child leaving the institution, in the form of shelter, food and a small honorarium. All this together work towards helping the child become independent.

Community-skills development model vis-à-vis Strengths-based model: art is used as a strength.
This model of reintegration focuses on the skills and strengths of individuals who are in observation homes. ‘An idle mind is devil’s workshop’ – thus children coming to the observation home are given opportunities to master various creative art and skills through thoughtfully organized workshops aiming at skills of personality development and grooming of interest. Children undergoing the program showed significant developments in themselves even while they spent their time in observation home. The model had been started off with three observation homes and later replicated in all observation homes of the state of Jharkhand. The program has been evaluated and positive stories of children shared in the report.

System-based practices vis-à-vis intervention based approaches: strengthening system through interventions.
Model III is one of its kind that works with a systems approach and operates within the Juvenile justice system. This model, instead of trying to defy the system, supports the system at various points and handles the issue of reintegration of juveniles in conflict with law, with an approach of cooperation. The model is in practise in rural Maharashtra as well and has shown significant outcomes in both rural and urban set-ups.

Model IV is operated by the District Probation and Aftercare Association in Pune district of Maharashtra in the same premises as the observation home. The model is in
practice for more than five decades and operates through a well set up network of services and stakeholders with an integrated approach. The institution has fully functional counseling services handled by professionals and has a plethora of cases of reintegrated children in its institutional memory.

**Connecting, Coping, Caring: Caregivers’ TOT -unique staff centric-based on restorative parenting practices.**

This model was started while working with vulnerable children in institutions way back in early 2000. It had been experienced thus that smooth transition of vulnerable children into the community depends a lot on the way they have been dealt with, by their caregivers in the institutions. It was learnt that besides the variety and relevance of services offered by these mid-level institutions it was very important that the quality of services/interpersonal relationships of the caregivers with the children are professional and aim towards helping them put back their lives in the right track. Therefore the need of professional trainings of these caregivers was felt. Thus training of trainers (TOT) had to be an inherent component of the training modules. The training was conducted in three phases with varying levels of objectives and continued for three years. It was later evaluated using participatory tools with a qualitative approach and yielded desired results to a high level. Caregivers shared their experiences of a higher and more qualitative engagement with children post their training.

The study brought out significant learning from the practices of reintegration being followed in India. The researcher has analysed and categorized them as below:

**Desirable and Non-negotiable Components of an Ideal Reintegration Practice**

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<th>Desirable</th>
<th>Non-negotiable</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Goal intended – reduce recidivism, healthy personality restoration of the juvenile</td>
<td>• Intervention based</td>
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<td>• Location of the programs – inside observation home campus</td>
<td>• Individual Case Management</td>
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<td>• Replicability</td>
<td>• Effective Aftercare component</td>
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<td>• Networking of services</td>
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<td>• Sustainability</td>
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An Ideal Model of Reintegration

A reintegration Model can be established either by a Government or a non-Government institution. However before establishing the model there should be a scientific approach to its establishment and set goals for the initiative. The location of the initiative should be well thought and it has been learnt and experienced that models located within the premises of observation homes are most successful. However the initiative can also be placed outside the observation home premises, but in very close proximity.

PART A: Factors influencing Reintegration

Child centric.
- Child with supporting relationships (family etc.)
- Child with value added support
- Child with productive engagement
- Child with shelter

Staff centric.
- Professionally trained
- Sensitive staff
- Sufficient number of staff

Institution centric.
- Ample finances
- Network of services
- Government support

Situation Centric.
- Many organizations / people working for the cause
- Child is an offender by chance and not regular/has been used in an offence by adults and hence wants to reform
- The child is a value-oriented child and wants to reform himself
Part B: Structure

Research

Research should precede the actual implementation and comprise of three important components Baseline study of ground field realities, chalk out the terms of reference for the project and mapping of available services and similar projects in the field.

Implementation

This should emphasize on the location of the project, the personalized case management approach, mentoring, skills-interest driven ongoing in-house workshops for children, ongoing supervision, aftercare services, start-up-kit for outgoing individual, staff management issues, psycho-social training of care givers, continuous funding and system centric approach.

Detailing out these important components, the study has thus contributed towards the structure of an ideal reintegration model in the Indian context.