

The Psychological Processes of Ex-criminals Working for More Than Six Months at an Established Workplace

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The purpose of this study is to identify the psychological processes that motivate ex-criminals to choose to continue working in an established workplace, rather than returning to delinquency or criminal acts.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with eight ex-criminals who had been working or attending school for more than six months. The data collected was analyzed using the Modified Grounded Theory Approach.

Following an analysis of the transcripts, 17 concepts and five categories were extracted. The five categories were “dependence on criminal acts,” “maladaptation in the workplace,” “goal-setting and the determination of rehabilitation,” “recovery from crime and social adaptation,” and “self-realization through work.”

The results of this study revealed the value of work for ex-criminals as a process of the consolidation of previous work experience through which the act of work was clarified. However, the value placed on workplace environments and human relationships varied in degree for each ex-offender. There were also subjects who were interested in the contents of their work as an act of service. In light of this, it was suggested that finding a workplace where ex-offenders found it comfortable to work was an effective method for re-establishing the value of work for them.