

The Relationship Between Juvenile Delinquency and Poverty

– Consideration using literature –

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Key words: juvenile delinquency, poverty

Abstract

This study aims to elucidate the relationship between juvenile delinquency and poverty via the use of data based on literature. There are three ways to do this. Firstly, how poverty is used in papers written in the past regarding juvenile delinquency was examined using KH-coder2. Secondly, the proportion of delinquent juveniles that were judged by court statistics to have been raised in poverty-stricken conditions was also examined. Thirdly, the proportion of delinquent juveniles that were assessed as being from poverty was examined for each criminal category.

As a result of the first examination, in past papers, poverty was frequently mentioned in the context of "poverty-stricken delinquent juveniles decreased, middle-class delinquent juveniles increased," which was characteristic when juvenile delinquency was most frequent in 1980. For the second examination, there is the possibility that the assessment of poverty as per court statistics adopted totally different criteria up to 1963, becoming clearer from 1964. Also, according to court statistics, juvenile delinquents assessed to be from poverty continued to decrease without increasing even once. However, in the third examination, juveniles that have not yet committed a crime are more than twice as many as those coming from poverty overall. Therefore, when examining juvenile delinquency from a macro perspective, poverty can't be said to be a major factor toward inducing delinquency. However, when focusing on microscopic viewpoints such as certain categories, it is suggested that poverty could act as a factor to induce delinquency.