

The Prevalence and Risk Factors of Juvenile Delinquency in Turkish Republic Of Northern Cyprus

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Abstract

Problem Statement: Problem Statement: Juvenile delinquency is a growing problem worldwide. Studies about the prevalence and causes of juvenile delinquency is important to define this problem and is the first step to find prevention strategies, and establish rehabilitation programs for delinquent children. Juvenile delinquency is an important legal and social problem also for Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) as it is in all over the world. To prepare prevention programs for juvenile delinquency in TRNC, it is important to understand the dimensions of this problem in TRNC and the related risk factors.

Purpose of Study: The goal of this study is to determine the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in TRNC and to investigate related risk factors.

Method: In this archival study, complete records of the all 5 courts in TRNC from 2000 to 2010 are reviewed. The files of 1520 children who were **under 18, and who appeared in court were analyzed. Children's socio-demographic features like age, sex, academic background, and job availability, and features related to crime are recorded on a information form which was prepared by the writers in advance by analyzing the court files. The raw data that were obtained from the files was loaded into the SPSS program and descriptive statistics methods were used in the data analysis.**

Findings and Results: When the profile of the children who are claimed to commit a crime is evaluated, it's found that %61.3 of the cases are at the

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age of 17-18, 34.1% of them are primary school graduate, 54% of them are in a bad socio-economic condition. 54.4% of the juvenile offenders were born in Cyprus, 42.1% of them in Turkey. Most of the families are found to have low socioeconomic level, to be immigrant and unemployed. Most of the fathers are graduates of elementary or secondary school and mothers are uneducated or graduate of elementary school. It attracts attention that neither fathers nor the mothers of delinquent children are graduates of university and this points importance of education. Considering the crime types, theft is the highest one with the rate of 33.2%.

Conclusion and Recommendations: Results of our study show the presence of **juvenile delinquency in TRNC and its importance. It's been determined that the juvenile delinquency is related to the child's family structure, education level, social environment, socio-economical level and immigration closely, and it's a problem that is needed to be prevented.**

Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, Prevalence, TRNC.

Jhering defines crime as 'any kind of assault to social living conditions' (Dönmez-er, 1994). Crime can be described as a deviation from the value system of the society and it has been an important problem throughout history (Hancı, 1999). Today in a globalizing world, parallel to the increased speed of communication, the crime committed at different parts of the world has started to resemble each other. New types of crime have come out and the age of criminals has decreased to childhood (Bennet, 1960). Children are subject to a growing threat. There is a need for better understanding of the crime children commit and investigations should focus this subject (Devecioğlu 1979).

Juvenile delinquency which has become problematic because of legal and social gaps is one of the most urgent subjects to be solved for the future of the community (Yavuzer, 2006). Juvenile delinquency is an important legal and social problem also for our country as it is in all over the world. The reasons for juvenile delinquency, prevention strategies, rehabilitation of delinquent children are priority subjects for all communities. Juvenile delinquency is turning of antisocial inclinations of a child into a state necessitating legal intervention (Burt, 1925). Juvenile delinquency is a social problem that is very tightly connected to social disorderliness, inequalities, injustice and deprivations (Elibol, 1998).

Although the first item of United Nations convention on the rights of the child determines the borderline of the age of childhood as 18 (UNICEF, 1998), at the code of laws of many countries different age borderlines are mentioned for juvenile delinquency (Kulaksızoğlu, 2004). The concept of juvenile delinquency at the legal literature of western countries covers the children aged 11-18 (Akalin, 1999a). The concept of juvenile delinquency in Turkey is used for individual who has not completed 18 years of age at the time crime is committed (Demirbaş, 2005). In TRNC, age 14 years is accepted as the borderline for childhood, and individuals between 14-16 years age are accepted as juvenile delinquents and individuals older than 16 are subjected to legal applications for adults (TRNC Criminal Code, 2004).

The offenses made by children have different types and reasons compared to adult offenses. The most important feature that distinguishes juvenile delinquency from adult criminality is that this stage comes upon the adolescence period (Kulaksızoğlu, 2004). Adolescence is a period that every young person has to establish his identity. While young people establish their identity during adolescence, they are influenced from their families, school milieu and friends. These institutions play important roles in the socialization of the adolescents. The reason why delinquent behaviors intensify in adolescent period may be related with decreased parental control with increasing age, the adolescent's forming closer relations with his friends, and the increasing importance of these friendships in the adolescent's life (Uluğtekin, 1996). At the emergence of a delinquent child, besides effects of the family, studies of Yörükoğlu (1998a), Gümüş (1996) and Keleş (1984) suggest that number of siblings, economical problems, education system, genetic factors, intelligence level, migration from rural to urban regions, being homeless, physical and psychological disorders, alcohol and drug dependency may also play important roles. Delikara (2002), Akalın (1999b) and Dönmezer (1994) emphasize that the type of the family the child grows up, the control mechanisms, the social environment of the child, the group norms and standards of judgment affect the child's possibility of committing an offense.

Juvenile delinquency was first investigated by Görkem (2005) in TRNC with the report based on the examination of trial files of juvenile offenders during 2000-2005. This study is a follow-up of the first one and we investigated the trial files belonging to 2006-2010 period and discussed juvenile delinquency in TRNC at a large period of 2000-2010. The goal of our study is to investigate the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in TRNC, its reasons, socio-economic and socio-cultural factors that create it, its relation with education and other risk factors.

Method

This current research is an archival study. An archival study is an indirect method for investigating behavior. As the individuals being observed are not aware of the presence of the observer, there is no problem of reactivity. Archival records can be public or private documents describing the activities of individuals, institutions, governments, and other groups. Archival data may be obtained by inspecting these archival records.

Population and Sample

Archival data of this research was obtained by inspecting the archival records of all the five courts of TRNC from 2000 to 2010. Permission was taken from TRNC Supreme Court to collect data from the trial files of all offenders younger than 18 first for 2000-2005 period in 2005 and later for 2006-2010 period in 2010. The files were examined to show the distribution of reasons for offence and to find out individual and environmental risk factors effective. There were 1520 trial files of offenders younger than 18 at Lefkoşa, Gazimağusa, Girne, Güzelyurt and Lefke courts in 2000-2010. All the files were included in the study.

Instruments:

To systematically obtain data from the court files, an information form was prepared. The writers examined the contents of the same ten trial files separately and listed the relative information that can be derived from the files related to the aim of the study. The item lists were compared and the final information form was formed.

The information form was formed from 4 parts. First part was about personal data of the offender, the second part about the personal data of the parents of the offender, the third part about the environmental factors and relations with the family, and the fourth part was about the offence and the punishment given. Photocopying was not permitted and all the files were screened at the archive by the writers and the information form was filled for each file. The identity informations of the child was not written at the information form.

Data Analyses:

The data, collected through information form, were analyzed with Statistical Package for Social Sciences program (SPSS 13.0). In order to determine the prevalances of child delinquency and other related factors descriptive statistical methods (frequency (N) and percentages (%)) were used.

Results

Socio-demographic features of juvenile offenders:

There were 85 (5,6%) female and 1435 (%94,4) male offenders, a total of 1520 trial files of offenders younger than 18. 33,8% of the files were found at **Gazimağusa court**, 32,6% from **Lefkoşa court**, 18% from **Girne court**, 10,5% from **Güzelyurt court**, 5,1% from Lefke court. The age distribution of the children is shown at table 1.

Table 1

Age Distribution of Juvenile Delinquents

Age of Juvenile Delinquents	All children		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
8	2	0,1	0	0	2	0,1
9	6	0,4	0	0	6	0,4
10	6	0,4	0	0	6	0,4
11	21	1,4	1	1,3	20	1,4
12	33	2,2	0	0	33	2,4
13	81	5,5	7	9,0	74	5,3
14	170	11,5	10	12,8	160	11,4
15	253	17,1	14	17,9	239	17,1
16	438	29,7	24	30,8	414	29,6
17	466	31,6	22	28,2	444	31,8
Total	1476	100	78	100	1398	100

54,4% of the children were born in Cyprus, 42,1% in Turkey, 3,1% in other countries. According to gender, 68,8% of the girls were born in Cyprus and 29,2% in Turkey, whereas 53,3% of men were born in Cyprus and 43% in Turkey. 98,7% of them accommodated in TRNC. 518 (36%) of the children lived in Famagusta, 399 (27,8% in Lefkosa), 279 (19,4%) in Kyrenia, 174 (12,1%) in Morphou, 67 (4,7%) in Lefke and majority reported to accommodate in rural area (58,4%).

Among these juvenile offenders 34,1% were graduated from primary school, 30,6% from secondary school, 32,5% from high school and 2,8% did not attend to school. 39,8% were students, 24,1% worker, 24,1% unemployed, 10,2% self-employed, 1% was from other jobs. 83,7% worked near a foreign person, 10,1% near their family, 6,2% near a relative and most of them lived (89%) with their parents.

The characteristics of the parents of the offenders:

Fathers of 11,1% of the offenders were uneducated, 55,5% were graduated from primary school, 20,9% secondary school. Fathers of an only a small percentage (11,1%) were graduated from high school and none of them were graduated from university. Most of the fathers 56% were workers, and 23,6% self-employed and they were not belong to work groups with good income like being a civil servant, business man or retired. 8,2% of the fathers were unemployed. 73,9% of the fathers were born in Turkey, 24% in TRNC, 1,4% United Kingdom (UK) and 1,4% in other countries. 85,5% of the fathers accommodated in TRNC, 8,3% in Turkey, 5,9% in UK and 6,2% in other countries.

Mothers of 51,1% of the juvenile offenders were graduated from primary school, 13,1% from secondary school, 8,5% from high school and 25,9% were uneducated. There were no mothers graduated from university. 62,1% were housewife, 19,2% worker, 5,2% self-employed, and the ratio of civil servants and business women were very low. 71,6% of the mothers were born in Turkey, 26,3% were born in TRNC. Most of the mothers (84,1%) accommodated in TRNC and small percent (9,6%) accommodated in Turkey.

Parents of the majority of the children were alive (97,1%) and living together (87,6%). 74,7% of the parents reported to be supporting their children, 98,3% of the children were reported to be living with an adult, and 80,3% reported to be staying with his parents. The parents of 91,1% of children had committed no crime. When the reports that took place at the trial files prepared by social workers are examined, it is found that the social workers evaluated the socio-economic status of 54% as bad and 29,7% as very bad, the relation of these children with their mother as intermediate (48,1%) or bad (29,4%) and their relation with their father as intermediate (46,8%) or bad (30,5%).

Characteristics of the offence of the children:

The distribution of the types of crime committed are shown at Table 2. 70,2% of the children declared to have committed the crime alone, 22,5% with a friend, 6,3% with someone from the family. 99,7% of them were proceeded by the opponent or the police. 55,4% were given punishment (n=876). When we examined the kinds of pu-

nishment given to these cases, we found that the trial of 46% (n=199) were withdrawn, 23,8% (n=103) unconditioned discharge, 14,5% (n=63) imprisonment, 13,4% (n=58) follow-up by social workers and 2,3% (n=10) family examination. 767 (52%) children were given a penalty of money and most of them (93,1%) were given a punishment less than 1000 TL. The distribution of the duration of imprisonment punishment given to juvenile offenders is given at table 3.

Table 2

The Distribution of Types of Offense Committed by Children

Types of Offences	All children		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Seizure and highway robbery	24	1,6	4	4,7	20	1,4
Murder	8	0,5	0	0	8	0,6
Traffic offense	203	13,4	5	5,9	198	13,9
Deliberately start fire	5	0,3	0	0	5	0,3
Assault to house	76	4	3	3,5	73	5,1
Kidnapping a girl	5	0,3	0	0	5	0,3
Kidnapping	2	0,1	0	0	2	0,1
Rape	6	0,4	0	0	6	0,4
Insulting and resistance to police	1	0,1	0	0	1	0,1
Insult to civil servant	1	0,1	0	0	1	0,1
Having unlicensed gun	21	1,4	1	1,2	20	1,4
Stroke	126	8,3	11	12,9	115	8
Wounding	1	0,1	0	0	1	0,1
Fraud	24	1,6	0	0	24	1,7
Gambling	4	0,3	0	0	4	0,3
Threat	5	0,3	0	0	5	0,3
Robbery	503	33,2	22	25,9	481	33,7
Illicit drug use	7	0,5	5	5,9	2	0,1
Terrorism	1	0,1	0	0	1	0,1
Smuggling	12	0,8	3	3,5	9	0,6
Getting in a house	101	6,7	1	1,2	100	7
Committing suicide	12	0,8	6	7,1	6	0,4
Insult	25	1,7	2	2,4	23	1,6
Taking part at a fight	159	10,5	11	12,9	148	10,4
Causing discomfort	18	1,2	2	2,4	16	1,1
Molestation	3	0,2	0	0	3	0,2
Other offenses	161	10,6	9	10,6	152	10,6
Total	1514	100	85	100	1429	100

Table 3

The Distribution of the Duration of Imprisonment Punishment

Duration of Imprisonment	All children		Female		Male	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 1 month	34	59,6	0	0	34	59,6
1-6 month	13	22,8	0	0	13	22,8
6 month-1year	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-2 year	3	5,3	0	0	3	5,3
2-3 year	3	5,3	0	0	3	5,3
More than 3 years	1	1,8	0	0	1	1,8
Total	57	100	0	0	57	100

Discussion and Recommendations

Our study has shown that juvenile delinquency is an important social problem in our country as it is in the world. Giddens (2005) emphasizes that the frequency of juvenile delinquency has increased in all over the world parallel to the socio-economic and socio-cultural changes that took place during the last 50 years. Juvenile delinquency has become the most threatening offence especially in some western countries (Atasoy & Ziyalar, 2002). When it was started to be discussed in the world, it was first perceived to be a problem of western culture. But the studies showed that juvenile delinquency is found in every country, in every culture (Germeç, 2002), but the other countries only started studying this subject later. The increase of juvenile delinquency is also mentioned at United Nations Riyad instructions (Atasoy & Ziyalar, 2002).

Juvenile delinquency is mostly observed among children aged 14-17 in TRNC. Although the age to commit offence has decreased to 11 among girls and to 8 among boys, delinquency is more prevalent at age 17 and the prevalence increases as the age increases. Studies conducted in Turkey by Delikara (2000), Kozanoğlu (2001) and Türkeri (1995) and in USA by Kaduce (2002) show that the age of the offenders concentrates at 16-17 parallel to our study.

In our study boys are found to commit offense more than girls. Also in the literature the findings of the studies made by Aydın et. al. (2004), Farrington and Loeber (2000), Hancı and Ege (1993), Özen et.al. (2005) and Rantakillio (1995) support that boys commit offense more often. When juvenile offenses committed in 2003 in Turkey were investigated, Solak (2009) found that in every suspected case 87 of them were boys and 13 girls. Yavuzer (2006) mentions that girls are grown up in a more protecting parenting with closer supervision and boys are grown up to become independent, competitive and risk taking. This makes easy for them to make mistakes. Different socialization process of girls and boys result with different consequences.

In our study parents of most of the offenders continued their marriages and looked after their children, one fourth of the children did not take financial support

from the family and described their father-mother relation as intermediate-bad. Aydın et.al. (2004) mention that living with the parents does not prevent juvenile delinquency. Heidensohn (1989) Rutter et.al. (1994) and Ulak (1993) show, that the conflicts and problems in a relation may have a more negative effect than separations. Esmek (2001) shows that supervision and control of the family over the child is the most important variable that determines juvenile delinquency.

From the reports of the social workers, we understand that most of the delinquent children have low education level. They also have low economic status which may be effective on this. The education level of the family is also an important factor that determines juvenile delinquency. Ulak (1993) mentions that, children from families with low education level are at higher risk for committing offense. In this study the education level of both parents are low and fathers are mostly workers and mothers are housewives. Ayanoglu (2002), Akalin and Öter (1992), Kozanoğlu (2001) and Yavuz (2003) have also shown at their studies made on large groups in Turkey that the education level of juvenile offenders are low.

In our study the socio-economic level of the families was low, education level was low and the parents either had unskilled job or were not working and these caused children to live in bad accommodation and health conditions. As a result of this, children are at risk to have contact with criminals living at cheap accommodation regions, modeling them and they are indirectly induced to antisocial behavior (Solak, 2009). Salagaev (2003) informs that increased population that causes a change in the structure of the community, being homeless, inadequacy of donation corporations, poverty, unemployment, inadequacy of education system are all factors having negative effects on the socialization process of the child and these negative environmental factors lead children to offense. Also the negative effect of family on the mental health of the child is another important factor that prevents development of the personality of the child and an important factor that leads the child to antisocial behavior (Sarpdağ, 2005). Majority of the children commit offense as a result of hard economical conditions. Children in TRNC committed mostly robbery and to a lesser degree traffic offense, taking part at a fight, stroke or intruding a house. The most common juvenile offense is found to be robbery in Turkey as mentioned also in other countries (Yavuzer, 2006). The most common juvenile offenses in UK are robbery, stealing from shops, highway robbery and vandalism (Pover, 1989). Hancı et.al. (2001) investigated the files of juvenile offenders of Ankara Juvenile Court in 1989-1994 and found 4283 cases and 69.7% of these cases had offenses against goods.

Offenders were mostly from Gazimağusa, than from Lefkoşa, Girne, Güzelyurt and the least from Lefke region. Gazimağusa and İskele region are the places where there are many immigrants from Turkey and this suggests a relation between migration and juvenile delinquency. In Ergün's (2005) study about the increasing rate of offenses and safety problems in Turkey in 2004; it was found that there is an increasing trend about offense ratio at city centers (İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Bursa, Adana, Konya, Gaziantep ve İçel) and migration, rapid population increase, uncontrolled growth of cities, shanty houses with unhealthy environmental conditions, increasing unemployment cause an increase at offense ratios. Yavuzer (2006) explains that

children of immigrants are usually isolated because of the prejudices of the society, adaptation problems to this new socio-economic and cultural system cause risk for committing offense. Sayre-McCord (2007) mentions at his study about immigrant families that; migration from regions with different traditions and culture becomes one of the leading causes of social problems and maladjustment of children may result with juvenile delinquency. Erkan et.al. (2002) also show that social environment is the most important factor creating juvenile delinquency at their study made at **Diyarbakır** sample.

This study shows that juvenile delinquency is an important problem in TRNC. Juvenile delinquency is a problem that should be prevented in TRNC. Children should be taken away from environments leading them to delinquency. As most of the offences are made at the adolescent period, preventive psychological support programs should be applied for the adolescents. **Cilga (2010) suggests that to prevent conflicts and violence, preventive and protective education studies focusing on family, teachers and students should be done for adolescents who have risky life conditions. It is necessary to provide them a safe, peaceful, stable family environment and a good education.**

Juvenile delinquency in TRNC is associated with family structure, social environment, socio-economic status, education level of the family and migration. **Kararmak and Sivis (2011) mentions that there is a relation between the educational level of the parents and socioeconomic level and emphasize should be given for education of young generation as increase at the educational level of individuals results with better living conditions. Tomul (2008) also mentions that to have the children from families that have low socio-economic level to attend education, they should be economically supported. To prevent juvenile delinquency, there should be an effective policy about developing education level of children. Monitoring the risk factors and active struggle against them is necessary. This should be a multidisciplinary approach with cooperation of different public and civil organizations.**

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Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti'nde Çocuk Suçluluğunun Yaygınlığı ve Risk Faktörleri

Atıf:

- Çakıcı, M., Paşa, E., & Görkem, A. (2012). The prevalence and risk factors of juvenile delinquency in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, *Eğitim Araştırmaları Eurasian Journal of Educational Research*, 49/A, 183-198.

(Özet)

Problem Durumu: Çocuk Suçluluğunun yaygınlığını ve nedenlerini anlamaya yönelik bilimsel çalışmalar son yıllarda tüm dünyada hız kazanmıştır. Giderek büyüyen bu sorunu tanımlamak toplumlar için çocuk suçluluğunu önlemede gerek önleme stratejilerini belirlemek açısından gerekse suçlu çocuğun rehabilitasyonu açısından çok önemlidir. Çocuk suçluluğu tüm dünyada olduğu gibi Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti'nde de (KKTC) hukuki ve sosyal açıdan en önemli problemlerden biridir. KKTC'de de çocuk suçluluğunu önlemeye yönelik programlar hazırlamak için çocuk suçluluğunun yaygınlığı yanında, sosyo-ekonomik düzey, aile, eğitim gibi risk faktörleri hakkında ayrıntılı bilgiye sahip olunması gerekmektedir.

Araştırmanın Amacı: Bu çalışma KKTC'deki çocuk suçluluğunun yaygınlığını, çocukların suç davranışına yönelik nedenlerini ve çözüm önerilerini belirlemek amacıyla yapılmıştır.

Araştırmanın Yöntemi: Bu arşiv çalışmasında Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti'nde (KKTC) bulunan bütün mahkemelerin (Lefkoşa, Gazimağusa, Girne, Güzelyurt and Lefke mahkemeleri) 2000-2010 yılları arasındaki, 18 yaş altında suç işleyen, haklarında dosya tutulan ve mahkemeye çıkarılan çocuklara ait kayıtlarının tamamı incelenmiştir. 1520 dosya yazarlar tarafından incelenmiştir. Çocukların yaş, cinsiyet, eğitim ve meslek durumları gibi sosyo-demografik özellikleri ve suça ilişkin özellikler (suç türleri, suçun kiminle işlendiği) mahkeme dosyaları incelenerek önceden yazarlar tarafından hazırlanan bir bilgi formuna kaydedilmiştir. Bilgi formu dört bölüme ayrılmıştır. Birinci bölümde suçlu çocuğun kişisel bilgilerine, ikinci bölümde anne-babaların kişisel bilgilerine, üçüncü bölümde ise suçlu çocuğun çevresi ve ailesi ile ilişkili bilgilere yer verilmekte ve son olarak dördüncü bölümde ise, çocuğun işlediği suç ve aldığı ceza ile ilgili bilgilere yer verilmiştir. Yazarlar mahkemelerdeki çocuklar ile ilgili tüm dosyaları inceleyerek bilgi formuna kodlamışlardır. Mahkeme dosyalarından bilgi formuna aktarılan veriler SPSS programına yüklenmiş ve verilerin analizinde betimleyici istatistik yöntemleri (frekans ve yüzdeler) kullanılmıştır.

Araştırmanın Bulguları: Araştırmanın içerdiği tarihlerde KKTC mahkemelerinde 85'i (%5,6) kız, 1435'i (%94,4) erkek olmak üzere toplam 1520 suçlu çocuk dosyası bulunmaktaydı. Çocuk suçlular en yüksek oranla % 33,8 ile Gazimağusa Mahkemesinde, %32,6'sı Lefkoşa Mahkemesinde, %18'i Girne Mahkemesi'nde, %10,5 Güzelyurt Mahkemesi'nde, %5,1'i ise Lefke Mahkemesi'nde tespit edilmiştir.

Çocukların %54,4'ünün Kıbrıs, %42,1'inin Türkiye, %3,1'inin ise diğer ülkelerde doğduğu belirlenmiştir. Cinsiyet dağılımına bakıldığında, kızların %68,8'inin Kıbrıs, %29,2'sinin Türkiye, erkeklerde ise %53,3'ünün Kıbrıs, %43'ünün Türkiye doğumlu oldukları görülmüştür. Çocukların %98,7'sinin KKTC'de ikamet etmekte oldukları tespit edilmiştir. Çocuklar'ın 518'i (%36) Gazimağusa'da, 399'u (%27,8) Lefkoşa'da, 279'u (%19,4) Girne'de, 174'ü (%12,1) Güzelyurt'ta, 67'si (%4,7) Lefke'de yaşadıkları ve daha çok şehirlerde (%58,4) yaşadıkları belirlenmiştir.

Çocuk suçlularının %34,1'inin ilkokul, %30,6'sının ortaokul, %32,5'inin lise %2,8'inin okumamış olduğu ortaya çıkmıştır. Meslek dağılımı açısından bakılığında %39,8'inin öğrenci, %24,1'inin işçi, %24,1'inin işsiz, %10,2'sinin serbest, %1'inin diğer meslek grubunda oldukları görülmüştür. Çocukların çalıştıkları yerler incelendiğinde %83,7'sinin yabancı, %10,1'inin aile, %6,2'sinin akrabasının yanında çalıştığı ve daha çok anne-baba (%89) ile birlikte yaşadıkları tespit edilmiştir.

Çocuk suçluların ebeveynlerinin özelliklerine bakıldığında babalarının eğitim düzeyinin okumamış (%11,1) olanlar daha düşük olmakla birlikte büyük kısmının (%55,5) ilkokul ve ortaokul (%20,9) mezunu oldukları belirlenmiştir. Babaların az bir kısmının lise mezunu (%11,1) olduğu ve üniversite mezunu ise bulunmadığı görülmüştür. Babaların büyük bir kısmı işçi (%56 ve serbest mesleklerde (%23,6) çalışırken emekli, memur ve işadamı gibi daha yüksek gelir düzeyine sahip işlerde çalışmadıkları tespit edilmiştir. Babaların %8,2'si ise işsiz olduğu belirlenmiştir. Çocuk suçluların babalarının doğum yeri incelendiğinde %73,9'unun Türkiye, %24'ünün Kıbrıs, %1,4'ünün İngiltere ve %1,4'ünün ise diğer ülke doğumlu oldukları görülmüştür. Babaların %85,5'inin Kıbrıs, %8,3'inin Türkiye, %5,9'unun diğer, %6,2'sinin diğer ülkelerde yaşadığı tespit edilmiştir.

Annelerin %51,1 ilkokul, %13,1'i ortaokul, %8,5'i lise mezunuyken okumamış oranı ise %25,9'dur. Anneler arasında da üniversite mezunu bulunmadığı tespit edilmiştir. Meslek dağılımına bakıldığında %62,1'i işsiz, %19,2'si işçi, %5,2'si de serbest mesleklerde oldukları görülürken, memur ve iş kadını oranlarının çok düşük düzeyde bulunduğu belirlenmiştir. Annelerin %71,6'sı Türkiye doğumlu olduğu görülürken %26,3'ü KKTC doğumlu olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Annelerinde çoğunluğu KKTC'de (%84,1) daha az sayıda da (%9,6) Türkiye'de yaşadığı belirlenmiştir.

Çalışmamızda çocukların büyük çoğunluğunun anne ve babası hayattaydı (%97,1) ve birlikte yaşıyorlardı (%87,6). Ebeveynlerin %74,7'si çocuklara destek olduğu, %98,3'ünün bir erişkinin yanında kaldığı ve %80,3'ünün anne ve babası ile birlikte kaldığı tespit edilmiştir. Çocukların %91,1'inin anne veya babası herhangi bir suç işlemeyi de görülmüştür.

Dava dosyalarının içerisindeki Sosyal Hizmetler Uzmanları'nın hazırladıkları raporlar incelendiğinde suçlu çocukların sosyo-ekonomik düzeylerinin kötü (%54) veya çok kötü (%29,7), anne ile ilişkilerinin genellikle orta (%48,1) veya kötü (%29,4) ve baba ile ilişkilerinin de anne gibi orta (46,8) ve kötü (%30,5) olduğu öğrenilmiştir.

Çocukların işledikleri suç türleri incelendiğinde %33,2'si hırsızlık, %13,4'ü Trafik, %10,5'i kavgada yer alma, %8,3'ü darp, %6,7'si ev açma, %4'ü meskene saldırı, %1,7'si hakaret ve küfür etme, %1,6'sı gasp ve soygun gibi suçlar işlemişlerdir. 8 çocuğunda cinayetten yargılandığı görülmüştür. Çocuklar suçları 70,2'si yalnız, %22,5'i arkadaş, %6,3'ü aileden biriyle işlediği belirlenmiştir. Yaptıkları suç karşısında karşı taraftan ve/veya polis tarafından, suçlu çocukların %99,7'sinden şikâyetçi olunmuş ve %55,4'üne (n=876) ceza verilmiştir. İşledikleri suç karşısında aldıkları cezalara bakıldığında %46'sının (n=199) davası geri çekilmiş, %23,8'i (n=103) şartsız tahliyesi uygun görülmüş, %14,5'i (n=63) hapis cezası, %13,4'ünün (n=58) sosyal sigortalar da-

iresinin sinamasına ve %2,3'ünün (n=10) aile sinamasına karar verilmiştir. 767 (%52) çocuğa para cezası verilmiş ve genellikle 1000 Türk Lirası'nın altında (%93,1) ceza almışlardır.

Araştırmanın Sonuçları ve Öneriler: Çalışmamızın sonuçları KKTC'de çocuk suçluluğunun varlığını ve önemini ortaya koymaktadır. Çocuk suçluluğu KKTC'de çocuğun aile yapısı, eğitim düzeyi, sosyal çevresi, sosyoekonomik düzeyi ve göçle yakından ilişkili olduğu ve önlenmesi gereken bir sorun olduğu belirlenmiştir. Çocuk suçluluğu KKTC'de, tüm kurum ve kuruluşların katılımı ile eğitim ve önleme programları hazırlanmasına ihtiyaç vardır ve çocuk suçluluğunu önleme bir devlet stratejisi haline getirilmelidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çocuk Suçluluğu, Yaygınlık, KKTC.