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Juvenile Justice: The United States vs Egypt

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Abstract

This paper will provide a comparative analysis of juvenile detention centers and the juvenile justice system in Egypt and the United States, highlighting key differences in legal frameworks, practices, and conditions. In order to obtain the necessary data, a systematic literature review will be conducted. The review aims to identify and collect different studies and experiments conducted on juveniles in Egypt and the U.S to compile, compare and analyze existing data on the methods implemented by each to manage their juvenile justice system. Juvenile detention is a facility within which young offenders, under the age of 18, who have been accused of or have broken the law are held. In other words, a prison specifically designed for juveniles. The goal of juvenile detention is to provide a safe and structured environment for children with a focus on their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Ideally, these institutions' goal should be to provide juveniles a chance to learn from their mistakes and make positive changes in their lives rather than solely focusing on punishment. That being said, it has not been the case for many juvenile detentions such as Al Marg in Egypt (Middle East Eye, 2014) from which stories of abuse against juveniles have come out. Juvenile detention in both nations operates within distinct legal systems, influenced by varying ages of criminal responsibility.

Egypt and the United States have distinct sociocultural, legal, and economic contexts, which significantly influence their approaches to juvenile justice. Furthermore, Egypt has been known for its lack of transparency within the juvenile justice system compared to the United States whose government is more transparent on the juvenile justice system. In the United States, juvenile justice practices have evolved over the years, with a growing emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration programs aimed at addressing the root causes of delinquency. In contrast,

Egypt has its unique historical and sociopolitical context, which has led to a different approach to juvenile justice where although there is a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration, there is more focus on punitive measures imposed on those within the system.

The living conditions within centers in both countries, specifically access to education or basic necessities, obvious differences while also falling short on similar problems such as overcrowding or the education of juveniles. However, challenges persist in both nations, which call for ongoing efforts to improve the treatment and rehabilitation of young offenders within their respective justice systems in Egypt and the United States to lower the risk of recidivism and provide needed help to juvenile delinquents.

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Introduction

In recent years, the issue of juvenile detention has garnered increasing attention as societies strive to address the challenges associated with delinquency and rehabilitation. This paper explores and compares the juvenile detention systems in Egypt and the United States, with a focus on the distinct approaches each country employs in their rehabilitation of juveniles and the conditions within the centers.

Juvenile justice systems play a crucial role in shaping the future of young individuals, influencing their rehabilitation, and ensuring a fair and just transition into society. By examining the policies, practices, and outcomes of juvenile detention centers in Egypt and the United States, this paper aims to provide valuable insights into the effectiveness, shortcomings, and potential areas for improvement within each system. Such an examination holds significant implications for the development of more informed and equitable juvenile justice policies globally, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by young offenders in different cultural and legal contexts.

During this research, it is expected that the United States and Egypt's juvenile justice system juvenile justice systems will have developed different programs for rehabilitation of juveniles within their detention centers, including programs aimed at preventing juveniles entry into detention. I hypothesize the possible reason for these differences could be the socioeconomic state of both countries, which would have an effect on the availability and prioritization of funding for juvenile detentions and the rehabilitation programs they have been

implementing. This thesis aims to disclose the different programs that exist in both countries, and how they aim to rehabilitate juveniles within their detentions.

Both the United States and Egypt possess distinct legal frameworks designed to address matters concerning juvenile detention centers. Both nations aim to uphold and effectively enforce the regulations set forth within their respective systems. Our research endeavors to provide a comprehensive examination of juvenile detentions in both countries, aiming to offer precise analysis and recommendations for enhancement. By scrutinizing the strengths and weaknesses inherent in each system, we aspire to identify areas for improvement and suggest actionable strategies for implementation.

Furthermore, the paper aims to identify and understand the differences between both systems and provide insight that can suggest improvements to the already existing systems. The main methodology utilized to compare and analyze these systems is a systematic literature review that exclusively studies peer reviewed, primary sources. This process ensures that the work meets the standards of quality, validity, and relevance expected within the academic community. Peers assess the methodology, results, conclusions, and overall contribution to the field, offering feedback and suggestions for improvement. This rigorous evaluation helps maintain the integrity and credibility of scientific knowledge by filtering out errors, biases, and unsubstantiated claims before they reach publication.

Through this review, I aim to study whether the United States and Egypt are effective in rehabilitating juvenile offenders by answering the following research questions. Rehabilitation,

specifically for juveniles in detention centers involves providing tailored support and resources aimed at fostering personal growth, addressing underlying issues, and equipping them with skills to reintegrate positively into society and overcome their personal difficulties. The paper hopes to adequately provide a well rounded analysis of the situation in both Egypt and the United States.

1. What are the current conditions, and rehabilitation methods of juvenile detention centers in Egypt and the United States, and how do they compare to each other?
 - a. What are the different rehabilitation methods implemented within juvenile detention centers in Egypt and the United States?
 - b. How effective are the existing rehabilitation methods on juvenile offenders?

Literature Review

Legal Systems in Egypt and the United States

In order to establish a base, we will first go through different aspects of the legal systems established to deal with juvenile detention centers in both the United States and Egypt. Specifically; the trial procedure, maximum/minimum sentences, requirements for education within centers, healthcare requirements, and laws focused on rehabilitation/reintegration.

a. Legal Framework of Juvenile Justice in the United States

To understand how the juvenile justice system came about, it is important to understand how juvenile offenders were dealt with prior to the development of proper formal legislation. The evolution of juvenile justice in the United States has undergone a significant transformation,

reflecting changing perspectives on youth offenders and the overall philosophy that guides the treatment of juvenile delinquency.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, there was no differentiation and segregation of adult and juvenile offenders, people who had broken the law in any minor or major context were grouped together and described as criminals (Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 2024). In 1899, the first juvenile court was established in Chicago, Illinois (McCord et al., 2001, Pg. 194). The court's goals and focus shifted to rehabilitation rather than juvenile delinquent punishment. The fate of the juveniles was in the hands of the court and the judges with full discretion. As a result, the public began questioning the fairness and effectiveness of the court system (McCord et al., 2001, Pg. 218). Furthermore, juvenile crime rates were beginning to rise which caused the public to also question the reform methods and blame the courts for allowing too much leniency.

As a response to the criticism, there was a shift in focus to punitive laws to decrease the crime rate (Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, 2024). In 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) was established as a formal legalized system to specifically manage juveniles who come in contact with the law for any reason (OJJDP, 2018). The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) remains a dynamic piece of legislation in the United States, subject to periodic amendments. Since its initial enactment in 1974, the JJDP has undergone multiple revisions to adapt to evolving societal perspectives, legal considerations, and advancements in juvenile justice practices. These amendments reflect ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system and address emerging challenges. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and its subsequent reauthorization through the

Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) stand as the foundation that currently shapes policies aimed at implementing a fair and effective treatment of juveniles. The following are some key policies included in said acts, which include the original core policies and requirements and more that have been added.

1. The Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (CCJ | Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2023), this policy aimed to ensure juveniles who have committed a “status offense” that would not be considered a crime if committed by an adult would not be held in juvenile detention. Examples of offenses under this policy could be a runaway or possession of alcohol or tobacco.
2. Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal (CCJ | Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2023), which aims to remove all juveniles currently serving sentences in adult prisons from being transferred to detention centers that consist solely of juveniles. Furthermore, the “Sight and Sound” policy (CCJ | Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2023), ensures that if the case were that a juvenile was locked up in an institution with adult offenders. There are exceptions to this rule where a court might find it is the right call for a juvenile to be placed in adult prison, nevertheless, this can only be implemented following a fair trial (Harp, 2019).
3. A focus on racial and ethnic disparities within the juvenile justice system is one of the main focuses of the JDPRA (CCJ | Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2023). This policy is aimed at ensuring that youth of color get given a fair shot as research has proved they often get harsher sentences than non-minority youth (CCJ | Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2023). With this policy, states are required to actively seek out the racial disparities within their system and attempt to reduce them.

4. Focus on evidence-based practices such as drug testing or mental health evaluations, will be used in the juvenile justice system to ensure effectiveness in treatment methods based on the wants and needs of juveniles who come in contact with the law. (Harp, 2019).
5. Restorative justice and youth accountability are important aspects of juvenile justice as this method of rehabilitation ensures juveniles who display delinquent behavior are held accountable and required to make reparations for problems caused by them. (OJJDP, 2018)
6. System of Compliance monitoring (Harp, 2019) is a policy created to ensure states that wish to receive funding for juvenile justice programs are following federal protocol and the core requirements in the JJDP and JJRA (Harp, 2019). Furthermore, as part of the JJRA amendments, states found non-compliant with the policies presented to them do not receive federal grants and funding for their juvenile justice programs, the extra funding is then allocated to programs in states that are found to be compliant (OJJDP, 2018).

b. Legal Framework for Juvenile Justice in Egypt

Egypt's juvenile justice system has undergone significant development, influenced by historical, legal, and international factors. Beginning with reforms during the colonial era and continuing after independence, efforts to modernize and address the needs of young offenders progressed. The adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 (UNICEF, 1989) played a pivotal role in emphasizing child welfare and protection within the legal framework. In 2008, Egypt passed the Child Law, establishing specialized juvenile courts and prioritizing diversionary measures and rehabilitation for juvenile offenders. Despite progress, challenges persist, including the need for effective implementation, sufficient resources

for rehabilitation programs, and changing societal attitudes towards juvenile delinquency. Egypt continues to work towards improving its juvenile justice system through collaboration with international partners and the adoption of best practices. The first official legal framework aimed at protecting juvenile rights in Egypt was established in the year 1996 (The Child Law, 1996). Juvenile justice legislation in Egypt plays a pivotal role in shaping the legal framework governing the treatment of young individuals within the criminal justice system. Anchored by Law No. 12 of 1996 “The Child Law” and subsequently amended by Law No. 126 of 2008, Egypt's juvenile justice system is designed to address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of juvenile offenders. For a person to be considered under these laws according to the Egyptian authority, they must be under the age of 18. The law aims to defend the rights of juveniles to “life, survival, and development in a supportive family environment.” (The Child Law, 2008, Pg. 3).

Furthermore, the policies listed aim to protect children from any forms of discrimination they may encounter. The Child Law is split up into articles that read out the rights of children across the country, for the sake of this research, we will focus specifically on Part Eight, Articles 94 through to Article 143 (The Child Law, 2008, Pg. 32-47, Articles 94-143).

“Criminal responsibility shall not apply to the child who has not reached the age of twelve (12) years at the time of committing the crime. Yet, if the child is at or above seven (7) years and below twelve (12) calendar years, and has committed a felony or a misdemeanor,” (The Child Law, 2008, Pg. 32, Article 94). According to Article 96, children who are deemed to be “at risk” of breaking the law can legally be imprisoned (The Child Law, 2008, Article 96). The determinants used to examine whether a child would be considered at risk include their

morals, deprivation of basic education, street begging, collecting trash, associating with known offenders, rebelling against parental figures, or having no legal monetary support system.

Following this, article 97 (The Child Law, 2008, Article 97) declares a committee will be formed in communities to help monitor cases of children at risk using preventative and therapeutic interventions. Article 100 states “if the act constituting a crime occurs as a result of a mental or psychological disease or a mental weakness whereby the child loses his ability to perceive or choose, or if at the time of the crime he was suffering from a sickness causing a serious deterioration in his perception and freedom of choice, a sentence shall be pronounced placing him in one of the specialized hospitals or institutions” (The Child Law, 2008, Article 100). Article 101 (The Child Law, 2008, Article 101) addresses different interventions used for children under the age of 15 who have committed a crime, the interventions stated include;

“1- reproach/censure

2 - Delivery to parents, guardians, or custodians

3 - Training and rehabilitation

4 - Committing to certain obligations

5 - Judicial probation

6 - Community service activities not harmful to the child’s health or mental state. The by-laws shall determine the nature of this work and restrictions thereof.

7 - Placement in one of the specialized hospitals

8 - Placement in one of the social care institutions”

(The Child Law, 2008, Pg 36, Article 101)

Following Article 101, Article 104 states that the rehabilitation of a juvenile delinquent in Egypt is to be organized through the court to achieve the best possible rehabilitation plan (The

Child Law, Article 104). The Child Law discusses the process of judicial probation which aids in rehabilitation due to the focus on keeping the child comfortable in their natural environment (The Child Law, 2008, Article 106). The Child Law also specifically states in Article 112, that a juvenile offender should not be placed with adults in the same confined space under any circumstance (The Child Law, 2008, Article 112). Furthermore, it highlights the importance of segregation of sex and age (The Child Law, 2008, Article 112). Articles 113 to 116 (The Child Law, 2008, Articles 113-116) discuss consequences for adults who have failed to protect children under their care and supervision or adults who cause children to display delinquent behavior. A few consequences listed include fines of up to 50,000 Egyptian Pounds depending on the case and the extent of neglect. Furthermore, (The Child Law, Article 116) explains that adults who have committed crimes against children receive a double jail sentence than if it had been committed against another adult. The mentioned articles, in addition to others, make up the Juvenile Justice System in Egypt.

c. Comparison of the Legal Framework of the Juvenile Justice Systems in the US and Egypt

The U.S. juvenile justice system has evolved significantly, originating in the late 19th century with the establishment of the first juvenile court in 1899 in Chicago. Egypt's juvenile justice system is anchored in Law No. 12 of 1996, "The Child Law," amended in 2008. Both systems are designed to address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of juvenile offenders, emphasizing the defense of their rights to life, survival, and development. The criminal age of responsibility in the US is recognized as under the age of 18 while Egypt also recognizes anyone 18 and under as a child, it establishes that criminal responsibility cannot be applied to children

under 12, with the exception of those aged 7 and above involved in felonies or misdemeanors (The Child Law, Article 94, 2008). The U.S. system places a strong emphasis on evidence-based practices, restorative justice, and addressing racial and ethnic disparities within the juvenile justice system through the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA). This includes policies like deinstitutionalization and adult jail removal. Meanwhile, Egypt's Child Law focuses on preventive and therapeutic interventions, rehabilitation, and legal consequences for those neglecting or causing harm to juvenile offenders as well. The emphasis is on a comprehensive evaluation of a child's circumstances and risk factors, incorporating training, rehabilitation, commitments to obligations, judicial probation, and community service.

Furthermore, the United States employs a compliance monitoring system to ensure state juvenile detention facilities adherence to federal protocols, with non-compliance resulting in the withholding of federal grants to said facilities . Legal safeguards in the U.S. system center around fairness and effectiveness in juvenile justice. On the other hand, Egypt's Child Law emphasizes the segregation of juvenile offenders from adults and imposes harsher penalties for crimes against children compared to similar offenses against adults. The law also outlines specific consequences for adults failing to protect children under their care.

While both the U.S. and Egypt acknowledge the unique needs of juvenile offenders, their juvenile justice systems differ in priorities. The U.S. juvenile justice system integrates ongoing amendments, evidence-based practices, and compliance monitoring (OJJDP, 2019), while Egypt's system leans towards preventive, and therapeutic interventions, rehabilitation, and legal consequences for the protection of juvenile offenders (Human Rights Watch, 2003)

Treatment of Juvenile Offenders

In the treatment of juvenile offenders, both the United States and Egypt employ distinct rehabilitation philosophies shaped by cultural, legal, and societal perspectives. In the United States, the approach emphasizes treatment and reform, with a commitment to rehabilitating juvenile offenders rather than solely punishing them. This philosophy aims to address underlying issues, such as social and familial challenges, to reintegrate young individuals into society successfully. However, this approach faces challenges and critiques, including concerns about the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs and issues related to the potential stigmatization of juvenile offenders.

In contrast, Egypt's rehabilitation philosophy is influenced by its unique cultural and legal perspectives. The emphasis is placed on reforming juvenile offenders within the framework of societal norms and values. The legal system acknowledges the developmental stage of young individuals and strives to provide rehabilitation opportunities that consider both cultural and legal dimensions. While Egypt has encountered challenges in implementing effective rehabilitation programs, there have also been notable successes in aligning treatment strategies with cultural expectations.

Solving the problem of juvenile delinquency has been proven to come with many challenges. At-risk children are more likely to develop mental disorders which cause them to be more prone to violence than your average youth. (Scholarworks & Clark, n.d. 2023). Juvenile detention in both Egypt and the United States, although attempting to provide adequate

healthcare to address both physical and mental needs, have not always been able to deliver on what is necessary to take care of at-risk incarcerated youth.

A. The United States

Overcrowding, racism, and lack of access to education remain a problem in the Juvenile Justice system in the United States. The article “The U.S. Criminal Justice System Needs to Start Treating Children Like Children” by Bianca Ortiz-Miskimen starts her article by reporting on how children have been sent to juvenile detention for petty crimes, such as stealing candy or participating in a food fight (Ortiz-Miskimen, 2021).

The following information is derived from an article written by Ayilah Chaudhary (Chaudhary, 2019), where she details the stories of two different peoples who have come out of juvenile detention in the US and the effect it has had on their life and development. In the article, Chaudhary compares the cases of two teenagers who have been through the juvenile justice system; however one was incarcerated and one was not. She describes how Jeremy Traveras who was not incarcerated but rather placed in a group home showed more improvement in his development and education as he was allowed to remain in a comfortable environment as is described in her article “the first time he entered the New York group home called Martin de Porres and hadn't seen barbed wire, he wasn't sure whether he was *actually* in detention. It was similar to entering his own home: the smell of dinner cooking, welcoming faces and a comfortable bedroom.” (Chaudhary, 2019, para. 23). Meanwhile, Alyssa Beck is a teenager who also went through the system but instead was held in solitary confinement due to the law that required the separation of adults and childrens in any prison, jail or detention setting. She

described her experience as demotivating, saying “In her concrete cell, she lost motivation to "even get up in the morning.” (Chaudhary, 2019, para. 18). Both teenagers aged out eventually and managed to create a life following their experience. An analysis into both cases shows how focus on rehabilitation should be the number one priority. Based on the findings of the article by Chaudhary in 2019, Jeremy Traveras and Alyssa Beck have had two completely different experiences within the justice system. Traveras’ experience involved a heavy focus on his rehabilitation within the system which he stated helped him immensely following his release. On the other hand, Beck's experience was completely different as she said she was given no access to rehabilitation programs in detention and her treatment during her stay traumatized her rather than helped her. (Chaudhary, 2019).

B. Egypt

Although Egypt’s Child Law seems to protect juveniles, reports of abuse within the prisons have become a common occurrence. According to a Human Rights Watch Report (Human Rights Watch, 2020), Karim Hamida Ali, a 17-year-old boy, was detained during a protest. The responsible authority failed to make his family aware of his arrest.

Following his eventual release, he recalled stories of torture and abuse within the prison walls which directly goes against the rehabilitation philosophy Egypt has legalized through its Child Law (The Child Law, 2008). In the Egyptian military court, it has been reported that there is no segregation or differentiation in treatment between adults and children (Nassar, 2019). According to the report, at least 14 people under the age of 18 were arrested unbeknownst to their families. (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Furthermore, a report from Egypt’s Al-Marg

juvenile detention center (Middle East Eye, 2014) provides a detailed overview of an abusive regime stating things such as “The detainees are woken up at 4 am. The officers lift their heads up and let them drop in order to wake them up - if this doesn’t work, they kick them in the stomachs or backs to wake them.” (Middle East Eye, 2014).

Additionally, a 2003 report by the Human Rights Watch organization, under the section “Sexual Abuse and Violence against Girls” describes sexual abuses of girls in detention detailing the personal accounts in detention (Human Rights Watch, 2003). The researcher visited Al Azbekiya juvenile detention center and interviewed four girls about their experiences in this detention center. A girl called Nora who is 19 years old One girl named Hala told the researchers guards would call her and others whores and prostitutes saying "The police curse us with filthy language here. They call us 'whore' and things like that,"(Human Rights Watch, 2003, quote 126). She also explained how a guard had attempted to rape her on her first night at the facility. Furthermore, she detailed how other girls have gone through similar experiences with guards in this facility alluding to the fact no action has been taken against guards who have constantly sexually harassed and abused girls at this facility (Human Rights Watch, 2003).

In the same report, following the issue of abuse under the section “Police Beatings” (Human Rights Watch, 2003) the researcher dives deeper into the issues at Al Azbekiya juvenile detention center, describing the fear juvenile offenders feel within the walls of these facilities. Many children who are in this facility were detained for reasons such as begging on the street described being beaten with a belt by the ‘mukhabrin’¹ who some described as the “scariest part of juvenile detention”(Human Rights Watch, 2003, quote 107). Furthermore another juvenile

¹ rank police, low-level positions used as assistants to higher ranking officers or as guards

Marwan who is 13 years old stated "Every little bit they hit us. They hit us with belts. When they come to wake us, they wake us up with belts. If someone says anything, they hit all of us." (Human Rights Watch, 2003, quote 110). They are just a few of the different kinds of abuse children in these centers go through on a daily basis in juvenile detentions across Egypt.

Conditions in Juvenile Detention Centers

a. The United States

In the United States, juvenile detention centers vary widely in infrastructure and facilities. Some facilities may provide adequate living conditions and educational resources, while others need help with overcrowding and outdated infrastructure. Programs and services often include educational opportunities, vocational training, counseling, and rehabilitative initiatives. However, concerns persist about disparities in the quality of services among different detention centers, with potential consequences for the overall effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts.

A common issue in US juvenile detention centers is overcrowding, which leads to a strain on resources. However, there have been efforts to address unsustainable conditions. Over the past decades, many policies have been passed to address issues and challenges surrounding the juvenile justice system. In 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) was enacted by the United States Congress (OJJDP, 2018). The act aimed to set federal standards for juvenile justice, preventing juvenile incarceration with adults and improving conditions. However, challenges in consistent implementation and funding have affected its goals. Another act passed in 2018, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act aimed to enhance rehabilitation but faced

varying impacts due to disparities in community programs (OJJDP, 2018). Effectiveness in post-release rehabilitation relies on resource distribution and addressing systemic challenges within the system, crucial for addressing concerns in this area. (Chowdhry et al., 2023).

US juvenile detention systems face many challenges, the biggest including overcrowding, as aforementioned, and lack of access to education. Many recounts from juvenile detainees in American prisons recount a lack of focus on and an overwhelming pressure to integrate into prison culture. Although American juvenile prison systems are meant to provide education to detainees, Alyssa Beck, a solitary confinement detainee, describes her time in an adult jail in Florida. “Most of her day was spent in a gray cell no larger than a parking space. Every week, a teacher slid worksheets under her cell door — middle school assignments for a high school student...If she had questions, she would crouch to talk through a flap in the cell door” (Chaudhary, 2019).

There have been efforts to improve these conditions, specifically for solitary confinement detainees. In 2016, California began to only allow solitary confinement of juveniles when less restrictive options had failed, and then only for four hours at a time, in an attempt to refine their policies and education for detainees (B. Clark, 2017, pg. 4).

There's a growing recognition of the importance of providing mental health support, and counseling aimed at addressing the root causes of juvenile delinquency. Jeremy Taveras, another juvenile detainee shares his experience in a detention center in New York more focused on rehabilitation. “Taveras personalized his room with his guitar, photos of friends and family, and

red-and-black pillowcases from his bed at home. His room door was never locked” (Chaudhary, 2019). Being in an environment that is comfortable and fosters rehabilitation rather than punishment tends to produce better conditions for incarcerated youth, and thus they have a better chance of recovery. By providing support and interventions to address these factors, there's a higher likelihood of reducing recidivism rates. Young individuals are more likely to successfully reintegrate into society and avoid re-offending.

b. Egypt

In Egyptian juvenile detention centers, the infrastructure and facilities similarly vary, reflecting the diversity of conditions across different regions. The programs and services offered aim to align with cultural and legal perspectives, encompassing educational programs, vocational training, and rehabilitative services. Challenges may arise in ensuring consistent standards across all facilities, but there have been efforts to address these issues and improve the overall conditions for juvenile detainees (Nassar, 2019). According to a lawyer at the Egyptian Foundation for Advancement of Childhood Conditions who specializes in minors’ cases, Ahmed Moselhy, minors are constantly detained alongside adults in police stations due to a lack of funding and resources.

Many minors are eventually sent to El Marg juvenile detention center which has a capacity of about 700, but according to Moselhy, the number of detainees regularly exceeds that. A specific incident is recounted by a former minor prisoner, Mohammed, who was transferred between multiple detention centers, El Marg included. In his time there, he describes being “beaten, kicked in the back and legs, hit with drum sticks, electrocuted in his neck, behind his

ears, the sides of his torso, and genitals.” Other former detainees also describe unhygienic living conditions, cramped spaces, and a lack of rehabilitation resources like doctors and counselors. (Chang, Middle East Eye, 2014).

In a 2003 report by the Human Rights Watch organization, researchers describe conditions in Egyptian juvenile detention centers, describing issues with overcrowding, and lack of access to basic necessities such as food, water, education or medical care (Human Rights Watch, 2003). In the section “Medical Care”, in the Al Azbekiya juvenile detention centers, a sixteen year old Widad described an incident that occurred in the year 2002 where a girl was denied medical care despite being extremely sick with a high fever saying “One was very sick, with a high fever, but the police didn't do anything. We put water on her to cool her.” (Human Rights Watch, 2003, quote 157). Regarding overcrowding, juveniles at the same facility described not having enough space to eat or sleep, adding that they also had no access to clean beds to sleep on often (Human Rights Watch, 2003).

Additionally, girls at the Al Azkebiya juvenile detention center informed the researcher that their access to bathrooms and water depended on whomever was on duty at the time. Some girls stating, "They didn't want to let us go to the bathroom," Reem G (Human Rights Watch, 2003, quote 191) and "It depended on their mood. Some girls urinated on the ground in the cell." (Human Rights Watch, 2003, quote 192).

In these reports by the Human Rights Watch and Middle East Eye organizations, it can clearly be said that there are many abuses towards juveniles that occur under juvenile detention

contradicting the comprehensive laws established in the year 2008 (The Child Law, 2008) meant to ensure the rights of the juveniles who have given this information about their experiences.

Methodology

A systematic literature review is a comprehensive and rigorous method of gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing existing research relevant to a particular topic or research question. It involves predefined search criteria to identify all relevant studies, followed by systematic screening, data extraction, and analysis. This method ensures that all available evidence is considered objectively, minimizing bias and providing a robust foundation for understanding the current state of knowledge on the topic. In this thesis, a systematic literature review was conducted to investigate the juvenile justice systems of Egypt and the United States, offering a comparison between the two countries and insights into key findings, gaps, and areas for future research.

A list of key words were established during the search in order to limit the articles to relevant literature and were inputted into the search bar using the Boolean operators (AND, OR). The Scopus database search for Egypt yielded no relevant results despite using very minimum key words to broaden the search, it only yielded 3 results, none of which met the inclusion/exclusion established before the search to avoid the risk of search bias.

Keywords:

	Egypt	United States
	“Juvenile Justice” AND “Egypt”	"juvenile justice" OR "youth justice" AND "rehabilitation" OR "treatment" AND "detention"

SCOPUS		center conditions" OR "juvenile facilities" OR "juvenile correctional facilities" AND "United States"
Google Scholar	"Egypt" AND "Juvenile Justice" OR "youth justice" AND "rehabilitation" OR "treatment" OR "intervention" AND "conditions" OR "environment" OR "detention"	"juvenile justice" OR "youth justice" AND "rehabilitation" OR "treatment" AND "detention center conditions" OR "juvenile facilities" OR "juvenile correctional facilities" AND "hygiene standards" OR "mental health" AND "United States"

The systematic literature review aims to investigate the conditions in detention centers and the effectiveness of rehabilitation and intervention strategies for juvenile offenders, street children, and adolescents in Egypt and the United States between the years 2000 and 2024. The research questions guided this review and focused on identifying existing literature that addresses these specific aspects within the juvenile justice systems of both countries.

Inclusion criteria for article selection included relevance to the research question, geographical focus on Egypt or the United States, peer-reviewed status, accessibility to the full text, and direct addressing of the specified keywords. Exclusion criteria encompass articles not meeting the language and publication date requirements, non-peer-reviewed sources, lack of accessibility to full-text articles, and irrelevance to the targeted populations or settings.

The screening process involves initial assessment of titles and abstracts to identify potentially relevant articles, followed by a full-text review of selected articles organized into a table to determine final inclusion. Data extraction will entail gathering pertinent information from included articles, such as study design, sample characteristics, interventions utilized, outcomes measured, and key findings.

Data analysis of the results involves summarizing findings, identifying common themes across studies, and discussing implications for juvenile justice policy and practice in both Egypt and the United States. The review will adhere to PRISMA² guidelines for systematic reviews, ensuring transparency and rigor in reporting the findings. Ethical considerations will be observed throughout the review process, and potential limitations, such as publication bias and language restrictions, will be acknowledged.

The table shown below is a search summary, during the process of research for the systematic literature review. Explaining the different stages of elimination, starting at the initial search with the specified keywords stated. Following this, a screening process of the results was conducted where first articles were eliminated based on titles or abstracts. The remaining articles in each search were then screened with more detail in order to finalize the literature for final inclusion in the Systematic Literature review. Database 1 refers to Google Scholar, Database 2 refers to SCOPUS.

² The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA)

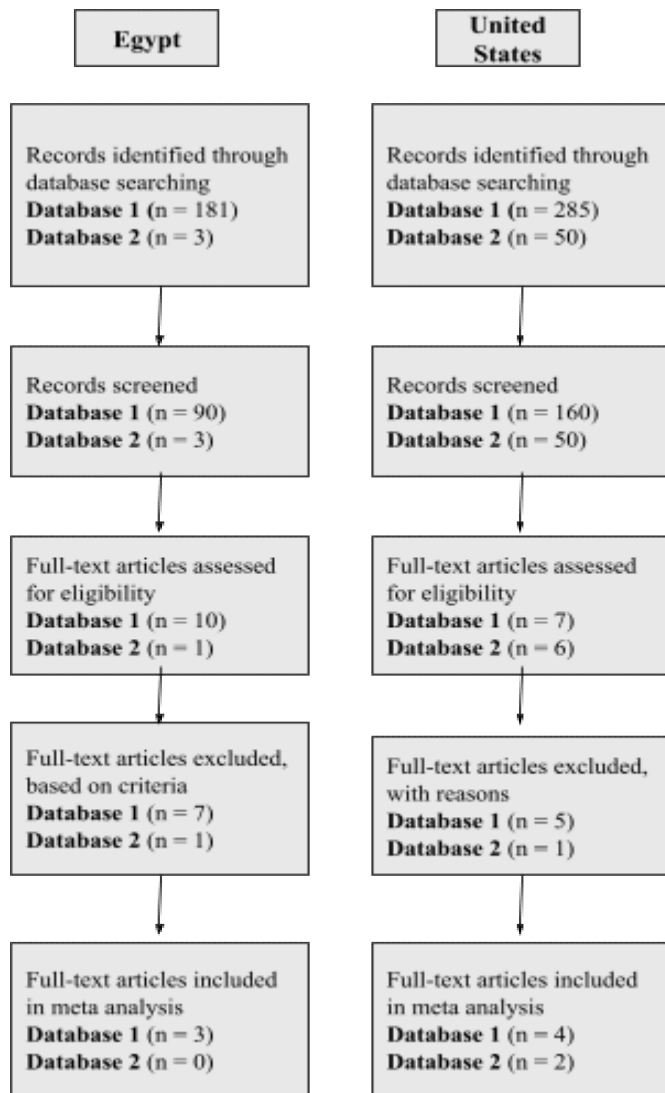
Search Summary

Findings

Intervention/ Rehabilitation

Methods for Juveniles in and out of Detention Centers

The study of intervention methods is important in order to improve methods applied within juvenile detention and rehabilitation programs to ensure the rehabilitation and well being of juvenile offenders in the system and those at risk of entering it.



The research study “*Environmental behavioral modification programme for street children in Alexandria, Egypt*” (Hosny et al., 2007) was an experimental study conducted on street children who have been detained or are at risk of being detained due to their status as street children in which intervention methods were tested for the purpose of determining whether they would decrease their risk of incarceration specifically in the city of Alexandria in Egypt.

During the study the methods employed to achieve results included collecting data on the 35 male street children who participated via structured questionnaires, repeated interviews, and IQ tests to assess their intelligence. The variables assessed to determine risk of incarceration included the participants' family background, education status, reasons for street presence, and activities for income, while the outcomes encompassed more adaptive behaviors and increased IQ (Hosny et al., 2007, Pg. 1440-1441).

The survey determined the participants shared a variety of disorders (including antisocial behavior, aggression, and substance use). The program started in October 2001, ran until April 2003, it was composed of seven main units (outdoors and recreational education, urban and health education, heritage and museum education, moral and religious education, human rights and peace education, economic and civic education, and future and sustainable education).

Similarly in a study conducted in the United States, “*Female Juvenile Offenders Incarcerated as Adults: A Psychoeducational Group Intervention*” (Pomeroy et al., 2001). A group of 15 female juveniles incarcerated at the jail were put through a 9 week, 18 two part session, one lasting a half hour which consisted of a discussion or presentation regarding self

awareness, empowerment and coping skills. The second part, which was an hour long, consisted of cognitive-behavioral and relational techniques in a “support group” like setting between the girls. Topics discussed during the support group included anger management, how to deal with depression, anxiety, reduce stress, and trauma symptoms (Pomeroy et al., 2001).

The researchers used cognitive behavioral theory³ and empowerment theory⁴ during this stage as their theoretical framework. The researchers used the following measures: levels of anxiety, depression, and trauma symptoms experienced in the jail setting to measure the outcome of their psychoeducational group intervention sessions.

Both projects employed similar intervention methods although the study conducted on street boys in Alexandria (*Hosny et al., 2007*) was conducted under a 2 year period versus 9 weeks at the Orange County Prison (*Pomeroy et al., 2001*). Moreover, both studies employed cognitive behavioral methods to yield results.

Following the end of the studies, the programs yielded positive results regarding the variables they measured such as a reported decrease in depression symptoms (pre-test mean= 34.27, post test mean=29.0) or trauma symptoms (pre-test mean= 38.2, post test mean=35.13) (*Pomeroy et al., 2001, Pg. 110-111*).

³ **Cognitive-behavioral theory:** a form of psychological treatment that has been demonstrated to be effective for a range of problems including depression, anxiety disorders, alcohol and drug use problems, marital problems, eating disorders, and severe mental illness (*APA Div. 12, 2017*)

⁴ **Empowerment theory:** Empowerment is both a value orientation for working in the community and a theoretical model for understanding the process and consequences of efforts to exert control and influence over decisions that affect one’s life, organizational functioning, and the quality of community life (*Zimmerman, 2000*)

Additionally in the street children intervention program (*Hosny et al., 2007*), improvements were observed in personality disorder such as passive-aggressive personality or narcissistic personality, furthermore, there were also improvements in substance abuse and speech disorders among the street children participation which similar to the Orange County Intervention program was overall successful in changing their behavior therefore lowering the risk of juvenile incarceration or recidivism.

The paper “The effect of cognitive behavioral therapy on behaviors of juvenile delinquents resident in correctional institutions in Alexandria” (*Fikry et al., 2012*) discusses cognitive behavioral therapy as a rehabilitation method that was trialed on juvenile delinquents in the city of Alexandria, Egypt in a setting similar to that of the Orange County trial (*Pomeroy et al., 2001*). They sampled a group of 40 juveniles, 20 girls and 20 boys from two different institutions “Alexandria Association for delinquents' care for girls" and "Dar El Tarbiah Al Egtamayhea for boys" (*Fikry et al., 2012*).

The study utilized a “Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire” (SDQ)⁵ (*Fikry et al., 2012, Pg. 256*), to collect self reported data from the juveniles and their guardians. After confirming respondents were “at-risk youth” using the questionnaire, they were separated into 6 subgroups of around 5-8 children each based on age and sex. For 10 weeks, 3 days per week 1-2 hour group sessions would be held where cognitive behavioral therapy was used. Once the 10 weeks were completed, the children in the program were once again asked to take the SDQ. The

⁵ A strengths and difficulties: a brief behavioral screening questionnaire that asks about children's and teenagers' symptoms and positive attributes (*Goodman, 1997*) for the purpose of this study was translated from English to Arabic.

results found significant improvements on delinquent boys and girls, focusing on their emotional, behavioral, and social difficulties before and after the implementation of the program.

Prior to CBT, none of the delinquent boys or girls had normal scores on the self-administered or guardian Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). However, immediately following the CBT program, a significant improvement was observed, with 55% of boys and 75% of girls achieving normal scores. These positive effects persisted even three months after the program, with 25% of boys and 40% of girls maintaining normal scores (Fikry et al., 2012, *Pg. 258*).

Furthermore, their guardian SDQ scores had also significantly improved where 45% of the boys, 60% of the girls achieved normal test results. Based on these separate experiments conducted in Egypt and the US, one could deduce implementing evidence-based intervention strategies, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy and family-based programs, is crucial for addressing the underlying factors contributing to juvenile delinquency.

In the paper it is reported that, according to the Ministry of Interior Statistics, more than 25% of children in Egyptian juvenile detention centers have committed the crime of being “vulnerable to delinquency” during the years 2000-2001, and it was also reported that between the years 2000- 2008 the number of incarcerated juveniles double in size going from 17, 228 arrests to 32,957 (Fikry et al., 2012, *Pg. 255*). This knowledge leads to the assumption that lack of focus on rehabilitation has not benefited the system or the children involved in the juvenile justice system in Egypt.

Furthermore, the study “A Case-Control Study of Risk and Protective Factors for Incarceration Among Urban Youth” (Reingle et al., 2013), conducted in Chicago, Illinois (United States) adds to the point of importance of early intervention for juveniles such as the intervention programs stated above to prevent incarceration and recidivism following Juvenile incarceration.

The study conducted in Chicago aimed to find a correlation between 6th graders with behavioral problems and their risk of incarceration by the twelve grade based on variables such as in/out of school detention, participating/ or not in supervised extracurricular activities (e.g. sporting events), demographics (race, ethnicity, sex etc...), substance use, aggression, incarceration, contextual variables (e.g. peer alcohol use, parental monitoring, family discussions about alcohol, parental communication, or neighborhood alcohol use). The study used 2,165 juveniles who participated in Project Northland Chicago⁶, in the year 2009 a follow up survey was conducted with the original participants in which 53% of the cohort responded (*Reingle et al., 2013*).

The study then compared those incarcerated by the twelfth grade to those who have not been and found that incarcerated youth are more likely to have used alcohol and marijuana before and after incarceration (*Reingle et al., 2013*) which suggests incarceration did not impose proper rehabilitation methods. Furthermore, based on the results of the survey, it found that age, having been sent to in-school detention, and the number of hours spent participating in sports/

⁶ A school and community intervention that targeted children at an early age to prevent and reduce underage alcohol use (Perry et al., 1996)

extracurriculars were robust early risk factors for later incarceration, even after controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and aggression.

These relationships held true across different analyses, suggesting a complex interplay of risk factors contributing to juvenile incarceration, with substance use not necessarily being a significant predictor (*Reingle et al., 2013*). Furthermore, the findings from the study emphasize the urgent need for early intervention and rehabilitation programs for juveniles exhibiting risk factors associated with future incarceration. By identifying specific risk factors present in early adolescence, such as in/out of school detention and certain antisocial behaviors, lack of participation in sports or extracurriculars and many more factors, the study helps highlight the opportunity for targeted interventions to address underlying issues before they escalate into more serious delinquency. Early intervention efforts can disrupt the pathway from early behavioral problems to later involvement with the criminal justice system, offering alternative strategies and comprehensive support to steer at-risk youth towards positive outcomes and away from incarceration.

The Prevalent Need to Rehabilitate Individuals Involved with the Juvenile Justice System

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of rehabilitation in the treatment of juveniles within the juvenile justice system. As society's understanding of juvenile delinquency evolves, there is a shifting emphasis towards rehabilitation-focused approaches that prioritize addressing the underlying causes of youth offending and promoting

positive behavior change with targeted treatment rather than focus on solely punitive consequences.

Central to this paradigm is the acknowledgment that juveniles, due to their developmental stage and unique circumstances, possess considerable potential for rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society. Consequently, initiatives aimed at rehabilitating juvenile offenders have garnered increasing attention from policymakers, practitioners, and researchers alike, some resulting in success and some resulting in failures.

In the paper, “The Correctional Experiences of Youth in Adult and Juvenile Prisons” (Kupchik, 2007), the research attempts to discover whether youth get better opportunities for rehabilitation and focus on treatment in Juvenile Detention or Adult Prisons. The researcher left the state in which this study was conducted anonymous to ensure the privacy of the juveniles involved was protected.

The research was conducted by analyzing data collected from 95 interviews with young adult males in both adult correctional facilities and juvenile facilities operated by the state's children's services bureau. The interviews were conducted in three adult facilities and two juvenile facilities in the same city (left anonymous to protect the privacy of the children involved), housing individuals under the age of twenty-one who were sentenced for offenses other than homicide or sexual assault. The study compares similar cases across the two different correctional systems based on offenders' ages, with younger offenders sent to juvenile facilities and older ones to adult facilities.

The interviews covered various aspects of the respondents' backgrounds, experiences in court, family and social lives, criminal histories, and correctional experiences. Steps were taken to ensure confidentiality and honesty in responses, including conducting interviews in semi-private spaces, using scaled response cards, and promising anonymity to respondents. Surveys were also sent to key staff members at each institution, and follow-up phone interviews were conducted to gather additional information about the services, disciplinary practices, facility conditions, and administrative goals of each institution. These data sets were used to compare the correctional experiences of youth in prison across different types of facilities (Kupchik, 2007). The researcher Kupchik had stated “ based on the prior research, one would predict that juvenile and adult correctional facilities vary in how they align themselves along the treatment vs. punishment continuum. One would expect juvenile facilities to be more focused than adult correctional facilities on therapeutic intervention and education, and adult facilities relatively more focused on incapacitation.” (Kupchik, 2007, Pg. 251).

The results of his research contradicted the hypothesis stated earlier, as they indicated several notable differences in the experiences of inmates across adult correctional facilities and juvenile facilities that were studied. Despite the assumption that juvenile facilities would offer better access to education and treatment services, adult-facility respondents reported greater availability of counseling, caseworkers, and drug treatment. However, juvenile-facility respondents perceived staff-inmate interactions to be more supportive, fair, encouraging, and helpful.

Multivariate analyses confirmed significant differences in correctional experiences between facility types, even after accounting for various background, criminal history, and case processing factors. These differences persisted even when analyzing only inmates incarcerated for violent offenses, suggesting that variations in offense severity or offending records did not influence the findings. Overall, the research highlighted the distinct experiences of inmates in adult and juvenile correctional facilities and underscored the importance of understanding and addressing these differences in correctional practice and policy. The effects of correctional facilities on juvenile rehabilitation varied. While adult facilities seemed to offer a wider array of institutional services, they were perceived by juveniles as lacking in fostering positive staff-inmate interactions.

On the other hand, juvenile facilities, despite potentially fewer services, were perceived as providing more supportive and encouraging staff-inmate relationships. These positive interactions in juvenile facilities may contribute to a more therapeutic environment, potentially aiding in the rehabilitation process. However, although both facilities lacked the ability to fully help juveniles, based on the results you could deduce the treatment of juveniles within the facilities was more specialized in juvenile detention due to there being more focus on juveniles rather than other populations of inmates.

Another study conducted to emphasize the need for proper treatment and rehabilitation services for juveniles is “Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders in the Texas Juvenile Correctional System.” (Harzke et al., 2012). The research aims to discover different psychiatric disorders that need to be addressed within the juvenile correctional system, specifically in Texas, United States.

The study sample consisted of 11,603 (number of youths committed to the Texas Youth Commission facilities between the years 2004-2008), around 90.2% of the sample consisted of male juvenile delinquents, and a total of 71.3% of the sample were youths who were 16 years old and above, the study took into account race, ethnicity, sex and age (Harzke et al., 2012). The results revealed that the majority (98.3%) of the population, was diagnosed with at least one psychiatric disorder. Conduct disorders (83.2%) and substance use disorders (75.6%) were the most prevalent, with females exhibiting slightly higher prevalence rates of depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, and anxiety disorder (Harzke et al., 2012).

Through the data, it was also found that the prevalence rates for several disorders decreased with age, especially among males, while substance use disorder prevalence increased among those aged 16 or older, though not significantly among females. It notes that prevalence rates of psychiatric disorders, including conduct disorder, substance use disorder, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and depressive disorder, were considerably higher in its population compared to estimates from general population youth samples.

The prevalence rates were similar to those reported in high-risk youth samples, such as homeless or severely maltreated youths. Similarly, comparisons with other juvenile justice youth samples reveal higher prevalence rates of psychiatric disorders in the study population, particularly in incarcerated youths compared to those at different processing points in the juvenile justice system (Harzke et al., 2012). Based on the findings, it can be inferred that psychiatric disorders contribute to behavioral issues among youth and require targeted intervention. Addressing these disorders is crucial for effective rehabilitation. Screening,

comprehensive assessment, and individualized treatment planning are essential in juvenile correctional facilities. Additionally, implementing recommendations for high-quality mental health services tailored to the needs of incarcerated youth, along with providing additional training for mental health care staff, is vital to prevent recidivism. Prioritizing treatment over incarceration is recommended for effective rehabilitation efforts.

Challenges and Shortcomings of the Juvenile Justice System

The Juvenile Justice System in many jurisdictions faces a myriad of challenges and shortcomings that hinder its ability to effectively serve and rehabilitate young offenders. From inadequate resources and funding to systemic issues such as racial disparities and over-reliance on punitive measures, the shortcomings of the juvenile justice system are diverse and complex.

These challenges not only impact the outcomes for individual youth but also contribute to broader societal issues such as recidivism rates and disparities in access to justice. In order to address these challenges and build a more equitable and effective juvenile justice system, it is imperative to identify and tackle these shortcomings head-on through comprehensive reforms and evidence-based practices.

Using the paper “Customary justice for children in Egypt: an overview of the situation in the Governorate of Asyut” (Campistol et al., 2017) we can analyze the treatment of juveniles within the system in Egypt. The researchers utilized a semi-directive interview technique to gather data on children dealt with by customary justice mechanisms in the districts of Abu Tig and Abnoub, located in the Governorate of Asyut, Egypt. Data were collected through individual

monthly meetings with fourteen arbitrators selected based on their experience and reputation within the local community, resulting in a convenience sample. The interviews included closed and open-ended questions to capture narrative descriptions and perceptions of arbitrators on the outcomes of cases, with data collection spanning from October 2013 to February 2015 (Campistol et al., 2017, Pg. 38-39). Throughout this research, the goal was to, through analysis, discover how children in the system are tried whether they have been victims or offenders and whether the justice system is fair to them.

Furthermore, the paper "“No one cares”": Challenges and possibilities for modernizing juvenile detention operations in mississippi." (Gulledge & Scheer, 2022) delves into how shortcoming in the modernization of equipment can impede on the rehabilitation of juveniles in the system. The study takes place in Mississippi, United States where roundtable discussions were utilized with personnel from Mississippi's juvenile detention centers, employing a qualitative questionnaire to assess technological capacities, workforce management styles, and leadership challenges, with data collection conducted across 16 different facilities to get a full scope of the situation in the state of Mississippi (Gulledge & Scheer, 2022).

The findings of the study revealed widespread support among personnel from Mississippi's juvenile detention centers for technological improvements that could facilitate the establishment of a statewide database of juvenile arrests. Respondents emphasized the potential benefits of this database for enhancing operational coordination, improving safety measures, and informing decision-making processes. However, significant obstacles to database development

were identified, including systemic challenges such as inadequate physical infrastructure, political conflicts, budgetary constraints, and workforce mismanagement.

The study also highlighted positive elements within the juvenile detention system, including strong organizational commitment, stable leadership, and a desire to modernize training and recordkeeping systems. Furthermore, the study revealed several potential effects on juveniles resulting from the current state of data collection and information sharing within Mississippi's juvenile detention system. These effects included increased risks to the safety of juveniles themselves, as well as to detention center staff and the public, due to insufficient communication and information sharing between facilities and law enforcement agencies.

Specifically, the lack of shared information on juveniles' mental health status, violent behavior, medical needs, and other pertinent factors upon intake posed significant safety concerns. Additionally, the absence of comprehensive data hindered the development of targeted interventions and programs designed to mitigate juvenile crime, potentially impeding juveniles' access to necessary support services and hindering their rehabilitative goals.

Discussion

The purpose of this research was to answer the question of whether rehabilitative methods being used in the US and Egypt are making an impact on children in the system. Although there are limitations of the research such as lack of resources for Egypt, or lack of geographical coverage of each country, the search was still able to yield significant results.

Firstly, the majority of, if not all the studies related to intervention or rehabilitation involved in this research stressed the importance of a focus on them and proved the importance with research and successful results. In both Egypt and the United States, a popular intervention/rehabilitation method was found to be Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). During the analysis of data, the research projects “Female Juvenile Offenders Incarcerated as Adults: A Psychoeducational Group Intervention” (Pomeroy et al., 2001), and “The effect of cognitive behavioral therapy on behaviors of juvenile delinquents resident in correctional institutions in Alexandria” (Fikry et al., 2012) and both applied this method to their intervention/rehabilitation attempts and found that this method significantly decreased the “at-risk” behavior shown by the participants of their research.

The nature of this form of therapy specifically targeting peoples thoughts, feelings and behaviors could explain its effectiveness among juvenile delinquent populations. By targeting these factors, it allows the receptors of this treatment to take accountability and provides them mental clarity which in turn could be the reason they are healing and showing positive results following CBT treatment. Children who participate in this program are given methods on how to deal with the mental disorders holding them back from overcoming behavioral issues they display, such as resorting to drugs, stealing, or aggressive behavior that this therapy uses anger management to tackle and etc.... Furthermore, family-based programs seemed to also be effective as an intervention/ rehabilitation method. It can be assumed that the majority of juveniles spend most of their time around family, by involving family in their therapy and informing their family on practices they could do, it increases the probability treatment will have an effect as it gives the juveniles a well balanced support system.

Furthermore, another point of the research was the prevalence of psychiatric disorders amongst juveniles in detention centers which proves the need for rehabilitation rather than a focus on punishment. The paper “Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders in the Texas Juvenile Correctional System.” (Harzke et al., 2012) , using effective methods of analysis on the rise of psychiatric disorders amongst teens specifically in the Texas Juvenile Correctional System, the study concluded that teens admitted into juvenile detention are highly likely suffer from psychiatric disorders that includes conduct disorder, substance use disorder, bipolar disorder, ADHD, depressive disorder, or anxiety disorder.

The research found these disorders to be present in the population of juveniles in detention, one could argue that the conditions within the detention center exacerbated the prevalence of these disorders. This then furthers the argument that those psychiatric disorders were the main cause of the incarceration of the juveniles in the study and perhaps rehabilitation (using CBT treatment as used in other studies), rather than incarceration would’ve been more effective at tackling these mental disorders. A curious finding during the research was found while analyzing the paper “The Correctional Experiences of Youth in Adult and Juvenile Prisons” (Kupchik, 2007). During my analysis of the paper, similar to the author, an assumption was made that Juveniles in Juvenile detention centers would receive better help than juveniles being held at Adult Prisons. The research, although not applicable to all the United States or Egypt, found that in the particular city it was conducted in (not mentioned) juveniles received better help at adult facilities which could be due to higher funding towards these prisons . It found that Adult prisons offered juveniles more institutional services that could aid their

rehabilitation, albeit they stated the staff was more warm, and the environment was more positive in juvenile detention centers (Kupchik, 2007).

This specific research fell short leaving no room for further analysis due to the author's efforts to uphold the privacy of the juveniles. Furthermore, most research on the topic of juveniles in adult prisons discusses the mistreatment of juveniles and their traumatic experiences, such as reports from prominent organizations such as the HRW⁷ who have reported contradicting results to the researchers on juveniles being confined in Adult prisons such as the report "Children Behind Bars: The Global Overuse of Detention of Children" (Human Rights Watch, 2015) where it describes abuses suffered by children within adult prisons, including reports on Egyptian prisons.

The argument can be made that while the findings of the research paper "The Correctional Experiences of Youth in Adult and Juvenile Prisons" (Kupchik, 2007) suggests juveniles may receive better help at adult facilities based on service availability, the findings may not be universally applicable due to limitations in the analysis and contradictory evidence from organizations like Human Rights Watch, which report abuses in adult prisons, contrasting with the warmer staff interactions observed in juvenile detention centers.

Additionally, it is crucial to address the systemic issues within the juvenile justice system, as these issues significantly impact the overall welfare, care, and rehabilitation of juveniles within the system. While researching there were two research projects that specifically targeted the systematic aspect of the justice system and its effects on all those involved. One paper "No

⁷Human Rights Watch

one cares”: Challenges and possibilities for modernizing juvenile detention operations in mississippi." (Gulledge & Scheer, 2022), discusses how failures and lack of modernization of the technological side of record keeping alone can have a negative effect on juveniles. A significant finding the author listed was that, lack of access to the records of juvenile offenders such as different disorders they have, medical needs, behavioral issues etc... puts them at risk. The reason for this safety risk is that a juvenile could possibly not receive the help they need due to the lack of information being shared about their conditions. The lack of record keeping, in this research specifically in the state of Mississippi in the year 2022, also makes it more difficult to keep track of a juvenile's behavioral improvement or deterioration within the system. The lack of modernization in record-keeping technology, another critical aspect often overlooked is the systemic shortcomings within the juvenile justice system.

Neglecting to address these systemic issues not only poses risks to the safety and well-being of juveniles but also hinders their access to necessary support and rehabilitation services. By failing to maintain accurate records and address systemic inefficiencies, the system may inadvertently exacerbate the challenges faced by juvenile offenders, making it harder to track their progress and tailor interventions to their specific needs. Although there was not much research on this subject regarding Egypt, one could assume the same difficulties are faced within Egypt due to the country's consistent economic decline. Despite the differences between Egypt and the United States, particularly in terms of cultural, legal, and socioeconomic contexts, the limited research available on the topic of juvenile justice suggests that both countries face similar challenges and tend to employ similar methods in dealing with juvenile offenders. This convergence in approach may stem from shared underlying principles of justice and

rehabilitation, as well as the influence of international standards and best practices in juvenile justice.

Additionally, globalization and the exchange of information via the internet contributes to the adoption of similar intervention strategies and rehabilitation programs in both countries. However, both countries seem to recognize the importance of tailoring interventions to the unique needs and circumstances of each country's juvenile population, taking into account cultural sensitivities, legal frameworks, and available resources. As cognitive behavioral therapy was applied in both using methods tailored to their respective sample population.

Differences between the United States and Egypt

	United States	Egypt
Rehabilitation Methods	Utilizes Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), family-based programs, vocational training, and community-based programs Prioritizes rehabilitation and treatment over punishment, with a focus on evidence-based practices. Evident in different studies	Utilizes Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in some studies. Employs counseling and educational programs, but effectiveness is limited by resource and funding constraints. Emphasis on rehabilitation exists within the law and research, but implementation of it is scarce based on the findings of the SLR

Legal Rights of Juveniles	Legal rights and protections to juvenile offenders are provided, including due process and protection from excessive punishment	Legal rights and protections may be in established law but is not always be upheld consistently in its implementation
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Limitations of Research

The existing research on juvenile justice and rehabilitation, while informative, is subject to various limitations that warrant consideration. These limitations include small sample sizes, limited representativeness, and potential biases inherent in methodological approaches. Moreover, the geographical and cultural contexts in which studies are conducted may restrict the generalizability of findings to broader populations. Ethical considerations, such as privacy concerns and resource constraints, further impact the scope and quality of research in this field. Acknowledging and addressing these limitations are crucial for ensuring the reliability and applicability of research findings, as well as for informing evidence-based interventions and policies that effectively support juvenile offenders.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the examination of juvenile justice systems in the United States and Egypt uncovers shared challenges and distinctive approaches. While the juvenile justice systems in Egypt and the United States operate within distinct cultural and legal frameworks, they have shared challenges which show the importance of prioritizing rehabilitation and providing opportunities for the successful reintegration of young individuals into society. A holistic and

culturally sensitive approach is an integral part of the process that aims to achieve positive outcomes and ensures the well-being of juveniles in the justice system in both countries.

Additionally, the research presented highlights the importance of evidence-based intervention strategies and comprehensive rehabilitation efforts within the juvenile justice system of both the United States and Egypt. Despite limitations in geographical coverage and resource constraints, studies consistently emphasize the efficacy of methods such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in addressing the underlying factors contributing to juvenile delinquency and promoting positive behavior change.

Furthermore, the prevalence of psychiatric disorders among juvenile offenders highlights the urgent need for rehabilitation-focused approaches over punitive measures in the Juvenile Justice System. As proven in the research conducted, rehabilitation and intervention are more effective in juveniles than punishment and neglect while incarcerated.

Additionally, systemic challenges within the juvenile justice system, such as inadequate record-keeping technology and lack of attention to systematic issues, pose significant barriers to effective rehabilitation and need to be addressed through comprehensive reforms and evidence-based practices. Ultimately, prioritizing rehabilitation over incarceration and addressing systemic shortcomings are imperative for fostering positive outcomes and ensuring the well-being of juvenile offenders within a well functioning juvenile justice system.

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