

Abstract

This study addresses antisocial behaviour in Scottish youth living in Glasgow and investigated whether there is a link between the history of the clan system values and youth behaviour. The study addresses a youth service in Glasgow, Scotland and a youth service in Edmonton, Alberta Canada to identify what is currently being done to correct the antisocial behaviour problem in the youth population. In this study, a literature review and comparative study was conducted. Findings from this study are significant because it will identify any improvements either city can implement in their future endeavors with youth interventions, and improve the quality of life for youth populations.

Introduction and Hypothesis

In 2004, the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 was implemented to deter adults and youth from committing acts considered antisocial. I wondered how a behaviour could have escalated so far as to have the government resort to creating a legislation to address the issue. Specifically, how is it addressed within the youth population? Some of the literature suggests that the welfare of the youth in question is not being emphasized, rather the emphasis is on the protection of the public (Cleland, 2005, p. 443). The issue with this emphasis is that the youth is solely judged on their behaviour alone, not within a context and without their welfare taken into account. Moreover, if this is how the government is, for lack of a better term, dealing with these antisocial youth, what are youth services doing to help these youth? This is why the comparative aspect of the study is so crucial in determining what is being done for this vulnerable population.

Hypothesis: The Scottish clan system and values has increased antisocial behaviour in Scottish youth.

Methods and Literature Review

Methods:

A literature review was first conducted to determine the extent to which the Scottish government has addressed the antisocial behaviour in the youth population. The comparative study between Edmonton, AB., and Glasgow, Scotland compares a youth service in each city to identify what is being done to improve behaviour in the youth population. Furthermore, it will identify what Edmonton can learn from Glasgow and vice versa. Each youth service was given 10 interview questions to answer.

Literature Review:

According to the literature on clan values, a study on the importance of cultural values on classroom practice concluded that cultural study and an understanding of values of where one is teaching is important to the population being taught, especially when teaching cultural values are overtaken by teaching plans and methods (Stachowski, Richardson, & Henderson, 2003, p. 62-63). However, as mentioned in Children and Youth in Premodern Scotland, the need of the clan as a collective supersedes the need of an individual within the clan (Frater, 2015, p. 93).

Interview Questions Sample:

1. What are the services you provide and what is the age range of youth that engage in your programs?
2. In your opinion, are the programs offered by the service unique compared to other programs you are aware of?
 - a. If so, how?
3. In your opinion, does this service take into account the context in which the youth is coming from? (i.e. this can include situations like homelessness, group homes, foster homes, a minority group etc.)
 - a. If so, how?
4. Do you find this service effective in decreasing deviant behaviour?

Results

The results to date confirm the hypothesis. The literature that has been reviewed and the interactions that have taken place support the notion that the clan system promotes an antisocial lifestyle. There is a trend within the literature and current research that the youth services in both Edmonton and Glasgow are combatting antisocial and deviant behaviour successfully in unique ways. These include, but are not limited to, cooking classes, allowing public discussions to occur, and offering restorative justice practices for the youth. The services are offered to youth from all walks of life and promote a “for you by youth” initiative.

AntiSocial Behaviour Definition

- Anti Social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004
- defined antisocial behaviour
- “A person engages in antisocial behaviour if they act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm and distress or pursues a course of conduct which causes or is likely to cause alarm and distress to at least one person who is not of the same household.

service and people first 

Description of antisocial behaviour in Scotland
Retrieved from: http://images.slideplayer.com/38/10770777/slides/slide_3.jpg

Conclusions

The study addressed the prevalence of antisocial behaviour in Scottish youth and compared a youth service in Glasgow, Scotland, and Edmonton, Alberta Canada. With confidence, one can conclude that the clan system has had a negative effect on the youth population in Scotland. The values of the clan system insist that the clan and the needs of the clan come first rather than the individuals that occupy the clan. These values lead to youth experiencing a low volume of confidants in their social circles and a lack of social support is a risk factor for deviant behaviour. The comparative study of the youth services has led to the conclusion that efforts to help decrease the prevalence of antisocial behaviour has, thus far, been a successful endeavor.

References

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