

The application of the measure of confinement and its impacts on the resocialization of juvenile offenders.

A aplicação da medida de internação e seus impactos na ressocialização de adolescentes infratores

La aplicación de la medida de internación y sus impactos en la resocialización de adolescentes infratores

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Abstract:

This article aims to present the scenario of the socio-educational measure foreseen in the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (ECA) and regulated by the National System of Socio-educational Care (SINASE), with the intention of verifying its effectiveness in the resocialization of adolescents who commit offenses in society. The bibliographic, legislative, and jurisprudential review aims to show that detention should not be an end in itself, that is, an absolute measure that will confine the adolescent and change their behavior without expecting that there will be no consequences in their lives. This work seeks to understand the effectiveness of the detention measure foreseen in the ECA and its social, psychological, and educational impacts on the lives of juvenile offenders, verifying whether it contributes to their reintegration or social exclusion. The methodology used was the qualitative method of approaching legal texts, based on normative review (ECA and SINASE Law), analysis of scientific articles produced between 2010 and 2026, as well as quantitative analysis regarding the recidivism of these minors. The question to be discussed is whether a minor who is adequately socialized will become an active human being in society, generating important contributions to their community, showing that, through these socio-educational measures, they will be included and not excluded. Upon analyzing the topic, it was concluded that the measure of detention, although foreseen as an exceptional and pedagogical instrument, presents significant limitations in its practical effectiveness, especially when not accompanied by structured public policies, adequate care conditions, and integrated social reintegration actions. Thus, it is observed that its effectiveness is directly conditioned by the quality of its execution and the strengthening of socio-educational policies, being insufficient, by itself, to guarantee the full resocialization of the adolescent in conflict with the law.

Keywords:

ECA (Statute of Children and Adolescents); resocialization; social exclusion.

Resumo:

Este artigo busca apresentar o cenário da medida socioeducativa prevista no Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente (ECA) e regulamentada pelo Sistema Nacional de Atendimento Socioeducativo (SINASE), com intuito de averiguar a efetividade deles na ressocialização dos adolescentes que cometem atos infracionais na sociedade. A revisão bibliográfica, legislativa e jurisprudencial tem como finalidade mostrar que a internação não deve ser um fim, ou seja, uma medida absoluta que vai colocar o adolescente confinado e mudar sua conduta, sem esperar que não haja consequências nas suas vidas. O presente trabalho busca entender a efetividade da medida de internação prevista no ECA e seus impactos sociais, psicológicos e educacionais na vida dos adolescentes infratores, verificando se contribui para sua reintegração ou exclusão social. A metodologia utilizada foi o método qualitativo de abordagem de textos jurídicos, baseada em revisão normativa (ECA e Lei do SINASE), análises de artigos científicos produzidos nos anos 2010 a 2026, bem como quantitativo em relação à reincidência destes

menores. O questionamento que se pretende discutir é se o menor sociabilizado adequadamente se tornará um ser humano ativo na sociedade, gerando contribuições importantes para sua comunidade, mostrando que, através dessas medidas socioeducativas, será incluído e não excluído. Ao analisar o tema, chegou-se à conclusão de que a medida de internação, embora prevista como instrumento de caráter excepcional e pedagógico, apresenta limitações significativas em sua efetividade prática, especialmente quando não acompanhada de políticas públicas estruturadas, condições adequadas de atendimento e ações integradas de reinserção social. Dessa forma, verifica-se que sua eficácia está diretamente condicionada à qualidade de sua execução e ao fortalecimento das políticas socioeducativas, sendo insuficiente, por si só, para garantir a plena ressocialização do adolescente em conflito com a lei.

Palavras-chave:

ECA; ressocialização; exclusão social.

Resumen:

Este artículo busca presentar el escenario de la medida socioeducativa prevista en el Estatuto de la Niñez y la Adolescencia (ECA) y regulada por el Sistema Nacional de Atención Socioeducativa (SINASE), con el objetivo de verificar su efectividad en la resocialización de adolescentes que cometen actos infraccionales en la sociedad. La revisión bibliográfica, legislativa y jurisprudencial tiene como finalidad demostrar que la internación no debe constituir un fin en sí misma, es decir, una medida absoluta destinada únicamente a privar de libertad al adolescente y modificar su conducta sin considerar las consecuencias en su vida. El presente trabajo busca comprender la efectividad de la medida de internación prevista en el ECA y sus impactos sociales, psicológicos y educativos en la vida de los adolescentes infractores, verificando si contribuye a su reintegración o exclusión social. La metodología utilizada fue el método cualitativo de análisis de textos jurídicos, basado en revisión normativa (ECA y Ley del SINASE), análisis de artículos científicos producidos entre 2010 y 2026, así como análisis cuantitativos relacionados con la reincidencia de estos menores. La cuestión discutida consiste en determinar si un adolescente adecuadamente socializado puede convertirse en un ciudadano activo, capaz de contribuir positivamente a su comunidad, demostrando que, mediante estas medidas socioeducativas, será incluído y no excluído. Al analizar el tema, se concluyó que la medida de internación, aunque prevista como instrumento excepcional y pedagógico, presenta limitaciones significativas en su efectividad práctica, especialmente cuando no está acompañada de políticas públicas estructuradas, condiciones adecuadas de atención y acciones integradas de reinserción social. De esta manera, se verifica que su eficacia depende directamente de la calidad de su ejecución y del fortalecimiento de las políticas socioeducativas, siendo insuficiente por sí sola para garantizar la plena resocialización del adolescente en conflicto con la ley.

Palabras clave:

ECA; resocialización; exclusión social.

INTRODUCTION

The Child and Adolescent Statute (ECA), in its article 112, provides for socio-educational measures applicable to adolescents aged 12 to 18 who commit offenses. Among these, detention stands out as the most rigorous measure, implying deprivation of liberty and only to be applied in specific situations. Therefore, it becomes necessary to analyze its application and its impacts on the resocialization of adolescents (Brazil, 1990).

The socio-educational measure of confinement consists of placing the adolescent in a care unit with deprivation of liberty. Its objective is not only to punish, but to promote the young person's accountability, guaranteeing comprehensive protection, education, and the possibility of social reintegration. This measure is provided for in article 112, item VI, of the ECA (Statute of the Child and Adolescent), with detailed rules in articles 120, 121 and 122 of the same legal instrument (Brazil, 1990).

Detention can only be applied in the cases provided for by law and occurs when the adolescent commits an offense involving violence or serious threat; when there is recidivism in serious offenses; or when there is repeated non-compliance with previous measures. Due to its exceptional nature, it should only be used as a last resort.

According to the SINASE Law (Law No. 12.594/2012), only governmental entities can maintain semi-liberty and detention regimes, and it is up to the States and the Federal District to create and maintain programs for the execution of these measures (Brazil, 2012). Furthermore, these units must be registered with the Councils for the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

the accountability of adolescents is based on the principles of comprehensive protection and absolute priority established in the Statute of Children and Adolescents (ECA). Therefore, detention should be understood as an extreme measure, aimed at education and social reintegration, and not simply as punishment.

Public debate on juvenile detention is marked by disagreements. While some advocate for stricter measures applied to juvenile offenders, others criticize the inefficiency of the socio-educational system. Given this, the research seeks to verify whether detention promotes rehabilitation or contributes to social exclusion.

The relevance of this research lies in the fact that detention is one of the most severe measures in the juvenile justice system. Despite this, there are doubts about its effectiveness in resocialization and reducing recidivism. Often, the



This measure ends up being seen as a form of isolation, especially when there is a lack of adequate infrastructure and qualified professionals.

Studying this topic is important to understand whether detention fulfills its socio-educational function or reinforces social stigmas. Analyzing its impacts can also contribute to improving public policies aimed at the integral development of adolescents and the preservation of their family and community ties.

By highlighting gaps and challenges in the socio-educational system, the study can strengthen academic, legal, and social debates. The research is relevant to society because the way adolescents in conflict with the law are treated directly influences the collective future and respect for human rights.

The overall objective of this research is to understand the effectiveness of the detention measure foreseen in the ECA (Brazilian Statute for Children and Adolescents). It seeks to verify its social, psychological, and educational impacts on the lives of juvenile offenders, determining whether the measure contributes to social reintegration or to processes of exclusion.

Specific objectives include evaluating whether detention fulfills its socio-educational purpose, gathering legislative and doctrinal data on the subject, and describing the conditions of detention units. It also aims to discuss the impacts of the measure and verify the effectiveness of the socio-educational actions offered.

Thus, this research seeks to understand more deeply the role of detention within the Brazilian socio-educational system. It aims to identify its contributions and limitations in the resocialization process of adolescents in conflict with the law.

The article began with a brief commentary on the Socio-educational System, followed by a discussion of recidivism among juvenile offenders. Finally, it moved on to an analysis of the effectiveness of socio-educational measures. In conclusion, the ideas presented are articulated, and it is pointed out that there is a significant gap between reality and theoretical proposals regarding detention within the socio-educational system.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a qualitative approach, based on a literature review of the ECA (Statute of the Child and Adolescent), the ECA and the SINASE Law (National System of Socio-Educational Assistance), as well as legal texts and analyses of scientific articles produced between 2010 and 2026. Therefore, this research adopts a qualitative approach, of a



bibliographic and documentary nature, aimed at a critical understanding of the socio-educational measure of confinement applied to adolescents in conflict with the law.

The choice of a qualitative methodology is justified by the need to interpret complex legal and social phenomena, considering not only normative aspects but also the impacts of the practical application of socio-educational legislation. Qualitative research allows for an in-depth analysis of concepts, principles, and experiences related to the socio-educational system, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of the object under investigation.

The bibliographic survey was conducted by consulting books, scientific articles, dissertations, theses, and specialized publications produced between 2010 and 2026, a period marked by the consolidation of Law No. 12.594/2012 (SINASE) and the development of important academic debates regarding juvenile accountability. Priority was given to publications available in recognized scientific databases, such as SciELO, Google Scholar, CAPES Journals, and specialized legal journals, selected according to criteria of thematic relevance, timeliness, and scientific rigor.

In parallel, documentary research was developed based on the analysis of Brazilian legislation relevant to the topic, especially the Federal Constitution of 1988, the Statute of Children and Adolescents (Law No. 8,069/1990) and the Law of the National System of Socio-educational Care (Law No. 12,594/2012).

Based on the articulation between theoretical frameworks and current legislation, this study aims to construct a critical overview of the application of the socio-educational measure of confinement, highlighting its advances, weaknesses, and the challenges that still exist for the effective realization of the fundamental rights of adolescents subjected to the socio-educational system. This methodological procedure allows for an integrated analysis between legal norms and social reality, contributing to reflections on the effectiveness of confinement as an instrument of accountability and juvenile resocialization.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

It is known that the Brazilian socio-educational system is the set of measures applied to adolescents who commit offenses, as provided for in the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (ECA) and regulated by the SINASE Law. Its main objective is not to punish, but to promote the accountability of the young person, while guaranteeing education, psychosocial support, and opportunities for reintegration into society.



Zappe *et al.* (2011) reports that, according to data from the National Survey of Socio-educational Services for Adolescents in Conflict with the Law, in Brazil there were, on average, 8.8 adolescents deprived or restricted of liberty for every 10,000 young people between 12 and 17 years old. The study also indicated that, in November 2010, the country registered 17,703 adolescents in this condition, of which 12,041 were in detention, 3,934 in provisional detention, and 1,728 in semi-liberty (Brazil, 2011).

It is evident that more and more teenagers are finding themselves in this situation of conflict with the law. Scisleski *et al.* (2015) mentions that:

It is crucial to understand that young people in conflict with the law receive this designation from the moment they are brought into the judicial system due to an action they have committed that violates the Brazilian Penal Code. They go from being boys, who in many cases lack access to social/sanitary/cultural goods and services, to adolescents in conflict with the law because of the infraction committed, and are then brought into the justice system. (We say boys here because the vast majority of those who commit infractions are male – over 90%, according to the National Council of Justice, 2012).

However, from a legal standpoint, it is important to emphasize that the adolescent is not labeled as a criminal, but rather as an adolescent in the process of developing a mental health condition. This conflict with the law arises precisely because the Brazilian legal system adopts the principle of integral protection, as provided for in the 1988 Federal Constitution (Brazil, 1988) and in the ECA itself (Brazil, 1990). Thus, the State's response is not merely punitive in nature, but seeks accountability accompanied by educational measures and the guarantee of rights (Ramidoff, 2019).

The National Council of Justice, on its website, states that there is a Department for Monitoring and Supervision of the Prison System and Execution of Socio-educational Measures (DMF) of the National Council of Justice, which has been working since its creation in 2009 to improve juvenile justice in the country. Therefore, the DMF monitors all stages from entry to release of these juvenile offenders, as described below:

The Monitoring and Inspection Department of the System

The Prison and Socio-educational Measures Enforcement Division (DMF) of the National Council of Justice has been working since its creation in 2009 to improve juvenile justice in the country.

The DMF (Department of Monitoring and Supervision of Socio-educational Measures) focuses on the entire cycle of implementing socio-educational measures, from entry to exit. In 2010, it created the **Justice for Youth program** (initially called *Just Measure*), which inspected juvenile detention facilities in all states and the Federal District. The reports from these inspections served as the basis for regulations currently in force, and compliance with these instructions and resolutions is also monitored by the DMF.

(...)

In 2020, a decision by the STF (Supreme Federal Court) through Habeas Corpus 143.988 prevented overcrowding by determining that each vacancy in detention units should be occupied by only one adolescent. The Central Vacancy System is a service responsible for the management and coordination of vacancies in socio-educational care units. (BRAZIL, Supreme Federal Court (2nd Chamber). Collective Habeas Corpus No. 143.988/ES. Petitioner: Public Defender's Office of the State of Espírito Santo. Rapporteur: Justice Edson Fachin. Decided on: August 21, 2020.)

Electronic Official Gazette of the Federal Court of Justice, Brasília, DF, no. 214, published on August 27, 2020. Available at: <https://portal.stf.jus.br>. Accessed on January 6, 2026.

Within this socio-educational system, there is the "Fazendo Justiça" (Doing Justice) program, which develops various actions aimed at strengthening the Brazilian socio-educational system, seeking to guarantee the effective realization of the rights of adolescents in conflict with the law, as well as improving public policies related to socio-education. These actions are structured around different axes.

(CNJ, 2025).

With regard to the entry point into the socio-educational system, the program seeks to improve the initial care offered to adolescents entering the system. In this context, the implementation and strengthening of the Integrated Care Centers (NAI) stands out, which aim to promote coordinated action between different institutions, such as the Judiciary and the Public Prosecutor's Office.



Another relevant initiative is the creation of the Centralized Vacancy System for Socio-educational Institutions, a mechanism that aims to organize and control access to detention and semi-liberty units, preventing overcrowding and ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in the management of vacancies. The rule is one vacancy for each juvenile offender. (Resolution No. 367 of the National Council of Justice (BRAZIL, 2021).

Within the framework of implementing socio-educational measures, the program seeks to promote actions that contribute to the personal and social development of adolescents. Among these initiatives, the strengthening of and access to learning stands out, encouraging the inclusion of adolescents in professional qualification and apprenticeship programs, favoring the construction of new life perspectives.

Furthermore, the program also encourages the promotion of culture, recognizing the importance of cultural activities as instruments of expression, education, and strengthening the identity of adolescents, contributing to the resocialization process, a right that these adolescents enjoy for their development as citizens.

Regarding the exit strategy from the socio-educational system, the program develops actions aimed at monitoring and social reintegration of adolescents after they have served their sentences. In this sense, concentrated hearings stand out, allowing for the periodic review of the socio-educational measures applied, ensuring greater judicial control and respect for the rights of adolescents (Brazil, 2021).

Furthermore, the Program for Monitoring Adolescents after the completion of socio-educational measures stands out, with the purpose of offering support to young people after their release from the system. The program seeks to facilitate their social, educational, and professional reintegration, contributing to the creation of new opportunities and to the reduction of recidivism in criminal acts.

In this way, the "Fazendo Justiça" program contributes significantly to the improvement of the Brazilian socio-educational system, promoting integrated actions that seek to guarantee rights, strengthen public policies, and favor the effective social reintegration of adolescents in conflict with the law.

However, despite its educational and comprehensive protection proposal, the

The system still faces several challenges, such as a lack of adequate infrastructure in some units, a shortage of specialized professionals, and difficulties in implementing public policies that guarantee the effective resocialization of adolescents. Therefore, improving socio-educational practices is fundamental for these measures to be effective.

The recidivism of the juvenile offender

The 1988 Federal Constitution, especially in articles 227 and 228, established the need to create a new normative system aimed at protecting children and adolescents. This new model emerged in opposition to the old doctrine of irregular situation, present in the 1979 Minors' Code, adopting the doctrine of integral protection. This perspective represents, as highlighted by Ramidoff (2019, p. 11), a theoretical and practical consolidation of human rights specifically aimed at children and adolescents.

Ribeiro (2023) mentions that, in this context, Law No. 8,069/1990 was enacted, which established the Statute of Children and Adolescents (ECA). This legal instrument recognized the doctrine of integral protection as the foundation for guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, in addition to establishing mechanisms and procedures aimed at the effective implementation of these rights.

Years later, in 2012, Law No. 12,594/2012 was created, establishing the National System for Socio-Educational Care (SINASE). This legislation mandated that the Union, the States, the Federal District, and the Municipalities conduct evaluations of the results of the socio-educational measures applied, with the purpose of analyzing the adolescent's situation after the measure has been served and verifying possible rates of recidivism in the commission of offenses (Brazil, 2012).

Given the above, it is important to identify whether federal entities have been effectively monitoring the situation, especially in the case of adolescents who are subject to detention, which is the focus of this study. It is also important to verify if there are high rates of recidivism among these adolescents.

The discussion regarding recidivism among adolescents in conflict with the law occupies a central position in studies on the effectiveness of socio-educational measures, especially the measure of confinement. Although Brazilian legislation assigns a predominantly pedagogical and resocializing purpose to socio-educational measures, the rates of repeated offenses still represent a challenge for the National System of Socio-educational Care.

The Child and Adolescent Statute establishes, in its article 112, the socio-educational measures applicable to adolescents who commit offenses, observing the principles of brevity, exceptionality, and respect for the peculiar condition of a person in development. In this sense, detention constitutes an extreme measure, only admissible in the cases provided for in article 122 of the ECA, and should be applied for the shortest possible time and with observance of the fundamental guarantees assured to adolescents (Brazil, 1990).



According to Ramidoff (2019), socio-educational measures are not merely punitive in nature, but seek to promote the adolescent's accountability while creating favorable conditions for their social reintegration. Therefore, recidivism cannot be analyzed solely from the adolescent's individual perspective, but must also be considered as an indicator of the effectiveness or insufficiency of public policies aimed at implementing socio-educational measures.

Law No. 12,594/2012 (SINASE) reinforces this understanding by establishing that the execution of measures must observe pedagogical principles, guaranteeing individualized care, access to education, professional training, health care, strengthening of family and community ties, and the development of an Individual Care Plan (PIA). The absence or deficiency of these instruments compromises the socio-educational process and may contribute to the repetition of the infraction after the adolescent leaves the system (Brazil, 2012).

In terms of case law, the higher courts have reaffirmed that the measure of detention must strictly respect the legal criteria established by the Statute of the Child and Adolescent. The Supreme Court

The Federal Court (Main Ruling (STF): HC 143.988 / ES) and the Superior Court of Justice (Summary Statement No. 492 of the Superior Court of Justice (STJ)) have consolidated the understanding that the abstract gravity of the infraction, by itself, does not justify the application of detention, requiring concrete demonstration of the requirements foreseen in article 122 of the ECA (Statute of the Child and Adolescent). This position aims to prevent the use of detention as a merely repressive instrument, preserving its exceptional and educational character.

Case law has also highlighted the importance of periodic reassessment of the detention measure, as provided for in Article 42 of the SINASE (National System for Socio-Educational Assistance), ensuring that the adolescent's stay in the socio-educational unit is linked to an effective pedagogical need and not merely to a punitive logic. In this context, respect for the adolescent's fundamental rights is essential for achieving the objectives of the measure and for reducing recidivism rates.

From a doctrinal perspective, authors such as Liberati (2021) and Volpi (2015) argue that juvenile recidivism is frequently associated with structural factors such as social vulnerability, school dropout, family breakdown, economic exclusion, and the absence of effective public policies in the period following the completion of the socio-educational measure. Therefore, the mere application of detention is not sufficient to prevent the commission of new offenses, requiring integrated action between the State, family, and society.



Given this scenario, it is clear that the analysis of recidivism must go beyond mere statistical quantification, allowing for a critical evaluation of the effectiveness of the socio-educational system. Reducing rates of repeat offenses depends not only on the correct application of legislation, but also on the implementation of public policies capable of ensuring concrete opportunities for education, professional training, strengthening social ties, and civic inclusion of adolescents after they have served their socio-educational measures.

ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL MEASURES

Several studies show considerable rates of recidivism among adolescents in conflict with the law, which raises questions about the effectiveness of full rehabilitation within the juvenile justice system.

Furthermore, research conducted by Veludo (2024), within the socio-educational system of the Federal District, demonstrated the importance of producing specific indicators to monitor juvenile delinquency recidivism and continuously evaluate the results of socio-educational measures. The author emphasizes that the adequate measurement of data is fundamental for improving public policies aimed at preventing recidivism.

Sapori (2020) states that the National Council of Justice emphasizes that there is still a lack of data and initiatives for the continuous monitoring of these young people after they leave socio-educational units. In Minas Gerais, a survey by the Court of Justice in partnership with PUC-MG identified that, among 435 adolescents served between 2013 and 2017, 30.1% committed further offenses. In Mato Grosso, reports indicate that approximately six out of ten apprehended minors reoffend.

An analysis of the effectiveness of socio-educational measures reveals a scenario marked by normative advances and practical challenges. Although the Statute of Children and Adolescents (ECA) and the National System of Socio-educational Care (SINASE) were conceived to promote the accountability and resocialization of adolescents in conflict with the law, several studies indicate that the effectiveness of these measures depends directly on the quality of their implementation.

According to Serrato and Dantas (2025), socio-educational measures demonstrate potential to promote the social reintegration of adolescents when accompanied by adequate public policies, family support, access to education, and professional training. The authors emphasize that recidivism should not be attributed exclusively to the adolescent, but also to structural failures of the socio-educational system.

In this same vein, Honorato da Silva (2024) argues that the effectiveness of socio-educational measures is related to the observance of the principles foreseen in the ECA (Statute of the Child and Adolescent) and SINASE (National System of Socio-Educational Assistance), especially those aimed at the integral development of the adolescent. The study concludes that the socio-educational measure only achieves its objectives when executed in an individualized manner and integrated with social policies of education, health, and social assistance.

On the other hand, Machiavelli, Silva and Santos (2018) observe that the reality of Brazilian socio-educational units still presents significant structural problems, such as overcrowding, a shortage of specialized professionals, and insufficient educational programs, factors that compromise the educational purpose of the measures. For the authors, the mere application of sanctions is not sufficient to promote effective changes in the trajectory of adolescents.

In a more recent study, Fernandes and Cordeiro (2026) concluded that the persistence of recidivism rates is directly associated with the structural precariousness of detention units, the lack of follow-up after discharge from the system, and the insufficiency of public policies aimed at the social inclusion of former inmates. The researchers state that resocialization requires continuous and coordinated actions between the State, family, and society.

Thus, contemporary legal literature converges on the understanding that socio-educational measures have rehabilitative potential, but their effectiveness depends on the effective implementation of the rights guaranteed by the ECA (Statute of Children and Adolescents) and SINASE (National System of Socio-Educational Assistance).

Reducing recidivism is not solely a result of applying the measure, but also stems from a set of public policies capable of guaranteeing education, vocational training, strengthening family ties, and opportunities for social inclusion for adolescents after they have served their socio-educational sentence.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This research aimed to analyze the effectiveness of the socio-educational measure of confinement foreseen in the Statute of the Child and Adolescent (ECA), considering its impacts on the resocialization process of adolescents in conflict with the law and its relationship with recidivism rates. Based on bibliographic, documentary, and doctrinal analysis, it was observed that the Brazilian socio-educational system is structured on the doctrine of integral protection,

as established by the 1988 Federal Constitution, the ECA, and the National System for Socio-Educational Assistance (SINASE).

It was found that the Brazilian legal system presents a consistent set of norms guided by principles of due process, especially regarding the exceptional nature of the measure of confinement, which should only be applied in the cases provided for in article 122 of the ECA (Statute of the Child and Adolescent), observing the principles of brevity, exceptionality, and respect for the peculiar condition of a person in development.

However, the results obtained from the literature review indicate a mismatch between the normative forecast and the practical reality of the socio-educational units. Recurring structural problems are evident, such as overcrowding, insufficient qualified professionals, limitations in material resources, and weaknesses in the follow-up of adolescents after the completion of the socio-educational measure.

Furthermore, it is observed that recidivism rates remain significant in different contexts analyzed, reinforcing the understanding that the effectiveness of socio-educational measures cannot be evaluated exclusively from the individual perspective of the adolescent, but must consider structural and social factors that directly influence the process of social reintegration.

In this sense, specialized literature indicates that the effectiveness of socio-educational measures is directly related to the full implementation of the guidelines established by the ECA (Statute of the Child and Adolescent) and SINASE (National System of Socio-Educational Assistance), especially regarding the guarantee of access to education, vocational training, strengthening of family and community ties, and post-measure follow-up. The absence or weakness of these elements compromises the pedagogical character of detention and limits its resocialization potential.

Therefore, it can be concluded that, although the Brazilian socio-educational system has a normative basis aligned with the principles of human rights and comprehensive protection, its effectiveness is contingent upon overcoming structural and institutional challenges. The gap between the normative plan and practical implementation compromises the full achievement of the objectives of socio-educational measures.

Finally, it is important to highlight the need to strengthen public policies aimed at socio-educational services, with investment in infrastructure, professional training, and intersectoral actions, in order to guarantee effective conditions for the social reintegration of adolescents in conflict with the law and the consequent reduction in recidivism rates.

Only through coordinated action between the State, family, and society will it be possible to ensure that socio-educational measures fulfill their constitutional and legal purpose,



promoting not only accountability for the infraction, but also social inclusion, the guarantee of rights, and the creation of opportunities that favor the full development of young people and their reintegration into community life.

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