



## **Youth in Conflict with the Law - A Study on the Psycho-socio and Criminogenic Factors of South African Youth in Detention in Durban**

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**ABSTRACT** The history of South African youths, especially, those from disenfranchised backgrounds, has been characterised by a struggle to become meaningful social actors. Despite the socio-historical context and policy initiatives for youth development, a large section of the youth population are marginalised and excluded from socio-political and economic opportunities placing them at risk of psycho-socio criminogenic behaviour. The present study attempts to investigate the underlying nature and causes of some of these psycho-socio factors resulting in them coming into conflict with the law. It draws from a situational analysis of 77 youth incarcerated at a youth detention centre in the Metropolitan Area of Durban. The study seeks to provide possible proactive measures drawn from the social reality of incarcerated youth on how intervention at a micro, meso and macro levels can serve as a safety net preventing youth coming into conflict with the law.