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## DIFFICULTIES IN REINTERGRATION OF YOUNG EX-OFFENDERS

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### ABSTRACT

The youth constitute a vibrant and enthusiastic force within society, playing a pivotal role in contributing innovative and creative ideas to foster economic development. While many young individuals strive to cultivate positive values and ethics, a significant portion has unfortunately engaged in unlawful activities. This can be attributed to the transitional phase between childhood and adulthood, where immature thoughts and a lack of full comprehension of the law contribute to law-breaking behaviors. In Vietnam, the youth comprise over 20% of the population, and youth-related crimes have been on the rise annually. Alarmingly, offenders are getting younger, and the severity of crimes is escalating. Hence, it becomes crucial to identify the root causes of these law violations and devise targeted solutions to ensure the youth fully understand and refrain from breaking the law. Equally important is facilitating their smooth reintegration into society after facing punishment for their mistakes. A swift and effective process in this regard can aid in the prompt return of young individuals to normal life, reduce social ills, and positively contribute to the country's economic growth.

**KEYWORDS:** difficulties, community reintegration, youth

### INTRODUCTION

The reintegration of young ex-offenders into society after their involvement with the criminal justice system is a complex and challenging process. For these individuals, the journey from incarceration to successful reintegration is often marked by a myriad of obstacles that can impede their ability to rebuild their lives and make positive contributions to their communities. This research aims to shed light on the difficulties faced by young ex-offenders during their reintegration, highlighting the multifaceted nature of these challenges and their far-reaching implications. The transition from a correctional facility back to society is rife with complexities that stem from a combination of personal, social, economic, and systemic factors. As individuals re-enter a world that may have changed significantly during their absence, they encounter a series of barriers that can hamper their efforts to achieve stability, self-sufficiency, and a sense of belonging. From social stigma and limited access to education and employment opportunities to fractured family relationships and the lingering impact of past traumas, these difficulties intersect and intertwine, creating a complex web of

challenges. The age group of young adults is particularly vulnerable during the reintegration process due to their unique developmental stage and the critical choices they make that can either solidify their paths towards positive reintegration or lead to further involvement in the criminal justice system. By understanding the nuanced difficulties, they face, society can begin to formulate more effective strategies, policies, and support systems that pave the way for successful reintegration, reduced recidivism rates, and the creation of a safer and more inclusive community.

### **1. Causes of youth violations**

In Vietnam, young people are defined as individuals between the ages of 16 and 30 (Law on Youth, 2005). This phase is of paramount importance in the development of mature and comprehensive thinking, marking the threshold where they become legally responsible for their actions. From a scientific standpoint, the psychophysiology of sixteen-year-olds is still in an immature and vulnerable state, making them susceptible to manipulation and distortion of their behavior, attitudes, and perceptions. Consequently, they are more prone to violating the rights and interests of others and are at a higher risk of engaging in unlawful activities.

Law violations represent a malevolent phenomenon within society, reflecting the negative actions of certain individuals or organizations that go against the state's laws. Such acts have a detrimental impact on the state, society, and its people, leading to their condemnation and active efforts to eradicate them from social life. Violating the law involves illegal acts perpetrated by legally competent individuals that infringe upon social relationships protected by law.

Law violations encompass a wide array of aspects in social life, ranging from simple infractions to more intricate transgressions. These violations include breaching traffic safety laws, engaging in school violence, possessing and consuming depraved cultural products, participating in gambling, prostitution, drug trafficking, kidnapping, and child trafficking. Among these offenses, young people often exhibit a higher tendency to violate traffic safety laws, with approximately 70% of the youth at the upper secondary level engaging in non-compliance (N.T.Phuong, 2022). The propensity for young individuals to break the law can be attributed to the profound physiological and psychological changes they experience during this stage of life. They seek to assert themselves and are often susceptible to negative influences. Peer interactions play a significant role, contributing to numerous conflicts. Furthermore, the lack of legal knowledge among young people is particularly prevalent in economically disadvantaged, remote, and isolated areas. While some are knowledgeable about the law, they intentionally choose to defy it, disregarding the potential consequences and the importance of education and law dissemination. Additionally, personal emotional issues may lead to psychological instability, influencing their decisions.

Numerous factors contribute to youth law violations, with family, school, and society playing crucial roles. Many families lack responsibility and fail to focus on managing and educating their children, relying heavily on schools and society for guidance. Parental approaches to education vary, with

some parents indulging their children's desires without setting appropriate boundaries. In some cases, parents' resort to violence as a means of teaching their children, which can have adverse effects. The circumstances in which young people violate the law are often pitiful, involving scenarios such as parental death, divorce, and a lack of affection.

Schools also bear responsibility, as their legal awareness education programs may not be comprehensive enough, and moral education measures may not be adequately implemented. The disciplinary mechanism in schools may lack strictness, and the burden of heavy curricula can put immense pressure on students, leading some to abandon their studies and resort to unlawful activities. Coordination between families and schools remains a challenge, hindering effective management of young individuals' behavior. Furthermore, the impact of an over-developed society cannot be ignored. An unhealthy living environment filled with social vices and exposure to violent media, such as movies and online games, can significantly influence the impressionable minds of children. Additionally, the existence of loopholes in the law and negative aspects in handling law violations may erode young people's faith in the legal system, causing them to disregard it altogether.

According to a survey, children commit crimes for various reasons, with the highest rate of 67.5% indicating that they seek attention and care from their family due to feeling neglected. Additionally, over 50% of young offenders want to prove themselves and demonstrate their readiness to participate in certain activities. These findings highlight the lack of proper judgment and an inability to assess the consequences of their actions, as their behavior tends to be impulsive and spontaneous. The survey also reveals that self-interest motives account for 60.5% of the reasons for criminal behavior, such as aspiring to achieve financial status similar to their peers or funding indulgent activities like drinking and entertainment. Moreover, aggressive motives contribute to 58.75% of youth crimes, where adolescents engage in criminal acts to instil fear, assert dominance among peers, or establish leadership within a group (Bui, 2021). In families where children do not have a voice and struggle to express their needs and desires to their parents, they may resort to seeking validation and fulfilment of those wishes through their friends, sometimes leading to bullying in social settings.

For young individuals who have committed serious crimes and face legal punishment, the process of reintegrating into the community after serving their sentence is of utmost importance. Community reintegration involves restoring the legal status of the individual, a profoundly legal and social process where the person communicates with the community to relearn, internalize, and transform values, legal standards, social ethics, and cultural behaviors. This process aids the individual in recovering and successfully reintegrating into society after their prison sentence. Several factors influence the success of reintegration, including the personality of the person who has completed their prison term, the prison environment they experienced, the duration of their sentence, and the attitudes of those around them upon their return. Achieving successful reintegration requires the concerted efforts of the individual, the support of their social circle, and the assistance of the government in the community where they reside. A collaborative approach between the individual

and society is essential to facilitate the process of reintegration and enable them to become productive members of society once again.

## **2. Difficulties of young people who violate the law when re-entering the community**

### **Mental health**

Reintegrating young offenders back into the community after serving their prison sentences presents a complex set of challenges. These individuals must navigate various aspects of life, including reconnecting with friends and family, finding suitable housing, and securing employment. However, the difficulties faced by young ex-prisoners can be particularly overwhelming, as they may lack significant life experience outside of the prison environment, making them feel lost and ill-equipped to function in the "real world" as adults. The psychological aspect plays a crucial role in the reintegration process. Young individuals who have completed their prison terms can be categorized into three groups: those who have fully reformed during their incarceration, those who have undergone some level of rehabilitation but still struggle with certain disabilities and bad habits, and those who have failed to correct their behavior despite the efforts of prison officers.

In terms of perception, individuals who have served their sentences tend to gain a better understanding of the law and recognize their past mistakes, except for those with a persistent tendency to engage in criminal activities. They hope for acceptance and forgiveness from society but may have limited awareness of current social issues due to their prolonged isolation in prison. Those who committed crimes with a heightened awareness often experience feelings of inferiority and regret, making their reintegration into the community more challenging. Ex-prisoners often find themselves at a significant disadvantage when it comes to understanding and navigating the complexities of current life upon their release. Depending on the length of their incarceration, they might have been isolated from the rapid pace of societal changes, technological advancements, and cultural shifts that occurred during their time behind bars. As a result, they may have limited knowledge of current technologies, digital communication tools, and even basic life skills that have become essential in today's world.

For example, the prevalence of smartphones, social media platforms, and online communication has transformed the way people interact, seek employment, and access information. Ex-prisoners who were not exposed to these developments may struggle to adapt, hindering their ability to connect with others, search for jobs online, or access critical resources. In addition to technological and employment-related challenges, ex-prisoners may also face difficulties adjusting to shifts in societal norms and cultural attitudes. Values and perspectives change over time, and what was once considered acceptable behavior may no longer be perceived the same way. Navigating these changes and understanding the expectations of today's society can be overwhelming for someone who was disconnected from the outside world for a prolonged period. Moreover, the job market itself might have evolved significantly during their absence. New industries may have emerged, while traditional jobs they were familiar with might have become obsolete. This lack of awareness about current job

trends and the skills demanded in the contemporary workforce can make it challenging for ex-prisoners to identify suitable employment opportunities and compete effectively with other candidates.

In terms of status, most ex-offenders feel a sense of relief and happiness upon regaining their freedom. However, they also face concerns about their future, especially when their previous job opportunities are no longer available, and they fear discrimination based on their past mistakes. Some individuals experience guilt and harbor resentment, particularly those who come from broken families and were abandoned by relatives during their sentence, leading to feelings of depression and hopelessness. Those who adopt a positive mindset and strive for improvement are more likely to experience successful reintegration. Upon release, ex-prisoners often find comfort in reconnecting with old friends who have shared similar experiences. These individuals may have been part of their pre-incarceration life, and the bonds they share can provide a sense of familiarity and belonging. Unfortunately, this reunion with old friends can also pose significant risks, as some of these friendships may have been a contributing factor to their criminal past. Reconnecting with the same peer group may lead to a resurgence of old habits and behaviors that could potentially lead them down the path of recidivism. Peer pressure and the desire to conform to the norms of the group can be powerful, making it challenging for ex-prisoners to distance themselves from negative influences and make positive changes in their lives.

Regarding behavior, ex-prisoners often choose to live discreetly, avoiding contact with others in the community. They may gravitate towards peers who share similar experiences for empathy, understanding, and support. This inclination towards anonymity stems from a desire to distance themselves from their criminal past and the judgment they anticipate from others. They may fear that disclosing their incarceration history would lead to rejection, discrimination, or even endanger their safety. Living discreetly also acts as a protective measure against potential relapses into criminal behavior. By keeping a low profile, ex-prisoners can minimize exposure to negative influences and temptations that may still linger in their surroundings. However, while this approach may help them stay out of trouble, it can also result in social isolation and hinder their ability to establish meaningful connections or receive the necessary support to reintegrate successfully into society. This activity can make them susceptible to negative influences from bad actors in society, potentially leading them back to a life of crime without even realizing the gradual return to their previous criminal path.

Overall, the process of reintegrating young offenders into society demands careful attention to their psychological well-being, perception, status, and behavior. Tailored support systems and effective rehabilitation programs are essential to ensuring a smooth and successful transition back into the community, reducing the likelihood of recidivism and promoting positive societal contributions.

**Attitudes of family and society**

Family is undoubtedly the most critical living environment for an individual, and its role in the social reintegration process of those who have served prison sentences cannot be overstated. During their time in prison, regular visits and encouragement from family members serve as powerful motivation for inmates to undergo positive reform. Upon release, the family becomes the primary environment to which most individuals reintegrate into community life. Acceptance, sympathy, and support from family members are essential in helping them overcome guilt and embark on rebuilding their lives. Conversely, when families neglect or ignore those who have violated the law, feelings of inferiority and demotivation may arise, hindering their progress. Following the completion of their sentences, individuals eagerly seek acceptance, sympathy, and forgiveness from their family, as they are the closest and most loving people in their lives. However, in some cases, families may refuse to accept them, perhaps to preserve their reputation or due to other reasons. Hurtful words and actions can cause the reintegration process to fail completely.

Prisons serve as places of residence and rehabilitation for those who have served their sentences. The treatment received from prison staff, the environment in which they live, and the education they receive play a significant role in their transformation during their time there. Proper attention and education from prison officers can help individuals acknowledge their mistakes, strengthen their will to reform, and become responsible citizens. Conversely, inappropriate treatment can lead to feelings of depression and hopelessness, making it difficult for them to reintegrate into society upon release. The attitudes and interactions among inmates can also have a profound impact on their future orientation. Some inmates stay connected, encouraging and supporting each other in their efforts to rebuild their lives. However, others may be influenced to continue engaging in illegal activities.

In summary, both family support and the prison environment significantly influence the success of the reintegration process for individuals who have served prison sentences. A nurturing family and a positive, rehabilitative prison environment can provide the necessary foundation for a successful transition back into society, promoting positive change and reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

Neighbors, mass organizations, friends, and community members all play a crucial role in the process of reintegration into the community for young people who have violated the law. The empathy and support from the community, along with the open and nonjudgmental attitudes of those where they live, are essential prerequisites for a smooth transition back into society and becoming responsible citizens. Even with determination and efforts on their part, without acceptance and understanding from the people around them, their positive mindset may gradually fade, potentially leading them astray once again. The extended period of social and community isolation during their prison sentence can make it challenging for individuals to adapt to a rapidly changing environment, including shifts in awareness, behaviors, and advancements in science and technology. These changes in the surrounding environment can be unsettling for those who have completed their sentences, requiring them to alter their perception and make concerted efforts to overcome difficulties

and challenges to reintegrate effectively. For young individuals with fragile psychological states, these challenges can be exceptionally daunting, as they must simultaneously work on restoring their mental well-being while learning to adapt to a new living environment. Balancing these aspects can be a complex and demanding process for them.

Re-entering the community after violating the law poses a multitude of challenges for young individuals. When young people have a criminal record, they often face stigmatization and prejudice, making it difficult for them to find employment, housing, and establish positive relationships. This lack of opportunities can lead to frustration and a sense of hopelessness, pushing them back into a cycle of criminal behavior. Moreover, the pressure to fit in and prove themselves can further exacerbate the situation, as they may be drawn back into negative peer groups or criminal activities as a means of seeking acceptance and validation.

The lack of a strong support system can also hinder their reintegration process. Many young offenders may come from disadvantaged backgrounds or broken families, and the absence of a stable environment can make it even more challenging to steer away from criminal behavior. Additionally, accessing resources such as education, counseling, or vocational training is crucial for their successful reintegration, but these services are not always readily available or accessible, further hindering their path to rehabilitation.

### **Employment**

Ex-prisoners often encounter significant challenges when searching for employment. Having a criminal record can create a substantial barrier, as many employers are hesitant to hire individuals with a history of incarceration due to concerns about reliability, trustworthiness, and potential liability issues. This prejudice and discrimination can make it incredibly difficult for ex-prisoners to secure stable and meaningful employment, despite their genuine efforts to reintegrate into society. Moreover, the lack of recent work experience and the absence of current references can further exacerbate their struggle to find jobs, leaving them feeling trapped in a cycle of unemployment and making it harder to break free from the circumstances that might lead to reoffending. While some may have acquired valuable skills and knowledge during their time in prison, the societal stigma associated with a criminal record often overshadows these positive aspects, leaving them feeling discouraged and rejected in their job-seeking endeavors.

After being released from prison, most ex-offenders aspire to secure legitimate, stable, and long-term employment opportunities as they recognize the significance of having a job post-incarceration. However, the reality is that many face difficulties in finding and retaining employment, especially positions that offer stability and competitive salaries. The issue of employment plays a pivotal role in determining the time it takes for individuals to reintegrate into the community, as they spend a significant amount of time at their workplace with colleagues. Despite some cases of early reintegration, many face challenges such as stigma and discrimination when applying for jobs.

Background checks by certain businesses during the hiring process can pose obstacles for those with criminal records, leading to difficulties in securing employment. To avoid such situations and increase their chances of getting hired, some ex-offenders choose not to disclose their criminal history. However, if their past is discovered, they may face scrutiny or even termination from their positions. Limited professional, foreign language, or social communication skills can also hinder young offenders' job prospects, potentially leading to lower wages compared to the average level in society.

Financial issues also play a significant role in ex-offenders' employment challenges. Many carry debts and other financial obligations that they need to fulfill, with their bank accounts often frozen and part of their income automatically deducted to meet these obligations. This leaves them with minimal disposable income, reducing their motivation to seek official employment with potentially higher salaries. Instead, some may opt for nonofficial employment that promises better income despite its lack of stability and legal recognition. In addition, some ex-convicts may face difficulties in managing their official records and legal requirements after release. Failure to register their correct address or declare their whereabouts to local authorities can lead to administrative complications. Furthermore, managing debts and financial obligations becomes more challenging when combined with limited access to financial resources and support.

Overall, the difficulties faced by young people who violate the law in finding stable and legitimate employment, as well as managing their financial and legal obligations, can significantly impact their ability to reintegrate into society successfully and contribute to recidivism rates. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive support systems and targeted programs to enhance education, job training, and financial management skills among ex-offenders. By providing the necessary tools and resources, society can empower these individuals to rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community.

### **3. Solutions**

Indeed, policies and support from local authorities, agencies, units, organizations, and individuals play a crucial role in facilitating the successful reintegration of individuals released from prison, particularly young offenders. By providing the necessary assistance and opportunities, these individuals can find stable employment and support themselves and their families, reducing the risk of them returning to a life of crime. The government has implemented numerous measures to support the reintegration of individuals released from prison, but the role of family and society, particularly for young people, is of paramount importance. This age group is highly influenced by their living environment and surroundings. When the community provides favorable conditions and support, young individuals can swiftly overcome their inferiority complex and successfully reintegrate, positively contributing to their family, locality, and society. On the contrary, negative influences and wrong thoughts can lead them to re-offend, becoming a burden on their family and society. Understanding both objective and subjective difficulties can pave the way for proposing effective



solutions to help young people quickly overcome their inferiority complex and reintegrate successfully into the community.

Regarding those who have completed their prison sentences, their successful reintegration hinges on psychological and professional preparation to support themselves. Education and re-education efforts at the prison, particularly by prison officials, play a significant role in this process. Preparation for reintegration should begin during their time in prison, where they must recognize their mistakes, actively reform, and seek education to become responsible and productive members of society. Focusing on vocational training in prisons with specific orientations can enable them to continue working in their chosen fields upon their return to normal life, earning income to support themselves. Here are some solutions to help young people who have violated the law reintegrate into the community and contribute positively to society:

1. **Education and Skill Development:** Implement programs that focus on education and skill development for young offenders while they are still in prison. This will equip them with the knowledge and expertise needed to secure meaningful employment upon their release. For school administrators, it is essential to have a psychological impact on students, explaining and propagating the nature of regimes and policies towards prisoners. Encouraging students to feel secure, renovate their thoughts, and create positive actions and habits will allow them to benefit from state policies. Understanding the psychology and aspirations of prisoners will help prison officials take measures to educate and influence their thoughts, feelings, and attitudes, assisting them in overcoming difficulties and preparing for reintegration into the community, especially for those approaching the end of their sentences.
2. **Vocational Training:** Offer vocational training programs that align with current job market demands. This will enable ex-offenders to gain practical skills and increase their chances of finding employment in specific industries.
3. **Job Placement Support:** Establish partnerships with local businesses and industries to provide job placement support for ex-offenders. Encourage companies to consider hiring individuals with criminal records and provide them with the necessary support and training to succeed in their roles.
4. **Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support:** Provide resources and support to help young offenders start their own businesses or engage in entrepreneurship. This can empower them to create their own opportunities and become self-sufficient members of society.
5. **Financial Counseling:** Offer financial counseling and support to help ex-offenders manage their debts and financial obligations effectively. This will enable them to regain financial stability and reduce the temptation to engage in illegal activities for quick gains.

6. **Housing Assistance:** Assist ex-offenders in finding stable housing upon their release. Stable housing is crucial for reintegration and provides a sense of stability and security.

7. **Community Support Networks:** Establish community support networks where individuals who have successfully reintegrated into society can mentor and support young offenders during their transition back into the community. For the social community and local government, effective coordination with social organizations and mass organizations is crucial in organizing propaganda and law dissemination sessions on community reintegration. Entities like the Youth Union, Women's Union, and Veteran's Union should play an active role as bridges to help individuals who have been released from prison integrate quickly into the community. Implementing Decree No. 49/2020 timely is vital, providing assistance in policies, psychological counseling, and job creation for those who have completed their prison sentences.

8. **Psychological and Emotional Support:** Provide access to psychological and emotional support services to address any mental health issues and help ex-offenders cope with the challenges of reintegration. Prison officers also have a significant role in successful re-education. They should continuously improve their capacity, attitude, and sense of responsibility through learning and experience sharing. Participation in training courses and intensive study classes will help them grasp new regimes, policies, and regulations concerning the education of prisoners.

9. **Public Awareness and Rebranding:** Raise public awareness about the importance of giving second chances and supporting the reintegration of ex-offenders. Rebranding them as individuals who can positively contribute to society will help reduce the stigma they face when seeking employment or housing.

10. **Restorative Justice Practices:** Promote restorative justice practices that focus on repairing the harm caused by the crime, fostering accountability, and rebuilding relationships with victims and the community.

By implementing these solutions and working together as a community, local authorities, organizations, and individuals can significantly improve the chances of successful reintegration for young people who have violated the law. A supportive and inclusive society can create an environment where these individuals can rebuild their lives, contribute positively to society, and break the cycle of recidivism.

Additionally, families, schools, and society need to actively cooperate in preventing young people from engaging in criminal acts from an early age. Parents play a crucial role in determining the growth and development of children, so they must pay attention to their children's aspirations and provide an open learning path to prevent negative influences. Schools should emphasize the importance of Citizenship, State, and Law Education at all levels and organize legal education

sessions for students. Cooperation between schools, families, and other authorities is essential in managing and educating students to prevent them from breaking the law.

Social organizations can conduct volunteering campaigns to help families with difficult conditions raise awareness and foster positive lifestyles for young people, avoiding discrimination and negative attitudes towards those with difficult lives. Creating conditions for young people to sympathize, share, and help each other in various social activities will foster a collective and social character among the youth. Raising awareness among local Party committees and leaders about the position and role of youth in law dissemination and education is vital. Focus on popularizing and educating young people who are at risk of breaking the law. In addition to prevention, it is essential to create good living environments for young people and conduct legal education for them. However, there should also be appropriate punishments to deter criminals. Juvenile offenders are on the rise, so the country's laws related to juvenile crimes need to be reviewed and possibly amended to suit the current situation, making the punishment more deterrent for young people. Ultimately, raising the self-awareness of young people is critical in reducing law violations. The youth are the future generation of society, and they need to determine a positive and healthy path for themselves to become useful members of society. Constant efforts in both knowledge and morality, increased participation in social activities, healthy organizations, and exercise can contribute to their success and positive contributions to society.

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

Combining various methodologies to analyze a topic like "Difficulties in the reintegration of young ex-offenders" can offer a multifaceted perspective on the challenges faced by this group. Here's how different methodologies can be integrated:

**Literature Review:** Begin by conducting a comprehensive literature review to understand existing research, theories, and findings related to the reintegration of young ex-offenders.

**Case Studies:** Select research on some specific cases of young ex-offenders who have experienced successful or challenging reintegration. Analyze these cases to identify common patterns and unique factors influencing their experiences.

**Content Analysis:** Analyze written materials, such as autobiographies, diaries, or online posts, by young ex-offenders to gain insights into their emotional and psychological experiences during reintegration.

**Comparative Analysis:** Compare the experiences of young ex-offenders with those of older ex-offenders or individuals who haven't been involved in the criminal justice system. This comparison can highlight age-specific difficulties.

**Institutional Analysis:** Investigate the policies, programs, and support systems in place for young ex-offenders' reintegration. Evaluate their effectiveness and identify gaps.

**Interpretation and Implications:** Interpret the data collected through various methods to understand the complexities and underlying factors contributing to the difficulties faced by young ex-offenders during reintegration.

**Recommendations:** Based on the analysis, provide recommendations for policies, interventions, and support systems that could address the identified difficulties and improve the reintegration process for young ex-offenders.

By integrating multiple methodologies, the authors can paint a comprehensive picture of the challenges young ex-offenders encounter during reintegration. This approach allows for a richer understanding of the topic, considering both the subjective experiences of individuals and the broader structural factors influencing their journeys.

## CONCLUSION

The process of reintegration for young ex-offenders is a complex and multifaceted journey, riddled with a range of challenges that impede their successful transition back into society. Young ex-offenders often encounter negative stereotypes and stigmatization from society, hindering their efforts to secure employment, housing, and build meaningful relationships. This stigma can lead to isolation and a lack of support networks. Many young ex-offenders face educational deficits due to disrupted schooling during incarceration. Limited education and vocational skills create barriers to finding stable employment opportunities. Insufficient access to comprehensive reintegration programs, counselling, and mentoring services leaves young ex-offenders without the necessary guidance and tools to address underlying issues and make positive changes. Familial relationships often suffer due to the incarceration experience. Strained family ties can lead to inadequate emotional support, exacerbating difficulties in finding housing and stability. A significant proportion of young ex-offender's struggle to secure stable employment, partly due to limited job prospects and employer reluctance. Financial instability can lead to recidivism as a means of survival. Many young ex-offenders battle with mental health issues and past trauma, further complicating their reintegration process. A lack of accessible mental health support contributes to these challenges. Reconnecting with negative peer influences post-release increases the risk of re-offending. The allure of familiar social circles can undermine efforts to break free from criminal activities. Institutional and structural factors, including legal barriers to employment and housing, disproportionately affect young ex-offenders. These systemic hurdles hinder their pursuit of a second chance. The reintegration of young ex-offenders is a multidimensional challenge that demands a comprehensive and empathetic approach. Addressing these difficulties requires a collaborative effort from policymakers, social services, communities, and individuals. Providing tailored educational opportunities, mentorship, mental health support, and employment initiatives can go a long way in facilitating a successful

transition. By recognizing the unique needs of young ex-offenders and offering meaningful solutions, society can play a pivotal role in breaking the cycle of recidivism and fostering positive reintegration experiences.

Vietnamese government has been implementing measures to support young offenders and reduce recidivism rates. The low recidivism rates in cities like 1.74% in Buon Ma Thuot (Bui Trong Tuan, 2023), 2.47% in Hai Phong city (V.Huy, 2018) and under 2.5% in Son Ha province (Report, 2022)...are promising indicators of the effectiveness of these measures. Family involvement and support are indeed crucial factors in the successful reintegration process for young offenders, as indicated by the statistic that a significant portion of youth (71.37%) who violated the law felt they lacked proper attention and care from their parents and family. The effort from the government, families, and the offenders themselves has led to impressive outcomes, with a recidivism rate of only 1.18% in the amnesty prison since 2009 (Vov, 2022). This suggests that the combination of rehabilitation programs, community support, and family engagement has contributed to the successful reintegration of offenders into society. It's also positive to hear that many of these individuals have been able to secure stable jobs after their reintegration, which is a key aspect of their rehabilitation and future prospects. Continuing to focus on these strategies, learning from their successes, and adapting them as needed could further improve the reintegration process and contribute to even lower recidivism rates in the future.

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