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Inclusion as a Strategy for Promoting Social Wellness of Juvenile Offenders in Gauteng Correctional Centre

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ABSTRACT The present research focuses on how inclusion can be used as a strategy to promote social wellness of juvenile offenders in a bid to reduce recidivism and to facilitate smooth social reintegration. The aim of the study was to investigate and explore ways in which inclusion can be used to promote social wellness among juvenile offenders. Ten juveniles and teachers were selected in a Gauteng correctional centre on the basis of availability and willingness. Findings revealed that education at the centre promotes social wellness and had resulted in positive behavioural change among most juveniles. Relationships among juveniles and with stakeholders also improved with education received at the centre. The major challenges faced were that teachers had not received adequate training in inclusion and inadequate psycho-social support was given to juvenile offenders. It was recommended that teachers be given in service training in inclusion and how to deal with learners with behavioural challenges. More psycho-social support should be provided and family involvement to be intensified to prevent recidivism.