Impact of Procedural Justice and Police Legitimacy on Compliance with Law among Slovenian Adolescents

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Among researchers, there is an increasing number of attempts to understand compliance with law, especially an interest in the impact of procedural justice and legitimacy of policing. A growing list of studies on legitimacy shows increasing numbers of empirical tests of a procedural justice model. The model, designed by Tom Tyler, still raises questions about its universal validity. Latter is the purpose of the present study that tested the procedural justice model on a sample of Slovenian adolescents. For this we used a cross-sectional analysis of data from a study on a sample of 638 Slovenian secondary school students and created regression models. In regards to the compliance with law among the Slovenian adolescents, we found out that 1) procedural justice judgements have a significant impact on an individual's perception of the policing legitimacy; and 2) based on the policing legitimacy, it is possible to explain the different kinds of law-abiding behaviour. The study utilizes a multivariate model of compliance with law and confirms the impact of police legitimacy on compliance with law. This finding represents an important beginning for police activities in the future, and attitudes and actions of police officers have a significant impact on adolescents' views about the legitimacy of policing and the police in general. Despite the fact that this study clarifies the multivariate model of compliance with law and that the results confirm the general validity of the procedural justice model, to generalize the findings to a wider population in Slovenia further study and analyses are required.

Keywords: compliance with law, procedural justice, legitimacy of policing, Slovenia

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