

Family And Social Reasons Behind The Criminal Tendency In Juvenile Delinquents- An Analytical Study



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ABSTRACT

Delinquency is an environmental and social disease. Delinquent acts are learned and acquired. No child is born delinquent nor is delinquent behavior the product of the genes. Thus, delinquents are not a specific type of human beings born with any such innate, physical, mental or emotional characteristics. They are normal individuals with normal needs and desires. Like other normal children, they also want to love, to be loved, and to satisfy the need for security and recognition. The denial of these basic needs leads to maladjustment and results in their becoming hostile and rebellious. Thus, delinquent behavior is a reaction to, or resentment against the prevailing social and environmental conditions. It is a revolt against parents, teachers or social organizations which do not provide them with an environment congenial to the satisfaction of their basic needs and urges.

Introduction

'Crime' and 'delinquency' are legal terms and their meaning varies from country to country and even from one state to another in the same country. In India, persons ageing 21 years or more are convicted by a court for violating the provisions of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) are termed as a criminal. Similarly, a minor individual in the age group of 7 to 18 if convicted by a court for violating the provisions of the Children's Act, the IPC and the CrPC, is termed a delinquent. Individuals in the age group of 18 and 21 who violate the provisions of I.P.C and Cr.P.C are midway between criminals and delinquents and are labelled 'young' or 'youthful' offenders. After the trial by the court, they are sentenced to be sent either to an institution or to prisons depending on the seriousness or the nature and circumstances of their crimes. The individuals below the age of seven, even if they commit such offences as are covered legally by the term delinquency, are not labelled as delinquents and are termed problem children, because it is felt that they are not mature enough to distinguish between the legal and the illegal and between right and wrong.

Causes of Delinquency- Many factors are responsible for development of delinquent behavior in children like home and school environment, undesirable neighborhood, society, television, cinema, feeling of insecurity, loneliness, emotional conflict, low life style, domestic conflicts, financial condition of the family, overburden, modernization, high aspirations, physiological factors, defective intelligence, broken homes where the family is incomplete due to death, desertion, separation or divorce, improper parental control, unusual jealousy and rivalry among siblings or children within the family and reactions, the delinquent and criminal behavior of the parents or other

family members, economic difficulties and poverty of the family, dull, monotonous and uninteresting home environment, denial of reasonable freedom and independence to the youngsters, maltreatment and injustice to the youngsters etc.

In many cases of delinquency, uncongenial school environment may be a significant stimulating factor. It brings about serious maladjustment and consequently increases the probability of delinquent character-formation. Such environment may involve the elements like defective curriculum, improper teaching methods, lack of extracurricular activities, lack of proper discipline and control, slackness in administration and organization, antisocial or undesirable behavior of the teachers, maltreatment and injustice done to the child and failure or backwardness.

Statement-

"Family and Social reasons behind the Criminal Tendency in Juvenile Delinquents- An Analytical Study."

Objectives -

1. To study the nature of crime done by juvenile delinquents.
2. To study the family reasons behind the crime committed by juvenile delinquents.
3. To study the social reasons behind the crime committed by juvenile delinquents.

Hypotheses-

1. There will be difference in the nature of crime committed by the juvenile delinquents.
2. Both the educational and social reasons will be responsible for developing the criminal tendency in juvenile delinquents.

Sample- Only 30 juvenile delinquents were taken as per the availability ranging from 7 years to 18 years. There case history was collected from the government records.

Table 1: Percentage of Crime committed by Juvenile Delinquents of different age groups

Age (in years)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Frequency	2	1	1	1	5	9	11	10	4.5	1	1	1
Percentage	4	2	2	2	12	18	22	20	9	2	2	1

Table 2: Percentage of Nature of Crime committed by Juvenile Delinquents

S.No.	Nature of Crime	Frequency	Percentage
1	Stealing	30	60
2	Cheating	26	52
3	Writing on walls	01	02
4	Gambling	10	20
5	Abusing	01	02
6	Travelling without Ticket	04	08
7	Fighting	08	16
8	Pick-pocketing	10	20
9	Murder	01	02
10	Watching Vulgar movies	05	10
11	Black marketing	13	26
12	Keeping weapons illegally	10	20
13	Rape	05	10
14	Taking Drugs	06	12
	Smoking	04	08
	Boozing	02	04
15	Illegal recovery of material	25	50
16	Conspiracy	15	30
17	Betting	03	06

Method employed-

The Personalized study, Interview method and Observation techniques were used.

Analysis & Interpretation-

Table 1 shows the percentage of crime as committed by children of different age groups. The highest percentage i.e. 22% of crime is seen in the age 13 years, 20% in the age 14 years, 18% in the age 12 years, 12% in the age 11 years, 9% in the age 15 years, 4% in the age 7 years, 2% in the age 8 years-10 years & 16-17 years & the lowest was seen in the age 18 years i.e. 1%. Therefore it can be said that most of the crime is done by the children of 12-14 years.

See Table 2

Table 2 shows that 60% crime are related to stealing, 52% to cheating, 50% to illegal recovery of material, 30% to conspiracy, 26% to black marketing, 20% to gambling, pick-pocketing and keeping weapons illegally, 16% to fighting, 12% to taking drugs, 10% to watching vulgar movies & rapes, 08% to travelling without ticket, 06% to betting & 02% to writing on walls, abusing & murder.

See Table 3

Table 3 throws light on the family reasons that give birth to juvenile delinquency. 60% of crime takes place due to poverty. 30% of crime takes place due to family

quarrels & improper nurturing, 20% of crime happens because of bad character of the family members & over scolding by parents, 12% of crime takes place because of big size of the family & broken relationships, death of mother or father is the reason behind 10% of crime whereas 4% crime takes place because of illiteracy & behavior of step-mother.

See Table 4

Table 4 shows that some social reasons also are responsible for the development of anti social behavior in the delinquents. 50% of the crime takes place due to bad company of the delinquent children, 10% due to lack of proper guidance & direction & 40% because of other social reasons like impact of T.V., films etc., lack of religious & moral values in the society, criminal area etc.

Main Findings-

1. The main reason behind juvenile delinquency is poverty and lack of proper educational guidance. Because of poor economical condition the parents are unable to fulfill the needs of their children which force them to commit any crime.

2. The family reasons are very much responsible in the development of anti social behavior in children like bad character of the family members, family quarrels, death of mother or father, illiterate parents, over scolding, improper nurturing, big size of the family, broken relationships, behavior of step mother etc.

Table 3: Family Reasons that give birth to Juvenile Delinquency

S.No.	Family Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
1	Big Size of the family	06	12
2	Death of Father	05	10
3	Death of Mother	05	10
4	Bad character of the family members	10	20
5	Broken relationships	06	12
6	Family Quarrels	15	30
7	Illiterate Parents	02	04
8	Over Scolding	10	20
9	Improper Care	15	30
10	Behavior of Step-mother	02	04
11	Poverty	30	60

Table 4: Social Reasons that give birth to Juvenile Delinquency

S.No.	Social reasons of crime	Frequency	Percentage
1	Bad Company	25	50
2	Improper guidance and direction	05	10
3	Other Reasons	20	40

3. Besides the family reasons there are some social reasons also like bad company, improper guidance and direction to the child, negative influence of media, degradation of moral values etc.

4. This study clearly shows that there is no one specific reason behind any crime. Sometimes many factors together influence the behavior of the child and leads him to commit crime.

5. The common crime committed by juvenile delinquents is stealing and cheating.

6. The juvenile delinquents are involved in crimes of different nature like pick pocketing, abusing, betting, gambling, travelling without ticket, writing on walls, black marketing, keeping weapons illegally, conspiracy, rapes etc.

Educational Implications-

The problem of juvenile delinquency is increasing and becoming complicated day by day. This

tendency is developing more in big metropolitan cities and industrial areas. Crime is closely related to society and community. The type of social environment in which the child is living contributes a lot in increasing or decreasing the crime. Criminals are not born they are made. The social conditions, structure of any social organization, the company of the friends, the social processes all play an important role in the development of juvenile delinquency.

Suggestions-

After the deep analysis of the study it is suggested that due care should be taken by the parents, teachers and the society in proper rearing and caring of the children. The basic needs of such children should be taken care off so that they may not be forced to indulge in anti-social behaviors. Time to time regular guidance & counseling should be arranged for such children. The media should also play a responsible role & should leave a positive impact on the young minds.

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