



Sociological factors influencing juvenile delinquents in India

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Abstract

The term juvenile delinquency refers to a criminal act committed by an offender under 18 years of age, which makes it a juvenile crime, and this research analyses the current juvenile delinquency situation. In this study, we examined the factors that affect the juveniles and lead to crime among them, such as their educational background, their family background, and their economic standing. Study findings suggest that low incomes of the family, family background (nuclear or joint families, homeless people), and parental disregard for children are the main factors that are contributing to the rise in delinquency rates. Teens and young adults commit the majority of crimes due to the negative influences of their peer groups or the surrounding environment. There are many problems and concerns with children and juvenile delinquency in different countries. We are one of the young countries in the world, and we are experiencing a growing trend in this area. We aim to examine the factors that influence juvenile delinquency in this study.

Introduction

Children are the most beautiful and guideless creation of god. The deviancy in them is developed according to the environment they dwell in. In this era, it is seen that the juvenile has become the problem and their involvement in illegal activities is increasing. It is not gender-based as both males and females delinquents are involved in the activities like robbery, burglary, riots, murder, rapes, and keeping illegal weapons with them, involved in drugs, gambling activities are maximizing day-by-day. The studies show that crimes are rising at an alarming rate. The juveniles get involved in such activities due to several socio-economic conditions such as parents lacking guidance to their child, lacking education, poverty, peer pressure, etc. The problem needs special attention and a friendly approach towards the prevention and protection of children from becoming deviants. Juvenile delinquency is one of the problems being faced across the globe. It is

associated with the crimes committed by children who are below the age of 18 (Agarwal,2018).

This problem is not only faced by the developed country but by developing and underdeveloped countries. Many countries facing this problem, and this is currently rising in India and it is a major concern. India is the second-most populous country in the world. The total percent of children in India is 40% of the population in the country. 29% of the children are of age 6-11 years old and 28% of the children are of age 15-18 years old. The population of 22% in India lies below the line of poverty. The children are in extreme conditions like ignorance of parents, lacking education, having a bad company, cultural conflicts. According to the legal law, under section 82 of the Indian Penal Code 1860, children under the age of 7 cannot commit a crime. The Juvenile Justice Act 2015, the children between the age group of 15-18 years commit the monstrous crime, it will be counted as the adult crime. The treatment is given to adults and juveniles is different for both. Juvenile delinquency is a gigantic issue in India through which several youths ruin their lives by committing such heinous crimes. This happens due to the wrongdoings in the age of adolescents and the many other issues, youth and their families suffer a lot and have the worst consequences. Not only the victim is affected but the one who performs crime's family reputation, their future are all affected badly. The wrongdoings happen because of the issues associated with mental and financial. The consequences of this going to be worst. The children involved in the crime are likely to adopt the habits of consuming liquor and drugs. The crimes committed by juvenile delinquents are increasing in India. According to the latest reports crimes of kidnapping, rapes, murders, robbery is committed by juveniles delinquents (Silke, et al., 2018).

Reasons for Juvenile Delinquency

Family – The factors associated with the family that leads the child to get engaged in the wrong company and then they tend to commit crimes. The factors are the absence of parental guidance and supervision, parental clash, misuse of the child emotionally, physically, and psychologically, less surveillance on the child. The parents show the absence of regard and the law and social standards are wrong. The children who have seen their parents getting divorced, and leading a life without the attention of their parents are likely to get involved in the crimes (Silke, et al., 2018).

Societal – The child dwelling in the place, surrounded by many people and are neighborhood and the company of them turns the children into a criminal. The children get into the gatherings and develop mentalities and the wrongdoings come from the wrong mentality in the gathering and the delinquency is the product of the forces by the community. A bad company can ruin the individual and a good company can make up the individual with a great future (Thompson,& Bynum,2016).

Lack of finances – The conditions of financial crises in the family and that put an impact on the children of the family. Such conditions in the family turn, juveniles into delinquents juveniles. At the point when they experience the poor conditions of finances, they are likely to get into inappropriate activities. With the greediness of becoming rich in a short period, they get involved in illegal actions like selling drugs and doing those illegal things that will provide them money and pleasure in return (Shoemaker,2018).

Lack of Education – The children who are abandoned by the education which is the right of every child. The children without education got no sense of knowledge and the maturity to recognize or decide that between what is wrong or right easily get into the wrong company and propel to do wrong and illegal activities. Around 42% of children, not cleared their matriculation by this we can conclude \that the lack of education is another reason for juvenile delinquency.

Poverty – It is the most prominent reason for the children converting into a juvenile delinquents. The youth who belong to poor families and want to change their lives and the lives of their parents are likely to be involved in illegal activities. The older person has the responsibility of earning living and fulfilling the basic needs, the hunger of the family, and this results in the negligence of the children. Some children in such conditions hold the hands of gangsters or hoodlums and get turned into delinquents. This happens to the children who belong to the slums area and the regions in which individuals live (Hastings, et al., 2013).

Family Background – The distorted family influence to be the most potential and the kids who have seen clashes in parents and the parents get separated and seen the condition of fighting since childhood are likely to turn juvenile delinquents. The broken family shows that the child is not looked upon properly and the study says that the broken families tend to rise juvenile delinquents. The family where the relations of wife and husband, children, and parents are not healthy are prone to turning into a juvenile delinquent. The children who choose the bad company and the path on its own and destroy own life and here the attitude of parents play important in making understand the child that what h/she doing is not good and will take him/her to the worst condition of their life. The children who are abandoned by the love and are scolded all the time by the parents or relatives develop the mentality, hatred in themselves and by the age it turned the child into being a rebel and in worst cases the child runs from their family, home and fall into the crimes. Sometimes it is the mistake of parents who induce the feeling of insecurity in their children and that results in the development of mentality by the child. The personality of the children is influenced by the character of their parents. The personality of the children is rarely seen that he/she is molded their behavior according to the values and concepts the parent tell lies and do hypocritical behavior. The personality of the child is also influenced by the brothers/ sisters and especially girls who are not exposed to the outer world and look up to their elder brother and sisters in the family. And if the elder of the family s involved in the immoral behavior then the younger child is likely to follow them (Hastings, et al., 2013).

Area dominated with crimes – If the family residing in the areas which are already popular and have a bad reputation and have inappropriate surroundings for the children, the children might get turn into the juvenile delinquent. Neighborhoods in such areas put an impact on the children and the communities that don't follow any laws. The pickpockets are found in ample number in the specific areas of the metro cities. The pattern of crime is different in the low and backward areas. The areas of metro cities have had some areas of crimes that are known as crime-dominated areas.

The environment of school - The personality of children is also impacted by the environment in schools.

The children secretly leave school without attending the school, robbery, crimes of sex are the crimes of juvenile delinquents. They roaming outside instead of attending school and it is seen that the children are likely to be interested. The students who elope from schools and get into the wrong company and roaming with criminals and the academic performance is poor and no ability and spend their time in the worst company and commit all the crimes. The problem is increasing and it is seen that the schools are just stuffing up the information in the brain rather than building up the character of the children and making them accountable and responsible.

Bad company of companions – The behavior of children are influenced by their friends and what company the child be with. The children who are in the bad company of companions quickly moves towards the wrong and inappropriate doings and the child who gets in the good company of companions are likely to be responsible citizens of the country. The behavior of children is adapted from the company they are being with. To make the children in the way that they respect the values then the parents are likely to create such ambiance in the house and the children must make understand that what is goods and what is wrong for them.

Society disorganization – is another factor that turns children into juvenile delinquents. The disorganization of society leads children to commit crimes and harm others. In the modern world, there is lacking Of equality and synthesis that makes tension. The tension provokes the children to commit a crime (Franzese, et al.,2016).

Flawed Recreation – In the present time, the recreation for the children are the phones, laptops, and the i-pads. All such gadgets available to a child might make them in becoming a juvenile delinquents. The patterns seen in the crimes are inspired by social media, the internet, etc. where the children come across that stuff where they must not. The children are directly get connected with the internet, wrong material like pornographic, it is seen that the impact of television, the cinema industry is influenced the behavior of a child. The child must use smartphones, television under the supervision of parents (Franzese, et al.,2016).

Mental Instability – The crimes are concern with the mentality or mental disease through which an individual going. The psychopathic personality is the reason for crimes and these individuals are observed closely and found that life without love, affection made the individual self-centered, lonely and hyper-sexual, etc. The juvenile with such characteristics is likely to be arrogant, rude, and emotionally unstable (Young, et al., 2014).

Preventive Measures for Juvenile Delinquency – The children who fall into the wrong company and get turned in into juvenile delinquents can be prevented from doing such by measures for the betterment of the children. Juvenile crime is big or small, crime is a crime. The blame should be put on the surroundings or many other reasons and not on the child, when not the children, then there is the strict law that won't change the child. The crimes of juvenile delinquents going to continue as it is the social problem. The misconduct of the adolescent is one of the problems in Indian society. The children who are reprobate might end up being the criminal of tomorrow. The conversations, discussions, and researches show that the immediate need to find the solution to this problem. The strategy for preventing the children from being juvenile delinquent is the rehabilitation or rehab centers for kids where they are taught to behave properly and how o respond to such situations (Macfarlane, 2019).

Juvenile delinquency in India is exploding, and there is a requirement to open more rehabilitation centers, child homes, and child courts. The Borstal home takes the children who are below 15 years old and accepts the children from the age group of 15-18 years and the crimes committed by the children are in the category of the age group of 15-18 years. The NGO and the rehabilitation centers need to integrate. The establishment of the Child Advice Center in slum areas need to open and keeping away children from sexual material is essential (Young, et al., 2014).

Economic Causes

The relationship between crime and poverty is intimate. In terms of juvenile delinquents, the majority of them come from families of unskilled laborers. The lower the family income, the greater the burden on the young people and make them more likely to neglect their education. There is evidence that despite the high rate of violence among juvenile delinquents, employed youths are more likely to commit crimes than unemployed ones (Agarwal, 2018). It is true that children in poorer formalities have many desires that remain unfulfilled, and they find ways, these desires that lead them to commit crimes. Poverty is also associated with a feeling of unhappiness and inequality, another factor that encourages criminal behavior. We have discussed in depth the socioeconomic, psychological, and psychological causes causal factors that underlie juvenile delinquency clearly demonstrates that specific causation does not correctly apply to this phenomenon. Criminologists and Psychologists cannot dispute the fact that crimes are caused by a number of factors. A person's activities are related to his/her ways in which they adapt to their environment. People who make their adjustments through socially healthy means are called healthy, while those who apply unwholesome

techniques, instead of socially accepted ones, in their adjustment are considered criminals. A child becomes a criminal due to a combination of many causes, such as social and familial contexts, an individual's psychosocial climate, and an economic history. Therefore, in order to rehabilitate the juvenile delinquent into a productive member of society, it is necessary to identify the causes of all of the above-mentioned problems and to resolve them. No small satisfaction can be found in the fact, pleasure to know that this has been the case in all progressive countries, with the result that cases of juvenile delinquency are increasingly curable (Agarwal, 2018).

Conclusion

It is concluded that Juvenile delinquency is also caused by a lack of education. A significant number of reprobate children originate from poor families; it is one of the main factors behind juvenile delinquency. The vast majority of delinquents manifest themselves in the lower classes, notwithstanding how they may not be recognized by proficient students. Rather than submitting offenses as a pack, they submit them individually. The absolute poverty of the guardians sometimes forces both of them to leave their homes for very long stretches of time to fulfill their basic needs, such as food. The youngsters will be neglected. These youngsters may join forces with hoodlums and become delinquents deliberately or accidentally. These neighborhoods and cities contain most of the regular workers and live-in slum zones. It is concluded that, Children need to be identified as to why they are in conflict with the law so they don't engage in antisocial, criminal, harmful, acts, and implement the juvenile justice system with an appropriate policy to protect them. The phenomenon of child molestations in India has taken on obtained new dimensions because of rapid urbanization and industrialization. According to the author, in order to deal with the issue of child abuse, prevention is the better method, developing preventive methods in light of family dynamics, because every prevention method directly affects the family.

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