



Educational Technology

Elixir Edu. Tech. 51 (2012) 10897-10900

Elixir
ISSN: 2229-712X

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency among Teenagers in Pakistani Context

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 19 August 2012;

Received in revised form:

30 September 2012;

Accepted: 5 October 2012;

Keywords

Negligence of Parents,
Broken family,
Family inheritance and Violence,
Undue Strictness in school and home,
Peer Pressure,
Uncongenial Environment of school,
Lack of Moral Education,
Excess to Media and internet,
Life situations.

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the causes of juvenile delinquency and is an effort to pin point the large amount of causes that exist and contribute to what leads someone towards delinquent behavior and how these actions of him violate the law, who is under the legal age of majority in the Pakistan. So that serious actions should be taken to discarding this serious threat and epidemic signal from the society in the near future. This study was conducted at Adyala jail at Rawalpindi District in Punjab Province (Pakistan) in the Juvenile barracks. The study will be useful for the policy makers, law enforcing agencies and civil society and can serve to Pakistani societal norms significantly. In Pakistan serious dangers are created to the health, social and moral development of children. The findings shows that lake of basic facilities leads children to become criminals and courts make them professional.

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Introduction

Juvenile Delinquency has come as a global epidemic and it is spread to the developing and developed countries in a vast manner. Delinquency is a universal problem and the behavior of delinquent depends on both intra- and cross-culturally. In youth the behavior of Delinquency is a great concern in prosperous society today. It is a challenge for social planner, community workers and social reformers to overcome this problem. The word Juvenile delinquency is used for those children whose ages are 10 to 17. They have diverged from the normal social behavior to abnormal social behavior. According to Al-Quran "And He has subjected to you, as from Him, all that is in the heavens and on earth: behold in that are Signs indeed for those who reflect." This verse shows that the human always run for conquer the universe. The first crime on the earth did by youthful offender. In Qur'anic words the crime is a sin and killing a person is one of the indefensible sins. In Surat AL-Maidah find the first case of juvenile delinquency. Habil and Qabil the sons of Adam commit the crime. The Habil was the elder brother of Qabil; Qabil killed his brother because of jealousy.

It is a global phenomenon with certain variations in its measurements according to each region or community. It is an Anti-social personality disorder which is really harmful for the society. It is deviant behavior that emerges, usually, by the age of 15 and goes along through adolescence and adulthood. This deviation from a generalized standard social behavior is a constant source of worry for social psychologist, educationists, social workers and activists. Each society is weary of this issue and has been taken many initiatives to curb the problem. A number of researches have been conducted to understand the reasons of this delinquent behavior. Psychologists have conducted many longitudinal and cross-sequential researches to investigate the causes of delinquency. Unfortunately, no

systematic study to understand the delinquent behavior among youth has been rehearsed in Pakistan.

According to Mayer (1995) antisocial behavior use to keep the violation, aggression, destruction of rules, disobeying the alders and violation of social norms and traditions of society. Researchers view about Juvenile delinquency under the psychological and physiological conditions that a person experiences when a situation is apparent as threatening, harmful, demanding, negligence of Parents, family aggression, excessive firmness, Peer Pressure, uncongenial Environment, lack of moral Values, maladjustment in school, excess to Media, Life situations, youth violence, gangs, early sexual involvement, alcohol and drug abuse and other problem behaviors in young people are causes for grave concern in least developed countries. There are 3 million children in Pakistan who are work as a child labor and this number is rising day by day just because of poverty and lack of basic needs. The reason is a large number of populations are living below the poverty line then it is normal that these children have break laws of the society and crossed cultural norms. But in Pakistan there are a question raise about the juvenile courts that why they are not taking proper action regarding these matters of youth.

Even these offenders are prisoner with the criminals and there condition is extremely vulnerable in the jail the police officials abusing and maltreating them. On the other hand there is lot of disturbing reports about torturing, serious ill-treatment and sexual abuse of children by police officers in detention and the state do not show any regard toward juvenile and don't separate from the adults. The basic difference between juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system is that the treatment with juvenile is considering the primary goals as rehabilitate them while the adult justice system as a punishment. Juvenile courts also inclined to consider the background of the crime before giving any punishment but for adults detain

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responsible for their actions in spite of considering the background. So above all introduction illustrates who delinquent is? What type of crimes he commits and how our justice systems treat them. Let see how related literature carry this concept of juvenile delinquency and helps in determining the speculation.

A major hypothesis about the cause of adolescent and childhood conduct behavior is that these individuals lack behavior controls. For some reasons, these youngsters have not learned the essential controls that the rest of society acquires during the course of socialization (Batch, 1975). Most children learn what is appropriate or inappropriate behavior, and most of the times, they have enough control over themselves so that they do not violate the law. The person with a childhood or adolescent conduct disorder, on the other hand, either does not know right from wrong or does not control his or her criminal or delinquent behavior.

Juvenile delinquency can be defined as those acts which may consider as harmful crimes by the country or state. Juvenile's disruptive and harmful actions can be defined as "hostile or destructive acts which upsets the society that deviates stridently from the social standard. According to Nelson, Rutherford, & Wolford, (1996) delinquency is "Externalizing disorders are directed outward and involve behavioral excesses, such as disturbing others, verbal and physical aggression, and acts of violence". The legal definition of juvenile delinquency is usually restricted to persons under 18, but states vary in their age distinction. According to Bartol & Bartol, (1986), they stated that legally, a juvenile delinquent is one who commits an act and by law it is considered as illegal and adjudicated "delinquent" by an appropriate court. Any act which over sighted to be hurtful and dangerous to an individual or a group of individuals is known as offence. Offenses are generally known harmful against:

- The state
- The person
- Ethics and mores

It is a fixed rule that an act cannot be considered as crime except it is done with the determined intention, consequently motive is essential in condemning a juvenile otherwise we can't judge the individual's real disposition. In recent era there is many modern codes to live in society morally on the other hand in ancient societies even though there is no law existed regarding harmful acts but a rigorous social control is there which is more powerful than any modern ethical codes. The delinquent person is guilty of anti-social conduct, perhaps less serious than criminal of misconduct. According to Auolakh (1999), factors which are responsible for juvenile delinquency are: broken homes, delinquent community environment, bad company, and peers in the school and, society slums with criminal neighborhood, poverty, unemployment. These factors show diverse dimensions, which include economical, social and psychological aspects. Juvenile delinquency has also many other reasons also which indicates others factors too, e.g. the environment in and outside the home, un-controlled population, poverty, bad impact of media and computer and mobile phones, Uncongenial Environment of school, Lack of Moral Education, Life situations etc. Above literature illustrate the causes of delinquency in a society with behavior of the offenders clearly this review provide a clear mirror to understand it better and plea to bestow some preventive measures for the betterment of the Pakistani youth.

Statement of the problem

"The study aimed to explore the causes of Juvenile delinquency and influence of social factors on teenagers"

Objectives

The research is based on the following objectives:

- To identify causes of delinquency.
- To explore the factors responsible for delinquents.
- To investigate the effects of delinquent behavior on performance in the classroom.
- To "grow out" delinquent behavior
- To give suggestions to overcome the problems of delinquents.

Research questions

- What is the meaning of juvenile delinquency?
- What are the causes of delinquency?
- What are the effects of delinquency on the performance in the classroom?
- What could be the possible ways to avoid from it?

Significance

Children are the positive feature of any nation in its future but the poverty carried children endure from the day they are born in Pakistan. The lack of essential facilities, food items, shelter, clothes, security, etc makes them professionals because streets turn them into criminals and the justice system of the country make them too. It's really stiff to judge where the spoil actually begins, from the lack of basic everyday needs from a shrunken system like in Pakistan. The results of this study may confidently bring out the causes of juvenile delinquency in the juvenile barracks, as well as for more organizations and persons which may serve as a useful input for giving the awareness to the parents and jail staff in the every corner of the Pakistan. The results may also help the juveniles to improve their behavior towards society. The juveniles may also understand their significance and importance in the progress of the country as a real wealth of it, which absolutely build up the sense of obligation in them, thus, keeping them away from anti-social behaviors.

Research Design

The study is qualitative in nature, as the researcher qualitatively analyzed the selective four cases of juvenile delinquency in the light of those causes mentioned above.

Delimitations of the study

- The Study is delimited to the Adyala jail Rawalpindi.
- Only the four selective cases of delinquents are analyzed.
- This study is limited to the factors that make a person a delinquent.

Data collection

The four delinquents of Adyala jail served as the primary source for this study.

Data analysis

The purpose of the study is to investigate the causes of juvenile , for achieving this purpose the researcher selected four delinquents from Adyala jail of Rawalpindi. The following four cases of the delinquents are taken for broad analysis:

Case No 1

Name: Ehsanullah

Age: 14 years

F.I.R no: 46

Dated: 20 - 2- 2011

Stage of Education: student of 7th class

Place of occurrence: Gujar Khan

Time of occurrence: 3: 30 P.M

Offence under section: 302 PPC, Murder of his friend

Proceeding: At evidence stage

Brief history of facts

The accused namely Ehsanullah son of Abdul Majeed was indicated for the murder of Qasim in case of F.I.R no 46 dated registered with police station Gujar Khan District Rawalpindi, offence under section 302, and the trial was before learned additional session judge Gujar Khan at evidence stage. Briefly stated the story enunciated in the F.I.R by the complaint is that the Qasim was playing cricket with the Ehsanullah in the ground at 3 p.m while they are playing suddenly they started quarreling on the point that who will bat first. After extensive and elongated fighting the offender Ehsanullah put his dagger in the left side of the chest because of a dispute between them. According to Ehsanullah he stated that he didn't commit the murder intentionally that entire occurrence by chance. In fact he didn't want to murder his friend.

After meeting with him and his family we noticed that he is an ambitious boy he wanted to continue his education and he was not satisfied with the current situation. There is a need for guidance and assistance for him during his stay in jail from the Juvenile justice system and police officials too.

Key issues and analysis

There are various truths behind this story as the delinquent's family is really uneducated poor family, which have no concerns regarding social values of the family as they don't give importance to know about the company of their children, horrific band matters a lot in the life of any delinquent. If family provide sound environment to delinquent he may not be able to commit the murder of his friend. Often parents, who provide the poor direction to children, fail to structure their behavior and do not provide the rewards for their success. So there is a need to weed out the factors in the child's environment and relations that had any role direct or indirect rotary a child into a delinquent.

Case No 2

Name: Muhammad Adil

Age: 16 years

F.I.R no: 126

Dated: 26-2-2006

Stage of Education: 6th class

Place of occurrence: Rawalpindi

Time of occurrence: 1.Pm

Offence under section: 9C, Narcotics Act

Brief facts of the case

Briefly stated that the accused Adil carrying 10 kg of hash (charas) along with him and travelling through Islamabad to Rawalpindi and captured at city police station Raja bazaar and learned special judge control of narcotics substance act Rawalpindi after recording and concluding the evidence, the trial court ordered dated at 26-2-2008 convicted the accused person Adil under section 9 C control of narcotics substance act 1997 and sentenced him for 14 years with the fine of one fifty thousand rupees. According to accused Adil he stated that he belonged to very poor family. His father is Rickshaw driver and has 10 brother and sisters and he is eldest one and parents strictly wanted him to do some work for the sake of bread. Meanwhile he met a person namely Mr. Rashid took him with himself and introduced Adil to gang who worked as carriers of narcotics substance. At this stage he knows nothing what is wrong and what is right but only knows about the profitable business.

Now his family and he both are feeling embarrassed and reluctant to tell the truth but the help of police officials we came

to know that his father and mother compel him to earn money even by the anyway rather than permissible means.

Key issues and analysis

In concluding thoughts researcher analyses that major factors of committing of crime economical conditions, social pressure, lack of exposure of the society as he didn't know what in fact is inside the bag which he is carrying. His parents compel him to earn money whether he earn it legally or unethically. Now we can say all these effects the juvenile poorly which forces him to express anti social and delinquent behavior.

Case No 3

Name: Faisal Shahzad

Age: 16 years

F.I.R: 205

Dated: 8-26-2010

Place of occurrence: waris Khan, RWP

Time of occurrence: 11am

Offence under section: 302 PPC

Brief facts of the case

Brief facts are the complaint lodged the FIR on October, 26, 2010, at 1.p.m stated that his nephew Faisal Shahzad killed his sister the (mother of accused). As the accused is eldest son of his sister and she wanted him to go school and study well but accused Faisal is as stubborn and a wandering boy and always quarreled with his mother the result of this quarrel was the death of his mother with the switchblade by attacking at her head. According to Faisal Shahzad his mother was morally not fine and he crossed the barrier of ethics. She always gets benefit from when his husband goes outside as his father is daily based worker. At the day of occurrence he comes from school at break time for lunch and he found his mother with his uncle (chacha) Mr. Abdul fareed lying on bed in dismal and unethical condition then he took chair and injured his uncle and after fighting his uncle ran away, then Faisal took switchblade and missed off his mother's head with that switchblade.

Key issues and analysis

Now according to the facts the delinquent is emotionally unstable and not fully groom. There is generation gap as well as he was an arrogant child which emphasis him to misbehave with his mother violently. Most importantly to numb the child's sense internally that he is emotionally stable or not. His lawyer helps him too in the form of good working knowledge of child psychology for analyses the pathetic situation which trigger him for committing a crime.

Case No 4

Name: Umair Ahmed

Age: 15 years

F.I.R: 257

Dated: 17-9-2007

Place of occurrence: Rawalpindi

Time of occurrence: at night, 1.am

Offence under section: 392 PPC

Brief facts of the case

Brief facts of the case are that according to the FIR lodged against the accused, registered on report of one Abdul Rizwan pertaining to an incident occurred on 2-2-2007 at 3.45. am he stated that seven to eight armed persons with muffled faces entered in their house after breaking the locks, on his resistance, they beaten him with kicks and hit on his head with the pistol and injured him. Then they move towards cupboard, took the cash, bounds and gold ornaments after breaking the lock of cupboard and also snatched gold ornaments from his mother and

sister and fled away. In report he stated that he identify two of them as during the resist fighting their face were unveiled. Matter was reported to the police by the compliant after the completion of investigation. But this report challenged by the Umair with seven other persons shown as absconders. The trial court on completion of the investigation decided the case through judgment made on 8-10-2009, whereby convicted accused Umair for punishable under section 392 PPC and sentence him for seven years with fine of 10,000 k. According to Umair the compliant Abdul Rizwan was real cousin and brother in law of him, due to family clashes he made false case against him. He was student of class 8th at the time of occurrence, he had no concern with the said incident. He stated that Mr. Rizwan wanted 10 lacks from his father he made so called occurrence and spoil his whole future and he wanted to become engineer and jail is not place where "T" turn into moral man.

Key issues and analysis

According to the facts there is strong need to find the missing links in order to put all the pieces of puzzle to gather the valid and relevant information because there in need of information paid. To bring the background of the facts in the light of true evidences in order to favors the child satisfactorily in a transparent manner.

Conclusion

In Pakistan the juvenile delinquency is approaching at a high level and the law authorities or individuals linked with it is paying attention to understand the frequent and stern dangers produced to the health, societal and ethical improvement of juvenile and society. Most of these delinquents are those children that increasing frequent with the rapid population growth, urbanization and poverty. Consequently most of these children find themselves in contradict in the classroom during the erudition. However behaving these juvenile during learning process with adults, it cause a long lasting impact of bad criminals that are a type to an existing crime society. In western society, such people are observed and concluded that unfortunate of prison juveniles with adults. It is very disgusting that in the developing countries including Pakistan, such kind of researches are not being used to improve the teaching arrangements for the juveniles in jails.

Concluding all the aspects of research report it is found that most of the young once one are indulged in criminal activities like pick pocketing, robbery, taking drugs, drugs selling, murder, mobile snatching, car lifting, suicide bombing, this is all because of unemployment, and poverty as majority of them belongs to lower socio-economic status. The future of any nation depends upon the children but in Pakistan the children don't have even the basic facilities, food and clean water by birth. Lack of basic facilities leads them to be criminals and courts make them professional. It is necessary to change the system to avoid such crimes and for the solidity of Pakistan.

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of the study the following recommendations are put forward:

- Parents education especially mother's education matters a lot to intending and renovate the child's behavior in a positive manner as it is common saying that the best school for a child is the lap of a mother.

- Parents and government should focused on the survival rights such as the basic needs that children enjoys for ample growth and health including, medical care, shelter, nutrition and clothing because most of the children are deprived from it.
- The home environment should be respectable, trusty, sympathetic and hospitable and have mutual cooperation and understanding for friendly environment.
- Society should have educational and recreational facilities for mending a child with access to education skills, training, recreation and social security.
- The government should put stern collective effort to eradicate such societal tribulations from it. And government keep check and balance over police department that how he managed and treat those juveniles and media as well that what type of programs it released.
- At state level the decisions should be taken on social improvement and modifications, to shun the juvenile association in such crimes.
- Media can play a vital role to engage in recreation of child in form of public awareness regarding delinquent's behavior, and society's including parents attitude towards them via electronic and print media.
- Juvenile delinquency is a flimsy matter that needs full attention of persons involving to solve these substances thus for handling this child, special knowledge and expertise is required for both jail staff and lawyer.
- In jails police staff needs to be more educated psychologically, because if they are good psychologists they may be empathetic and understanding towards the delinquents
- Legal and social provisions must be provided to protect children from misuse, drug abuse, sexual abuse and vindictiveness and inequity.
- To enable the children to express their viewpoints on such matters which are distressing their lives including freedom of their choice, their daily life situation because if they are consulted regarding their matters they may take good quality decisions about their lives.

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