

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND OUR SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Children are the builder of the Nation. They are the greatest national asset and resource. In recent years, the Juvenile Delinquency is the breaking news of the media. Delinquent behaviour has assumed serious forms among the juveniles, which is a sign of sick society. Juvenile delinquency is a big breeding centre of criminals. Delinquency is an act or conduct of a juvenile which is socially undesirable. Juvenile delinquency generally means the failure of children to meet certain obligations expected from them by the society. Therefore, children being an important asset, every effort should be made to provide them equal opportunities for development so that they become robust citizens physically fit, mentally alert and morally healthy endowed with the skills and motivations needed by the society.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Society, National Asset, Skills and Motivation.

Introduction

According to Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2000 a juvenile means who is alleged to have committed an offence and has not completed 18 years of age as on the date of commission of such offence. Juvenile Delinquency means a violation of the law committed by a juvenile that would have been a crime if committed by an adult. 'Delinquent Juvenile' means a juvenile who has been found to have committed an offence.

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

In recent years, the Juvenile Delinquency is the breaking news of the media. Delinquent behaviour has assumed serious forms among the juveniles, which is a sign of sick society. Juvenile delinquency is a big breeding centre of criminals. In fact, there is a growing tendency among youngsters to be arrogant, violent and disobedient to law with the result Juvenile Delinquency has become a global phenomenon in the recent years. The causes for this increase in Juvenile Delinquency are as follows:

- **Adolescence Unstability:** The physical, biological, psychological and sociological factors are most important in adolescent behaviour. The age of puberty among girls has gone down by two or three years on an average. Today, Indian girls attain puberty at the age of thirteen or fourteen while they still remain mentally incapable of conceiving about the realities of life. They fall easy prey to sex involvement, they have no sense to realize the seriousness and consequences of their act. Their intolerance against restrictions appears as in this age the children want to maintain their own identity. Therefore, the physical, biological, psychological factors are responsible for delinquencies in juveniles or adolescents. We can say that the Juvenile Delinquency is affected by Adolescence instability.

Mental Factors: Mental factors are also the root causes for contributing Juvenile Delinquency because it is the real fact that as you sow you shall reap. They may determine delinquent behavior in one or more of three way:

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- Delinquency may be the direct response to, or expression of, a particular mental state. For example-Obsessive imagery.
- Delinquency may be the expression of certain impulses or emotions left uncontrolled or stimulated by a special mental condition, or it may be a symbolic representation of such impulses.
- Delinquency may be an attempt at adjustment or compensation for certain mental peculiarities.
- **Economic Factors:** Economic factors are also affected adolescence behaviour because in India economic growth has resulted into urbanization which in turn has given rise to new problems such as housing, overcrowding, slum dwelling, lack of parental control, family disintegration and so on. For supporting their family financially, makes it necessary for women to take up outdoor jobs. Thus, their children are left neglected at home without any parental control. With the result of non parental control, the juvenile to resort to wrongful means to satisfied their unnecessary wants. All these factors cumulatively lead to gigantic increase in juvenile delinquency.
- **Environment of Families:** It is the natural rule of life that how to nursed the child throughout his life and not only during the immaturity of age. The Juvenile Delinquency in some cases is the result of unhealthy home atmosphere. The behaviour of the parents with the children and the behaviour of parents amongst themselves are of vital concern in molding the child psychology from the very beginning. The families where parents observe virtuous and pious path, the children also tend to become virtuous and pious. The families where the parents indulge in undesirable activities i.e., use of unhealthy language, drug addicted, unfair business dealings, gambling, smoking etc. have impact on the mind of the children.
- **Companionship:** Juvenile Delinquency is much affected by the companionship. When the child starts to move outside his family, he comes in contact with various types of persons. He develops a definite circle of association outside the home ie. in the school, cousin, neighbor etc. He adapts the culture of the group to which he is associated. If he falls in the bad companionship, he starts to behave accordingly. If the parents are negligent in keeping their children in discipline, the children may suffer irreparably throughout the whole period of life They may develop delinquency and that may ultimately turn into criminality with the maturity of the age. Once a child falls prey to vicious circle, he cannot come out from this circle. Vicious groups quarrel themselves and also with different groups. Once a child is given protection and shelter by a group, he thinks it is his duty to stand by that group in all the circumstances whether right or wrong and that really is starting point of degeneration of his future life.
- **Dirty role of Social Media:** Children Psychology affected by dirty role of social media i.e. Vulgar Literature, Films, Television, and Mobile etc. These days the movies and television serials are dominated by the theme of sex and violence. The hero is depicted as infallible and insurmountable in the circumstances. The glamour of the life of the villain till he is exposed to public has also deep impact on the young mind. The life style of the villain may give the impression to the youngsters that by adopting the shortcut methods the richness and influence may come in their lives and actual consequences of misdeeds may fail to influence the tender mind. The children therefore become delinquents.
- **Failure in the School & College Life:** Some children may not be mentally prepared to go to school but the parents force them to go to the school. Some of the children adjust themselves whereas some of them may think the cruelty by their parents. Therefore, they may leave the classes and become truants and conceal this fact from the parents that they may pass their school time at some other place. These days the poor teaching in schools as well as in colleges, leak out examination papers by higher authorities, corruption are also responsible for truants of the children as they think that there is no use of going to school. Thus, they may develop delinquent behaviour. Due to failure in examinations, some of the children may be mentally disturbed and may leave home and may fall in delinquent and vicious habits.
- **Poverty:** Poverty is also one of the root causes of Juvenile Delinquency. Failure of parents to provide necessities of life such as food and clothing etc. indulges their children to delinquency in a quest of earning money by whatever means. Also, when the children see others enjoying the life with comforts and better living, the discontentment and consequently the desire to have these things by hook and crook develops giving birth to delinquency

- **Disintegration of Family System:** These days families are disintegrated which is the one of the root causes of increase in juvenile delinquency. The natural consequences of disintegration of the Family System are lack of parental control, absence of security and want of love and affection towards children due to working of both the parents, which are contributing factors for juvenile delinquency.
- **Matrimonial Disputes:** Unprecedented increase in divorce cases and matrimonial disputes is also the one of the root causes for juvenile delinquency and disrupting family solidarity. Today, man's hold over his family is declining fast. Undue discrimination among children has an adverse psychological effect on youngsters. Once a child feels neglected, he is bound to go astray and this furnishes a soothing ground for juvenile delinquency. The children, therefore, need affection, protection and guidance at home and have to be handled very carefully. Greater emphasis should be on preventing them from indulging into criminality rather than curing them after they have committed the offence. This is possible through proper education, training and child care.
- **Modern Culture:** The rapidly changing pattern in modern living also makes it difficult for children and adolescents to adjust themselves to new ways of life. They are confronted with the problem of culture conflict and are unable to differentiate between right and wrong. This may derive them to commit crime i.e. contributing Juvenile Delinquency.
- **Miscellaneous Factors:** Besides the aforesaid root causes, illiteracy, child labour, squalor, etc. are also some of the contributing factors aggravating juvenile delinquency

Conclusion

On the aforesaid discussion we can say that the factors contributing to delinquency are thus to be found not only in the mental and physical make-up of the individual, but also in his surroundings. Children are the builder of the Nation, greatest national asset and resource. In recent years, the Juvenile Delinquency is the breaking news of the media. Delinquent behaviour has assumed serious forms among the juveniles, which is a sign of sick society. Juvenile delinquency is a big breeding centre of criminals. To root out the Juvenile Delinquency certain measures will be adopted:

- Children being an important asset, every effort should be made to provide them equal opportunities for their development so that they become healthy citizens.
- Mother should be literate their girls about the age of puberty, their consequences, precautions etc.
- Gigantic increase in Juvenile delinquency is due to economic problem. Though both parents may go outside the home for their job but also must give the attention about the activities of their children whether they are going to right path or not. If necessary parents should be directed their children.
- The behaviour of the parents with the children and the behaviour of parents amongst themselves are of vital concern in molding the child psychology from the very beginning. Therefore, parents should be used healthy language in the family, should not be taken dugs, and should not be dealt with unfair dealings. If their children were prey of drug addiction, smoking, unfair dealings, and gambling then it is the duty of their parents that they should be tackled handle with care.
- Juvenile Delinquency is much affected by the companionship. Therefore, the parents should be aware about the company of their children. They should not be associated with bad companionship.
- Children Psychology affected by dirty role of social media. It is the moral duty of parents that they should not be seen dirty serials, should not be purchased vulgar literature and so on.
- Teaching learning process in schools and colleges should be made interesting, not boring. and cultured so that children have not feeling burden of teaching and not divert for delinquency.
- Parents should not be neglected their children due to their business of their life. They should be provided all necessities of their life as soon as possible. If not possible due to poverty then the parents should be tackle the condition with love and affection.
- The children need affection, protection and guidance at home and have to be handled very carefully by the parents. Greater emphasis should be on preventing them from indulging into criminality rather than curing them after they have committed the offence. Therefore, proper education, training and child care should be given by the parents.

- The law should be revised for child labour. If a child can beggar the foods then why he cannot take the foods via labour? Therefore child labour should be accepted rather than beggar the foods on the striate or lain. In this matter government should be taken the action.
- It is absolutely necessary to make a thorough investigation of the past and present life of the individual and of his mental and physical make-up. It is probable that this cannot be undertaken by one person; for it will involve making an extensive survey of past and present home conditions, past and present school, neighborhood, and occupational conditions, besides making complete mental and physical examinations of the case. If we will be adopted the aforesaid measures then we will certainly root out the gigantic causes of Juvenile Delinquency and we can say that "India is the Best".

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