

Juvenile Delinquency: Nature, Causes and Prevention



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Abstract

Juvenile delinquency is the interest by a minor youngster, generally between the ages of 10 and 17, in unlawful conduct or exercises. Adolescent wrongdoing is likewise used to allude to kids who display a tenacious conduct of naughtiness or insubordination, in order to be considered out of parental control, getting subject to lawful action by the judicial system. Juvenile delinquency is also known as 'Juvenile offending, and government has an overall set of laws set up to manage Juveniles who overstep the law. Juveniles are the future of the nation and they play a very significant role in nation. Preventing Juvenile delinquency can help in social and economic upliftment of the society. In this study the researcher has explained the nature and meaning of Juvenile delinquency, causes of juvenile delinquency and measures to prevent it.

Keywords: Juvenile. Delinquency, Juvenile

Introduction

Delinquency has consistently been considered as a social issue for beyond the way that it is a legal problems. It is additionally a psychological problem. Hence to avoid this social detestable one need to handle the complex problem of delinquency from the social psychological and to familial points. Legislators have enacted the legislation from Juvenile delinquency since long and amended the same time to time. Presently, in most of the developed and civilized nations of the world, the laws on Juvenile delinquency have been enacted. Special courts have been established in every state trained Magistrates for the trail of the Juvenile delinquency. Now a day's delinquency is being taken as a social nuisance and misbehavior which is considered as a crime. Therefore, in every state the children's Act, 1944 provides for the custody, control and punishment of young offenders. The act also provides for the establishment of reformatory schools for them. Through the revised Bombay Children's Act, 1948 provided the treatment and rehabilitation of young offenders instead of their custody and control.

Who is a Juvenile?

Section 2(k) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 characterizes a Juvenile or Child as an individual who has not finished eighteenth year old enough. A Juvenile is a youngster who has not met a particular age as

recommended by the law of a nation and doesn't withstand likeness as a developed individual who can be made lawfully subject for his crimes.

What is Juvenile delinquency

Juvenile Delinquency alludes to cooperation of minors in illicit wrongdoings/ crimes. At the point when an individual goes astray from the typical course of his public activity his conduct is named as a delinquent. At the end of the day when a juveniles activities end up being hazardous towards the general public and for him, he might be known as an juvenile delinquent. The demonstration of wrongdoing may incorporate fleeing from home, utilization of unseemly or revolting dialects, submitting sexual offenses and so forth.

Historical Background of Juvenile Justice System India

Before the Juvenile Justice Act 1986, sanctioned by the Parliament to give care, insurance, treatment, improvement and recovery to ignored or delinquent adolescents, the Juvenile Justice Act, 1960 was usable all through the nation. Later the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 came into power w.e.f. 30th December 2000 as the essential lawful system for Juvenile justice in India.

This Act was additionally amended in 2006 & 2010. In the wake of Delhi gang rape (sixteenth December 2012) this law endured a cross country analysis attributable to its weakness against

violations where juveniles engage in heinous crimes like murder and rape yet can't be tried. The Juvenile Justice Bill, 2014 was then passed by the Parliament in December, 2015 and it turned into the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. It came into power from fifteenth January 2016. Under the Act of 1986, Section 2(a) characterized the term juvenile as a "kid who has not achieved the age of 16 years and young lady who has not accomplished the age of 18 years". In the interim, India marked and approved the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989, which regarded an individual as a juvenile who is under 18 years old.

Definition and Nature of "Delinquency"

Delinquency is unwelcomed activity of a kid, which is socially not allowed in the general public. Juvenile delinquency is the demonstration of perpetrating a crime at an extremely youthful age. An juvenile delinquent is a youngster, especially a youngster younger than eighteen, who breaks law by carrying out a crime.

Juvenile delinquency is an issue which is characterized as "a kid acting like a grown-up". The activity of the youngster may appear to be absurd however it's a matter of genuine concern. It is accepted that delinquency is viewed as just when the conduct of the youngster is unsafe. Acts or conditions comprising delinquency may be defined as "encroachment of any law or mandate, constant nonappearance/ absence, coalition with hoodlums, ruthless or shameless people, and savage beyond power of parent or guardians".

Juveniles are still immature and don't think like grown-ups, consequently they are inclined to committing errors or perpetrating violations that are not completely in their control. Juveniles can violate laws for different reasons, and there are various components that can lead them to juvenile delinquency.

Juvenile Delinquents

Juvenile delinquents are regularly characterized as youngsters between the ages of 10 and 17 who have carried out a criminal demonstration. There are two primary sorts of guilty parties or offenders: recurrent offenders and age explicit offenders.

Repeat Offenders

Recurrent offenders are otherwise called "life-course steady wrongdoers." These juvenile delinquents start culpable or giving different indications of standoffish conduct during immaturity. Recurrent offenders keep on

participating in crimes or aggressive and forceful practices even after they enter adulthood.

Age-Specific Offenders

This kind of juvenile delinquent conduct starts during childhood immaturity. In contrast to the recurrent offenders in any case, the practices of the age-explicit offenders close before the minor turns into a grown-up. The practices that an adolescent show during youthfulness is frequently a decent pointer of the kind of offender he will turn into. While age-explicit offenders give up their delinquent conduct when they enter adulthood, they regularly have more mental wellness issues, participate in substance misuse, and have more prominent monetary issues than grown-ups who were never delinquent as adolescents.

Causes of Child Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency happens at various stages and it might change in degree. The youngster being the fate of the nation ought to be given a decent climate wherein he/she can support himself/herself. These days, Juveniles are taking part in different serious offenses like murder, rape, dacoity, burglary, theft. There are endless causes behind the mystic of a delinquent kid which is further characterized in two general classes:

- Biological causes
- Societal and Environmental causes

Biological causes

Ocular Ailments- It is an illness of retina which can bring about the deficiency of vision. It prompts crabbiness and inconvenience which will additionally hamper Juveniles in having an ethical existence

Hearing Problem- deafness or inadequacy of hearing prompts the lack of ability to accomplish any work appropriately which further prompts introverted/ antisocial conduct.

Excessive Strength- A youngster who has had excessive strength and his psychological quality being crude will prompt the irregularity in the body which will additionally urge a kid to do a misconduct

Societal and Environmental Causes

Cultural Conflicts- The urbanization and modernization have brought about drifting of individuals which has additionally prompted the contention between the migrants and the occupants. India likewise played as a survivor of social clash during the hour of Indo-Pak segment in 1947, where the outsiders from Sindh settled

down in India and came about into a monstrous expansion in the crime percentage.

Broken Family- A youngster embraces good and moral qualities from his folks and other relatives. It's implied that family assumes an indispensable part in forming an adolescent's conduct and prepping his/her character. Be that as it may, teenagers become vicious or give indications of adolescent delinquencies just when they're confronting aggravation at home. Broken or upset families with awful relations can make youngsters get sidetracked and get fierce. Single guardians are frequently busy working; therefore they're not ready to invest quality time with their youngsters. This makes youngsters look for consideration from others, particularly their friends.

Socio-Economic Condition- These days, cash is a parameter to pass judgment on an individual's cultural status. Everybody around is so occupied in acquiring that the guardians are not having the opportunity to care for their wards which further leads a kid to enjoy criminal operations.

Neighborhood- One thing leads to another, as the parents/guardians are busy in their own livelihood, the bad influence of neighbors also tend to destroy the genesis of a child.

Trend of Alcoholism- It has become a design among the youngsters to have a dose of alcohol. By and large, it is the purpose behind a battle among the Husband and the Wife, which drives an awful impact on the kid. It is important to save an order in the home for the appropriate childhood and to make a cordial atmosphere for a child. The family should deal with youngster appropriately else they might be indulging in commission of offence.

Peer Pressure- The conduct of an individual normally relies on the friends. Packs go about as a contributory factor towards the commission of an offense. On the off chance that a kid stays with different offenders, at that point he will be more inclined to the crimes which he was unable to consider alone.

Cinema and Social Media- films and web-based media assume a significant part in the general improvement of an individual. What they watch via web-based media and TV they attempt to do in their real life too. The guardians should focus on their kids, they should not refrain from watching any substance yet rather they should attempt to instill some virtues in the kids.

Significance of School- The school assumes a critical part in the childhood of a youngster; it is where the kid has the nearest connection with different kids for so long. "School is normally thought as a valuable organization yet when it neglects to play out its assigned capacities, it might become by virtue of its carelessness, a principle supporter of misconduct."

Violence breeds violence Frequently, potential culprits are the victims of viciousness. People may face savagery in an assortment of social settings: in family, school, and so on. Youngsters who have encountered brutality are well on the way to have encroached associations with grown-ups, can't speak with their friends, and become "menaces" to substantiate themselves, at times they interface their destiny to a criminal climate.

Imitation – Does one crime provoke others A person experiences a few phases of social turn of events, among which adolescence and childhood are significant. Values, patterns of conduct, and thought processes are framing in youth age. At this stage, family and guardians assume a significant job in an individual's life. Further, in adolescence, individuals attempt to characterize their own personality, attempt to build up themselves, and frequently the impact of guardians is supplanted by the impact of friends and peers. Subsequently, the explanation behind juvenile delinquency can become imitation. They can follow the activities of: family individuals who participate in criminal conduct; Peers inclined to perpetrating criminal acts;

Poor financial status, impassive demeanor of guardians, sensations of mediocrity, absence of consideration, and numerous different reasons can prompt different sorts of mental issues in youngsters and teenagers. For instance, wretchedness, fears & complexes, over the top animosity, and so forth. This can incite the minor to carry out misconduct.

Street children:- the issue with respect to destitute kids remains a serious concern. Children living on the streets, because of poor financial and social conditions, can be considered as one of the danger gatherings, as they are destitute kids, who see "hooliganism" as the lone method of their existence.

"Impunity Syndrome" in minors. This implies that a minor knowing there won't be a punishment for a crime may re-outrage. Grown-ups on the streets misuse this circumstance for their potential benefit, and there are situations

when generally grown-up and "experienced" kids force the younger ones to carry out crime realizing that they can "maintain a strategic distance from the threat."

Lack of Communication - Often absence of talk in the family can lead youngsters to discover comfort other than homes. At the point when they are not having any correspondence with their folks or relatives at home, they may lose solidarity, trust, and comprehension, which can at last lower their confidence and self esteem. When they feel they're losing their independence, they will in general do things they shouldn't do to help their self-assurance. They indiscriminately follow their companions and embrace their undesirable ways of life. They shoplift and devour drugs to look cool among their friends.

Lack of Finances- Lack of Finances-Young or grown-up, may prompt an off-base way to improve their monetary conditions. Teenagers become juvenile delinquents because of absence of funds. At the point when they experience poor financial conditions, they begin participating in some unacceptable exercises. They may begin selling drugs or steal things to improve their monetary conditions.

Lack of Social and Moral Training- Lack of Social and Moral Training Teens who have not given any moral or social training, frequently lead to juvenile delinquency. It is the parent's obligation to show good and moral qualities to their youngsters. They should show them the contrast among good and bad conduct. Absence of moral and social values can lead kids to poor interaction with others and make them less confident. They may get egotistical and pompous. They would not realize how to regard the laws of the state. Guardians sometimes neglect their children and pay more spotlight on endeavoring to bring in cash for them. Be that as it may, at the same time, they fail to remember the significance of investing quality time with children. In their nonattendance, kids will in general invest energy with somebody who focuses on them. They may likewise fall into wrong hands or engage in a terrible company while looking for consideration from somebody other than their folks.

Risk Factors and Predictors of Juvenile Delinquency

Numerous kids collect the mark of juvenile delinquent early, frequently between the ages of 6 and 12 years. Numerous adolescent practices

during the pre-youngster and high school years might be viewed as ordinary conduct for kids, as they stretch their limits, and battle to build up their self-insight. There are, nonetheless, certain signs that a kid may be going a terrible way. Indicators of adolescent misconducts may show up as ahead of schedule as preschool, and frequently include:

- Abnormal or slow development of basic skills, such as speech and language
- Chronic violation of the rules
- Serious aggressive behavior toward other students or teachers

As per the studies done on this, it has been found that various life circumstances incorporate risk factors for a child to become a juvenile delinquent. Whereas, the most common risk factors for juvenile delinquency are as follows:

- Authoritarian Parenting – these parents use harsh disciplinary methods without any justification of them justify disciplinary actions, other than by saying "because I said so."
- Peer Association – because of the reason that leaving adolescents unsupervised, encouraging a child to engage in bad behaviors when dealing with with his peer group.
- Low Socioeconomic Status
- Permissive Parenting – parents provide for lack of consequences for bad behavior, permissive parenting can be broken down into two subcategories: (1) neglectful parenting, which is a lack of monitoring a child's activities, and (2) indulgent parenting, which is the enablement of bad behavior.
- Poor or ignorant School Performance
- Peer Rejection
- ADHD and other psychological disorder

Dealing with Juvenile Delinquency

The methods continued in the juvenile justice system contrast extraordinarily from those followed for adult offenders. Each state has specific system and programs to deal with juvenile delinquents. Juveniles come into contact of police in number of ways. Some are discovered carrying out a crime and arrested, others are alluded to police by guardians or school authorities. When the police have gotten included, they may decide to manage an adolescent offender severally. The police can:

- Warn and then release the minor
- detain the minor and inform the parents to receive him
- bring the case to juvenile court
- arrest the minor and refer the case to juvenile court

After bringing the case to the court, the minor and the parents came into contact with a juvenile court intake officer. The intake officer can tackle the case informally, referring the juvenile delinquent to a probation officer, he can dismiss the case, or he can file formal charges. When deciding whether to file charges, officers often consider:

- the offense
- Age of the offender
- Previous record of the offender
- Educational and social history of the offender
- Capability of the parents to control the offender's behavior or seek help

If charges are put before juvenile court, the charges are read before the magistrate and the minor is arraigned. The judge then has authority to decide whether to detain or release the juvenile till when the hearing takes place. After appearing in court, three things may happen:

Plea Agreement – After complying with the certain conditions, such as paying restitution, obeying a curfew, or attending counseling minor may enter a plea agreement with the court.

Diversion – the judge has power to divert the case. Which includes that he retains control over the matter until the juvenile successfully completes treatment programs or performs community services. If the juvenile fails to comply, formal charges may be reinstated.

Adjudicatory Hearing – The judge has the power to do an adjudicatory hearing, which is a trial in a juvenile case. With arguments and production of evidence by both the parties, a juvenile trial takes place in front of a judge, not a jury. If, at the end of the hearing, the judge decides the juvenile is delinquent, he may order punishments such as probation, community service, or even detention in a juvenile center.

Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

Prevention is very much required for such children to maintain peace, security and justice in the country. First of all, identifying such juveniles and then providing them with the required treatment is the utmost need of the hour. These

adolescents may become habitual offenders if not stopped from committing crimes and taken care timely. Further, to prevent juvenile delinquency the most effective way is to assist such children and their families at the very initial stage. The State programs in this regard attempt at early intervention, allowing several groups to tackle this problem in a so many ways. There are lots of jurists and criminologists who suggests many enactments for prevention of juvenile delinquency. Some of these provisions which are very helpful for the welfare, development and growth of the juveniles are as follows:

Individual Programs: These programs favor the prevention of juvenile delinquency through counselling, psychotherapy and adequate education on the subject.

Environmental Programs: These programs include the employment of techniques with an object to change the socio-economic context likely to promote delinquency.

Delinquency Prevention is a wider term which includes all efforts done to prevent youth from getting involved in criminal or other antisocial activities. Governments are recognizing the importance of allocating resources for the prevention of delinquency. Prevention includes the activities like substance abuse education, treatment, youth mentoring, family counselling, educational support, parenting education and youth sheltering. The availability of education, and encouragement of minors to obtain education, plays a large role in prevention of juvenile delinquency. This is because education promotes social cohesion, and helps children of all ages learn to make good choices, and to practice self-control.

Conclusion

While the environment where the adolescents live are certainly significant, it is crucial to take note of that these conditions collaborate with the qualities of the adolescents themselves to produce differentiating levels of change. As we see from the above discussion, not all the reasons of reserved conduct lie in dysfunctional, disorganized families, rejecting parental styles and other familial variables, developing evidence received from investigations and studies recommend that certain adolescents are at high risk for being rejected by their families and friends for being occupied with different sorts of antisocial conduct. These youngsters are the persons showing a great extent of aggression,

disruptive and hyperactive behavior. They tend to show inactive and irritative behavior, do not pay attention to others, complain a lot and sometimes behaves like a small kid. Finally, it is concluded that both the individual factors including temperament and environmental factors play important roles in the causation of juvenile delinquency, particularly with regard to complex aspects of behavior.

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