

Sub-Culture of Juvenile Delinquency in India

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Abstract

Juvenile delinquency is one the major problem to which India is subjected to, a social evil that put the future of the country at stake. This article deals with the nature of the origin of delinquent activities and the stages at which it takes place with perspective to Durkheim's theory of "suicide". If the nature and the origin of a juvenile is understood than it is more beneficial to construct an approach not just to cure the social evil of delinquencies but also to campaign some preventions measure so as to stop such activities from its very root of origin. This article focused on such approach along with a logistic understanding of the nature of the origin and culture of juvenile delinquencies.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Slum Culture, Anomic cause, Egoistic cause, Altruistic cause

The major difference between a criminal and a juvenile is the legal procedure of trial and the judicial prescription of the age that has been defined by the law of the land. Otherwise, the crime executed by an active adult criminal and that of a juvenile is no different. The juveniles are simply under-aged criminals engage in activities like thievery, addiction, sex violence, murder etc. which are the constituted crimes usually committed by adults. The minimum age of juvenile delinquents according to the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 for girls it is 18 years while for boys its 16 years. It is necessary to understand that why the incidents of juvenile delinquency is taking place. Its evident that such pathological process which creates a negative psychological approach among the adolescents is not just a mere an process of one or two days rather it is an outcome of some suppressed emotions or lack of constraints to direct one's behaviour or their needs according to the social conformity. Delinquency is a form of deviant action that takes place among the adolescents to fulfil their demands or needs at any cost (even at the cost others).

Cause of delinquent actions

Juvenile delinquency finds its origin as in the form of internal factor which is the out burst of emotions in an

excessive way and external factor which is the excessive influence of peer group and modern culture, with these two combining the causes have been explained as:-

- *Egoistic cause:* It's a two way process, at one side too much constraints on the young ones and having a non-emotional communication or lack of proper communication between parents and their children where the parents always dominate their children with their decision in an drastic form especially when the relationship focuses between a father and a son. The depressed emotion which has been suppressed for a long period of time finally comes out like a volcano as a deviant form of behaviour in which the children stops respecting their parents and starts rebelling their decisions. Here the children start thinking their parents as of their enemies. At the other side, when there is complete lack of guidance on the development stage of adolescent's rational thinking. Parents making their wishful urges true at every cost and when there is lack of constraints on children while selecting their peer group or making them aware of good peer group or bad peer group. In such a child may grow as an adult person who knows his/her demands and the ways to achieve them but he/she may not be morally socialised to decide whether to select the conformity way or

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deviant way to achieve those demands.

- *Altruistic cause:* Egoistic and altruistic cause is very much complimentary to each other. Egoistic cause leads to the next cause of any delinquency action and that is altruistic cause where due to pathological relation with parents or lack of emotional attachment with parents, children feels more comfortable and connected to their peer group. Matter of fact at some point of time later they becomes more committed to their peer group than their parents. To be a part of peer group becomes more important than to be part of the family for an adolescent, decisions which are recommended by the peers starts sounding more appropriate than the decisions of the parents and to satisfy the demand of self and peers becomes the prime goal. The psychological questioning that children and adolescents develops in their mind that "my parents don't care about me then why should I care for them?" or "what my parents have done for me all these years?" In such situation the child or adolescents may stay with his/her parents which are visible but emotionally they got completely detached.
- *Anomic cause:* By anomic we mean a state of norm less. It's a kind of an living situation and environment which is imposed on the children by all the levels of social evils from which they can't get out rather they accept it as a part of their life which construct a vicious reality in their everyday life. For example. A family which has disposed a child in a dustbin because it is a girl, now another person gets access to that girl child and when she grows up to the age of 10 or 12 she is forced to child prostitution. In such inhuman case, the child never had the opportunity to know her rights that can give her justice, even she feels her own self inferior than other human beings, as an object to entertain other's urges either by her will or against her will.
- *Slum culture:* The main problem to which any slum area subjected to is poverty and unemployment. By combining these two factors it becomes difficult for the slum poor to meet their daily needs or to have a healthy standard of living. Thus the children of those who grow up in such miserable condition develops the thought process that one have to fulfil one's needs at any cost even at the cost of other's life, property or money. Thus it is observable that children in such areas are easily subjected to thievery. On the next stage, where parents don't put proper checks on their children's process of pathological socialization easily get subjected to addiction of smoking, alcohol and drugs. In such delinquent culture, the boys also prevails a detrimental outlook towards girls due to lack of their moral socialization. **Dharavi of Mumbai** the largest slum area in India and in Asia where it is observable the co-existence of slum culture and sub-culture of delinquencies.

Stages of delinquency

Juvenile delinquency from its beginning point to its extreme form takes place in three stages:-

- *Pre-stage:* When there is conflict between the perspective of parents and their child and their child is ready to take any drastic step to put his/her will for execution. Such can be explained with an example, an adolescent demanding for a bike at any cost since his friends have a bike, so it is at the egoistic level that the boy wants to have a bike while his parents are not in such financial position to afford a bike. In such case, when the boy is not ready to understand the reality reasonably rather wants to fulfil his own demands by any means, he might take the money from the locker of his parents without taking their consent to buy a bike. This is a form thievery that he did for the first time in his life.
- *Semi-pro stage:* In city life, late night parties among the youngsters and adolescents are getting popular and such becoming a form of culture among them where they are easily get subjected to drinking alcohol and more profoundly to drugs. However such addiction is not just prevalent among the high class adolescents but also takes place among the lower class or slum poor. Even to support such addiction one need money and thus they ask their parents for money either by lying or by stealing from one's own house or by stealing other's property.
- *Pro-stage:* In this stage the adolescents in order to satisfy their urges is ready to fulfil at the cost of other's life. Here he is now psychologically stable and prepared to commit crimes like that of an adult. In such case the crimes may be of property destruction, bodily harm, murder, robbery, rape etc. this is the consequence of the development of a negative thought process among the children and adolescents due to more influence of negative peers, anti-socialization and lack of moral socialization. However under the circumstances of anomic cause a juvenile may skip any of the first two stages to reach the pro-stage.

Acts for juveniles in India

The *Apprentices Act, 1850* was the first legislation dealing with children in conflict with the law in India. The Indian Jail Committee was established in 1919 urged for demonstrating separate institutions and to have separate trials for juveniles. Reformation and rehabilitation of juveniles was the main motive of the law. *Juvenile Justice Act, 1986* was an outcome of **United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice** and India became the first country to grow a system based on this principle. The main reason of this act was to bring the operation of juvenile justice system in conformity with

the rules of UNSMRAJJ. Other objectives were to form a uniform legal framework of juvenile justice, to provide specialized approach towards the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency, to come up with a mechanism and infrastructure for juvenile justice operations, to establish norms and standards for the administration of juvenile justice, to develop a coordination between the formal system and the voluntary agencies and to constitute some serious offences in relation to juvenile and to prescribe punishment accordingly. *Juvenile Justice act, 2000 (care and protection of children)* came in execution to overcome some of the flaws which were found in the Act of 1986. The interim report of the **Working Group of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** suggested incorporating some additional inputs in the juvenile justice system. The upper age limits for the boys increased up to the age of 18 years which would increase the coverage of juvenile population by seven times. *Juvenile Justice Act, 2015* replaced the Act of 2000, so that juveniles in conflict laws in the age group of 16-18 years involved in inhuman offences can be execute for trials as an adult.

Conclusion

It is true that no society is free from crimes, but juvenile delinquency is such a social evil which is more dangerous than any other crimes. This is because it involves children and adolescents, those to whom we consider the future of our country is getting subjected to the vicious evils of crimes and thus the future of the country remains at stake. Juvenile delinquency is making new addition to the core part to the sub-culture of criminals and it is a major threat to young India. It is not just the lower class of the society but every section of the society is getting subjected to it. Though it is factual that the prevalence

of delinquencies more among the lower class than the middle and upper class. Laws and regulations can act as a cure to such crimes but what is more required is a proper process for 'moral socialization' through psychological and environmental approach especially among the boys who are more subjected to delinquent activities than girls. Here comes the responsibility of the parents also to be always connected with their children emotionally and mentally, appraise their conformity action and constrain any of their deviant thought at the very beginning level in a very logistic way. Since family is an important agent of primary socialization thus it has the prime and integral role to play and not to lead their children fall for the dark side of life.

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