

An Intricate Research on Psycho-Social Prediction of Juvenile Delinquency

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Abstract— Juvenile delinquency, also known as ‘Juvenile offending’, is the act of children under the age of 18 participating in unlawful behavior. Juvenile delinquency a serious problem within the society due to modern urbanization and industrialization. Some Juveniles are diagnosed with conduct disorder which may lead to anti-social personality disorder after the juvenile turns 18 which may become the cause for the child to become a serious criminal in the future. Psychosocial prediction helps us to find out their psychological and social factors. Psychosocial study helps in identifying their personality trait, behavior and the reasons leading them to become a juvenile. This study includes various factors like their education, family, peer group, financial condition etc. This research helps in developing the psychological and physiological aspects of the juveniles in their day to day life.

Index Terms—Anti-social personality disorder, Juvenile delinquency, Psycho-social prediction, Physiological aspects

I. INTRODUCTION

Juveniles are children under the age of eighteen. Juvenile delinquents are children who commit crimes knowing or unknowingly. Juvenile delinquents commit crimes due to their psycho-social behaviour being disturbed by certain circumstances.

Psycho-social behaviour is the combination of the psychological and social behaviour of a person. The psycho-social behaviour of a person or group influence and determine their relationships, their ability to work and their attitude towards others. A personality of a human is also influenced by their psycho-social development through eight stages as stated by Ericson. The variation in psycho-social behaviour of a person in each stage of life also decides their personality in those respective stages and sometimes even the upcoming stages.

The psycho-social behaviour of the juvenile delinquents plays an important role in influencing them to commit a crime and sometimes commit crimes habitually. Children with psycho-social dysfunction usually have difficulty functioning normally in social situations and may have trouble forming and maintaining close interpersonal relationships which may become a reason for them to become delinquents. This is concerned with development of every person’s intellectual, emotional, social, creative and physical potentials. It encourages personal and collective responsibility.

II. PSYCHO-SOCIAL THEORY

The personality of a human develops in an order through eight stages of psycho-social development, from infancy to adulthood. A person faces a psycho-social crisis in each stage which leads to a positive or negative personality outcome. These eight stages of personality were developed by Ericson. These eight stages are to develop the self-awareness and allow us to emphasise the social nature of human being and the important influence of the social relationships have on development.

Ericson’s stages of psycho-social developments are, trust vs mistrust, autonomy vs shame/doubt, initiative vs guilt, industry vs inferiority, identity vs confusion, intimacy vs isolation, generativity vs stagnation and integrity vs despair. These eight tasks explain what happens at this stage.

There are seven stages of development in human being during their life span. These stages are infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood and old age. The psycho-social personality of a human varies in each stage.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Tidefors et al, 2011 have studied some background variables, such as, family problems, parents who are addicted to alcohol or drugs, etc. through self-report instruments which explains that how an individual experiences himself or herself, the degree of insight and how they want to disclose themselves to others. Other factors, such as anger, depression, disruptive behaviour and also children, who have lived in foster homes, have been considered important in this study.

M. Brent Donnellan et al, 2005 in a study on psychological science stated that low self-esteem is related to aggression, antisocial behaviour, and delinquency.

Peiser (2001) in a study on the impact of family relations and personality factors on delinquent behaviour among youth stated that the parental discipline style is considered as a key variable that helps in examining the contribution of family and personality factors to delinquency.

Weatherburn and Lind (1997) in the study on Social and Economic Stress, Child Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency observed that the reasons for delinquency in urban and rural areas where same such as social and economic stress, child neglect, and child abuse. According to them the social and economic disadvantages are the root cause which leads to an increasing rate in the offences such as theft, robbery.

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Hirschi (1969) studied the causes of delinquency in which he stated that children with strong social bond will commit less crime than those who have weak social bond.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design:

Applying the holistic research design the researcher has drawn up the design. Research design is a scientific method which involves observing and describing the behavior without any influence.

B. Universe of the study:

Researcher considered the topic and included the inmates of the observation home for delinquent juveniles located in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu as the universe of the research.

C. Tools Used:

Researcher is applying case study for the research. An interview schedule method is employed to collect the data from the respondents.

D. Objectives of The Study:

1. To study their psycho-social behaviour through case study.
2. To find the common psycho-social behaviour in the inmates which made them delinquent juveniles.

E. Inclusion Criteria:

1. Only Juvenile delinquents in Coimbatore was taken into account.
2. The children under the age 18 were taken.

F. Exclusion Criteria:

1. Juveniles other than delinquents are not considered.
2. Juvenile delinquents outside Coimbatore are not taken into account.

V. CASE STUDY

The researcher has included a few samples of the case study done with the delinquents in the observation home, Coimbatore.

Case study sample 1:

Age: 17

Locality: Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu

Educational qualification: 8th

Parent's occupation and status: Construction labour (Non-cordial)

Reason for being in the observation home: Child marriage, POCSO

Duration the delinquent is kept in the home: 2.5 months

What/who induced the juvenile in committing the crime? None

The delinquent juvenile said "I was operating kids play equipment like a mini giant wheel during festivals for my living and the girl whom I married was working as a construction labour. We once met during a festival, spoke, exchanged phone numbers and later started liking each other. Her parents were trying to get her married to someone else and started forcing her for the same. In the fear of her getting married to someone else we married and fled to my

parent's place. We stayed there for about eleven days before we were caught by the police as her parents had filed a complaint stating their child had been missing". In this case there is no symptom of any external factor or person influencing the delinquent to commit the crime.

Case study sample 2:

Age: 16

Locality: Coimbatore

Educational qualification: 9th

Parent's occupation and status: Nil (Non-cordial)

Reason for being in the observation home: POCSO

Duration the delinquent is kept in the home: 3 months

What/who induced the juvenile in committing the crime? Peer group elder to the delinquent

"I was working in a small milk shop where the owner had a young daughter. Few elders working with me showed videos with pornographic content in it which poisoned my mind. One day the owner went out asking me to look after the shop and her daughter. Tempted by the pornography that I was watching, I had intercourse with the kid. She then told her friend about what happened who informed her parents and later came to the knowledge of the kid's parents. Then her parents filed a complaint and the police arrested me", the delinquent juvenile said.

Case study sample 3:

Age: 12

Locality: Erode

Educational qualification: 5th

Parent's occupation and status: Labours (Cordial)

Reason for being in the observation home: Theft

Duration the delinquent is kept in the home: 14 days

What/who induced the juvenile in committing the crime? Peer group and desperate for money as he is away from his parents who forced him to study.

According to the delinquent juvenile's statement, he came away from his parents since he was not good at studies which his parents were forcing him for. Later he started working in a cloth dyeing company. He got new friends with whom he started going out usually. One day his friend got caught for stealing a metal rod which was laid on railway track and sold it for cash. Since he was always roaming about with the other guy, the people around had informed the police that both the guys had done the theft together which became the reason for his stay in the observation home now.

VI. ANALYSIS & RESULTS

The researcher analysed the following factors that influenced and changed the psycho-social behaviour of the children making them delinquent juveniles. Due to no family support from the young age, the delinquents were forced to make their own decisions and as a result they made rash decisions. As there was no support from the parents, the delinquents also took after their parent's behaviour resulting in copying the bad aspects of human behaviour. As a

majority of the delinquents are school drop-outs, basic education was lacking which is the foundation for any human being. Peer group plays an important role in daily life and bad decisions often were a result of bad influence from people in the circle. Drug usage lead to addiction and affected the mental stability and decision making of the delinquents. For a stable life, a steady source of income is necessary which was lacking in their life as the parents were of no help in the delinquent's upbringing.

VI. CONCLUSION

This case study points to the psycho-social prediction of 12 juvenile delinquents. The factors that affect the behaviour of them is co-related, starting from lack of parental support to insufficient education of the social needs and ways to live a stable and healthy life was a result of the above listed factors shining a light on their mental health and inappropriate environmental factors. This in turn affects the behaviour of the delinquents and to bring about a change, we need widespread education about the causes and effects of the psycho-social behaviour in rural areas.

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