



SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR INCREASING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND VARIOUS REHABILITATIVE MEASURES OF GOVERNMENT

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Abstract

Children show good performance when their surrounding environment is good positive and supportive towards them. Physical, psychological moral and spiritual development makes children competent conscious and makes them able to understand their capabilities. On the other hand broken families, detrimental environment, lack of basic requirements lack of parental guidance and care etc. are some of the socio-economic factors that caused for increasing juvenile delinquency in the society. Through the present study focus has been throw on the some major socio-economic and psychological factors that caused for juvenile delinquency and various measures taken by government for the rehabilitation of child criminals.

Keywords – juvenile Delinquency, socio-economic causes, measures of rehabilitation.



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I) Introduction – Nurturing child is a crucial in every child's life and if provide proper care, attention in a right way the child grows in constructive manner. Children behave in a good manner when the factors like socio-economic condition, psychological condition, surrounding environments etc. are good and positive and which support them positively in shaping of their life. Physical, psychological moral and spiritual development makes children competent conscious and makes them able to understand their capabilities. On the other hand, detrimental environment lack of basic requirements, poor parenting care and supervision etc. are some of the major factors that induce child to become criminal or juvenile delinquent. The problem of juvenile delinquency not only affecting on the family but also affecting on the society at large. The term juvenile delinquency refers to the violation of criminal code and or pursuit of certain patterns of behavior disapproved of for children and young adolescents. The second United Nations Congress on the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders (1960) pointed out that if the term juvenile delinquency is restricted to those juveniles in the country who have committed criminal offences, it would seem that no universal definition is required.

It is observed that majority of the children who are in conflict with the law have committed miscellaneous crimes or minor offences like vagrancy truancy, begging or alcohol use etc. some of those offences are known as status offences. The main concern area is the increasing juvenile crime rate in the overall crimes committed by children due to various socio-economic and psychological factors. Which are caused for increasing rate of juvenile delinquency in India. Through the present study, efforts have been made to study causes and explore the various rehabilitation measures taken by government.

II) Literature Review- 1) Ryan Spohn, (2007), has taken a systematic approach towards the juvenile delinquency. Overall this book represents a comprehensive introduction to child criminals and juvenile justice system in USA. Through the book author, has addressed the nature extend and causes of child crimes. Through the study author has also focused on the measurements, trends and patterns of child crimes. There are substantial section in the book which is devoted to theory, research, prevention and control of child crimes. The latter segments of the book include overviews of the main elements of juvenile justice system and addressing issues of policy analysis, deterrence and rehabilitation, explanations regarding child delinquency and societal responsibility and efforts to eradicate child offences are interpreted through the four generic theories that is – Strain, Social learning, Control and Labeling.

2) Kavita, (2012), has stated that, the term delinquency describes a person guilty of an offence against the customs. In the opinion of author, there are two major factors of juvenile delinquency that is legal and the non-legal. Through the study author has focused on the concept of juvenile delinquency. Author has pointed out the root causes of child crimes, that is economic causes, social environmental causes and family based causes, school environmental causes, bad company of friends etc. Through the study author has also discussed on the remedies provided under the juvenile justice (care and protection of children) Act 2000. Author has discussed on the child welfare committee, shelter homes, special juvenile police, the rehabilitation and social reintegration, adoption of child, foster care, sponsorship etc. Author has suggested that, suitable home conditions should be provided to a child to prevent him to be a child offender. Author has also opined that, the government should also protect the rights of these children by implementing various reformative methods and instill in them good social values so that they can become a responsible citizen in the society.

3) A. Gupta, S. Biddala and M. Dwivedi, (2015), have assessed the socio-demographic causes and characteristics and aggression quotient of children in conflict with the law staying in observation homes situated in all over India. Through the study author have observed that, the selected juvenile delinquents are belonged to the very poor socio-economic conditions, bad family background etc. In the opinion of authors, it is impossible to find out a single reason for a child crime. According to author, reason of child crime are varies child to child. Author have pointed out that, combination of factors such as broken home, bad family conditions, addicted parents, peer group force or bad company of friends etc., also plays an important role in increasing the rate of child crime in India. Apart from this authors have pointed out that children in conflict with the law were relatively more aggressive than normal child. Author have concluded that, it is necessary to find out the causes for children being in conflict with the law to prevent them from indulge in anti-social activities, crime, harmful and illegal conduct and implement an appropriate policy for the juvenile justice system.

4) Amit Bhaumic, (2015), has observed that, in India, the range of indulging of child in crimes is varies considerably from culture to culture and community to community. Through the study author has focused on the etymological meaning of juvenile delinquency in the context of India, definition of juvenile delinquency, various types of juvenile delinquency, causes of child crime etc. Author has focused on the various preventive measures implemented by the government, Indian jail committee and its recommendation etc., and explained the various Acts related to children implemented in different Indian states, and various rehabilitation centers for child offenders. Author has concluded that, in India, child offences have acquired a new dimension, due to rapid industrialization and urbanization. In the opinion of author, to overcome the problem of child offence, prevention is better than cure. Author has suggested that, preventive methods should be formulated in the context of family, because any preventive method is directly connected to the family problems. According to the author, efforts should be made at all levels that is, at governmental level, NGO level and at family level to overcome the problem of juvenile delinquency.

III) Significance of the study – Juvenile delinquency or child criminals is one of the major problems in India today. Due to this problem there is a individual disorganization or deviance which again caused to create extraordinary complex among children and their social environment. Several factors are caused for increasing rate of crimes and restrictive family type broken family poverty had company of friends etc. All these factors are majorly responsible for determining the gravity of the problem. The nature of juvenile delinquency

problem is varies from person to person, place to place,culture to culture. The nature of problem though vary in various parts of the country it has posed a serious menace in every states districts, cities in India today. Therefore, it is important to study of these factors in detail. Apart from this the present study is also important with a view to explore the various measures taken by the government the rehabilitation of such children.

IV) Objectives of the study – Taking into consideration of the importance of the study two main objectives have been formulated, these objectives are –

- i) To study the major socio-economic and psychological factors which are caused for increasing juvenile delinquency in India.
- ii) To explore the main measures taken by the government for the rehabilitation of the criminal children.

V) Scope and limitations of the study – A study of juvenile delinquency is very vast and to study its various aspects is also very comprehensive and can be studied from various angles. Therefore the scope of the present study is confined to focused on the various socio-economic and psychological factors that caused for increasing rate of juvenile delinquency in the society and to explore main measures adopted by the government for the rehabilitation of the child criminals. The study is restricted to the Maharashtra state only, therefore the results or conclusion of the study cannot be generalized to the other states in India. Apart from this the present study is limited for the years 2011 to 2016 only. The present study is based on the reliability of the secondary data.

VI) Research Methodology – The present study is qualitative and descriptive, that is methodology followed for the study includes qualitative and descriptive information which focuses on the various socio-economic and psychological aspects of child criminals. For the study purpose qualitative strategy of extracting the information about study topic through various study papers published in national and international journals, periodicals, published books, and discussions with social expert police officers etc. all these sources were used with focused approach with the objective of the study.

VII) Sources of data collection – As stated above the present study is based on the secondary data only. The secondary data was collected through published study papers, articles, published books and on the basis of discussions with the social experts and police officers.

IX) Major socio-economic and psychological factors caused for increasing rate of juvenile delinquency in India

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency:

Generally causes of juvenile delinquency have been divided into three segments. These segments are – a) Social causes. 2) Psychological causes. 3) Psychological causes.

4) Economic causes.

Social causes of juvenile delinquency-

Social cause's are more comprehensive among the various others causes of juvenile delinquent. Among them, the major ones are – a) Family background. b) School environment. c) Criminal area. d) Bad company of friends. e) Defective Recreation f) social disorganizations All these causes have been discussed in detail through the following paragraphs.

Family Background- of the abuses of juvenile delinquent, it is accepted that distorted family influence to be most potent. 50% juvenile delinquents are belonging to the broken families. The term broken family indicates that, it is a family in which family ties have been destroyed. Such type of family is not constituted by a number of people living together but by their mutual intimate relationship. Lack of intimacy caused for the breaking up of family, and it is in broken families that juvenile delinquents develop. In any such family, a child is not looked after properly. In the opinion of some specialists, broken families are more apt to arise criminal tendencies in females than the male juveniles. In broken family, the relationships of husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters lose their healthy nature. Therefore, it is only natural if the children choose the wrong path that destroys their lives. Attitude of parents is also lays an important role in the juvenile delinquency. Often when the child is deprived of love and is scolded constantly on every occasion, he develops feeling of revolt and hatred so that he runs away from the home at the earliest opportunity and falls into life of crime. Disregard on the parts of parents induces feelings of insecurity in the children with a result that they develop mental complexes. If the parents try to conceal many facts of their own life from children, the tendency towards crime is only aggravated.

The personality of the child is considerably influence by the character and conduct of its parents. One rarely comes across a child who has been able to mold its behavior according to socially accepted values and concepts in the face of his parent's telling lies, hypocritical behavior. Sexual immovability and thieving. Apart from this, the personality of child is also susceptible to the influence of his/her brother or sisters personality This influence is more potent in case of girls as they are not exposed to external influence as much as boys, who

remain in the home for considerable less period of time. If the senior children in the family manifest criminal tendencies, the youngsters are invariably, influenced by it. If the elder brother or sister show criminal tendencies or they engaged in immoral behavior, the younger child is more apt to follow their example.

School Environment: -

Child personality is also influenced by the environment of their schools. One major form of Juvenile delinquency is absconding from school paying truant from school, theft, and sex crimes were the major forms of Juvenile delinquency, and even among those running away from school or roaming outside the school claimed the greatest attention and interest among children. It is observed that the gaining membership of a ganged of criminals, punishment by the teacher, poor academic performance and child's ability and capacity. Children who run away from the school usually spend their time in the worst sort of company and commits all kinds of crimes. One of the main causes of increasing indiscipline into the present time is that education is taken as stuffing the brain with information rather than building up character.

Crime dominated area:

Some areas are not appropriate for the overall development of children. Neighborhood costs important influence upon the child. In a unstable communities where there are no social taboos or laws. Pickpockets are found in great abundance in and around of particular areas of metropolitan cities. The social traditions of backward and lower economic status areas distinguish the pattern of crime from the average groups. These patterns are maintained in Juvenile delinquent groups. In this way, big metropolitan cities have certain areas where there is an abundance of criminals and these areas are known as criminal areas or crime dominated areas.

Bad company of friends:

Criminal behavior is acquired through interactions with others. An individual becomes a criminal when there is excess of conditions that promote the infringement of law over conditions that prevent such infringement, and among children, some get good company of friends, while other do not. The child who is in the bad company of friends, progresses towards crime while the child who gets into good reminds company progress to become an able citizen in the society. An individual behavior is influenced to considerable extent by the conduct of his companions. In order to induce the children to accept and respect the values and assumptions of audit society around them it is necessary to create such an environment in which inspiration to criminal behavior is reduced to the absolute minimum.

Defective Recreation-

Today, the one means of recreation available to the children is mobile phone, which is responsible for Juvenile delinquency and anti- social activities to quite an extent. Various news patters of crime are presented to an individual through social medial internet etc. Internet have such potent influence upon the adolescent that afar become viral certain kinds of crimes increased many fold. The reactions of children towards social media, pornographically material available on the intent, may be differently to it. It is also observed that through some studies, that there is a direct impact of cinema, TV serials sect on the behavior of children is very high.

Social Disorganizations:

Social disorganization leads to disorganization of individual. Disorganization of society leads to increase in crimes; hence it too, is one of the causes of Juvenile delinquency. In modern industrial society there is lack of synthesis and equality which creates tension. This tension inspires children to crime.

Psychological causes-

The Psychological causes concerning criminal activity are -

- a) Mental disease.
- b) Characteristics of personality.
- c) Emotional disability.

Mental diseases- A criminal is a kind of mentally diseased individual who is as much need of treatment as in need of punishment. Some psychiatrists and neurologists believe that the psychopathic personality is a cause of crime. Psychopathic children are born in families where there is almost complete absence of love, affection and control. The child concerning psychopathic child is very un-socialized, irritable, cruel, obstinate, suspicious, self-centered lonely, full of feelings of revenge, backwards and hyper sexual etc.

Characteristics Of Personality - Tendency to crime is also found to have close relationship with characteristics of the personality. Personality is the method of an individual adaptation to environment. Criminal children resort to illegal modes of such adaption. Therefore, Juvenile delinquents have been found to poses some characteristics features of the personality that throw a light on the causes of Juvenile delinquency. A normal child is comparatively well heaved, less explosive, peaceable, obedient and social. On the contrary, Juvenile delinquent, is found to be explosive disobedient and unsocial.

Emotional Instability- Emotional instability is one of the most important causes of crime. A child's personality is rendered unbalanced through lack of love and affection, emotional

insecurity, very strict discipline, feeling of insufficiency and inferiority, and reaction of revolt. Such a state of mind inspires the child to criminal behavior.

Economic causes-

Crime and poverty are intimately related. Among Juvenile delinquents, majority of them are belonging to the families of unskilled laborers. Lower family income copal the children also the share the burden and to neglect their education. Many studies show that, among the Juvenile delinquents, employed youngsters involved in crime than unemployed ones. In fact, children in poor formalities have many desires that remain unfulfilled and it is to satisfy them that they turn to crime. Poverty also induces sense of dis-satisfaction and inferiority, another spur of criminal tendencies.

The foregoing exhaustive treatment of the social, psychological and economic causes of Juvenile delinquency makes it clear that the principle of specific causation does not properly apply to this phenomenon. In fact, no any criminologist and Psychologist can refute the fact that the causes of crime are several and varied. Activities of person are related to the modes of adjusting to his/her environment. In this adjustment individuals who apply socially acceptable means are called healthy while those who acre unsocial/ and abnormal means for his adjustments are called criminals. Therefore, children become a criminal through the co-operation of many causes, social familiar, individual, psychological and economic. Hence, in order to rehabilitate the Juvenile delinquent as a good member of society, it is require to understand all the above discussed causes and to remove them. It is a matter of no little satisfaction that this fact has been experienced in all progressive countries with the result that Juvenile delinquents acre anywhere cured rather than punished.

X) Measures of rehabilitation for child in conflict with law

Juvenile justice Board – This Board consist of Metropolitan Magistrate or judicial magistrate and two social workers (one should be a woman) All these people considered as a bench which functioning as a unit. When a child has been found guilty of a crime the social workers are having an important role in deciding the best course of action for the rehabilitation of juvenile offender. The bench have the powers conferred by the code of criminal procedure 1973 (2of 1974) The magistrate of Juvenile justice Board is having a knowledge or training in child psychology and child welfare. The state Governments shall provide such training and orientation pertaining to child psychology, welfare of child, rights of child, national and international standards for juvenile justice to all members of Juvenile

justice Board as it considers very important, in accordance with the integrated child protection scheme, implemented by Central Govt.

Observation Homes- The State Government has established children's observations homes either by itself or with the help of voluntary organizations. The Observation Homes either by itself or with the help of voluntary organizations. The Observation Homes are established for the reception of child in requirement of care, treatment, education, training, development and rehabilitation.

Shelter Homes- Shelter homes for children who have been abandoned, neglected, abused, are registered as voluntary welfare organization. The main aim of shelter homes is to provide care to the children in conflict with law and to provide counseling, various therapies and other related services. Rising of public awareness on child abuse, child protection, parenting and other youth issues, and equipping children with relevant skills to detect sign of abuse and to take action in this regards ae some of the major functions of the shelter homes.

Rehabilitation of Juvenile after being released or Acquitted

When any child in conflict with law released or acquitted, and if he is require rehabilitation and social integration to come in the main stream of the society as an alternative by adoption, forester care etc. The child shall adopted for rehabilitation, as are orphaned, abandoned, neglected or abused by means of institutional or non- institutional methods. State Government institutions shall be recognized as adoption agencies. Such agencies are subjected to scrutiny and placement for adoption. Foster care is intended to be a short arm situation until permanent, placement can be made.

Setting up after care organization:

The State Govt. Have a statutory obligation to lay down the scheme and guidelines for establishing. After care organizations, when the child leaves special homes. The provision in this regard is incorporated by the legislature to enabling the children to lead an honest and useful life.

Special Juvenile Police Unit:

Juvenile justice act has provision for setting up special juvenile police unit in every police station. To identify the children, who are vulnerable to engaging in criminal behavior and help them is the main objective of the special juvenile police unit. These special units handle the cases of children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection. These units coordinating and functioning as a watch dog for providing legal protection against cruelty and exploitation of children and report instances of non-compliance for further legal

action. It is observed that, in most of the districts, special juvenile police units are either not formed or are not functional.

XI) Conclusion:

In Indian context, the term juvenile delinquency is limited to violation of ordinary penal law of India, so far as the jurisdiction of the court is concerned. There are several causes of juvenile delinquency which are generally divide din three segments, such as, social causes, psychological causes and economical causes. while focusing on the Maharashtra's contribution in juvenile delinquency in Indian context, it is found that state is contribute largely theft rape, murder, criminal trespass, robbery etc. over the major crimes committed by children in Maharashtra. Today, Juvenile justice system of India and that of Maharashtra is based on the various provisions of Jun vale justice (case and Petition of children) Act 2000. The problems of increasing juvenile delinquency is much serious and serve, which requires, continuous efforts by government to eradication of this problem. The efforts should be in terms of detection, care, treatment, prevention and more than that of rehabilitation of the child offenders to bring them in the mainstreamed the society.

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