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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: THREAT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

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ABSTRACT:

uvenile delinquency, a serious problem, is slowly entering the developing countries like India where western culture is entering not only in cosmopolitans like Mumbai, Kolkatta, Delhi etc but also in smaller towns like Kanpur, Chandigarh etc. Due to growth in metro culture in Indian cities values, life style of common man has also changed. These changes have brought a number of problems like increasing crime, corruption, nuclear family structure etc.

KEYWORDS : Juvenile delinquency, nuclear family structure.

INTRODUCTION

The term delinquency has been derived from Latin word "delinquer" which means to omit, so delinquency is a form of misbehavior or deviation from the generally accepted norms of society. Juvenile delinquency has been regarded as a major problem in contemporary society. This problem, if allowed to develop unchecked today, may lead to serious consequences tomorrow. Juvenile delinquency is growing at an alarming rate and thus posing a serious threat to all developing countries. Innocent children become criminals due to unfavorable and hostile social environment. Juveniles are most vulnerable group of the society and due to their tender age and immature sense of understanding, what is right and what is wrong. Children being a nation's asset should be looked after properly. These responsible future citizens need special care, protection, affection and other facilities. A child who is full of innocence should be nourished with tender care and attention. Different sociologists, psychologists and legalists have defined juvenile delinquency in different ways—

Robinson defines delinquency "as any behavior which a given community at a given time considers in conflict with its best interest whether or not the offender has been brought to court".

According to Cohen, all children without exception must in the course of development have recourse to violent conduct. The child grows up with a distorted notion of what is right and wrong. The word "juvenile" means "a young person" and "delinquency" means "failure of duty, a crime". So Juvenile delinquency means "a young person committing a crime ".

Various factors responsible for juvenile delinquency are family factor, psychological factor, economic factor, biological and environmental factor. Socio- economic and cultural conditions prevailing in a country are responsible for juvenile offences. Economic condition, specially in poor districts of large cities, is also a cause for delinquency. Street children who witness violent acts in their social environment become offenders. Environment includes home, school and all the associates the child meets like favoritism, neglect and cruelty of parents, teachers, feeling of complex etc.

Offences committed by boys include theft, pick pocketing, gambling etc. while girls include themselves in sex involvements, running away from home, shop lifting etc. Boys are more involved in delinquency than girls because of their adventurous nature. Early physical maturity or low intelligence account for delinquent behavior among juveniles. To

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identify juvenile delinquency in children, teachers and parents can identify following characteristics:

- 1. Stealing
- 2. Quarrelling with peers
- 3. Emotional distance from parents & family
- 4. Sudden change in behavior
- 5. Not paying attention to studies
- 6. Complaints from teachers

Causes responsible for abnormal behavior in juveniles:

1. Abnormal choice: Sometimes offender finds a certain degree of satisfaction after committing the crime because their behavior is result of self interest, so this reason is most harmful.

2. Nuclear families: Our social system is undergoing a change, families are isolated, both parents are working and children are left alone at the mercy of servants. Parents do not spend quality time with children. A child is neglected and to compensate parents pamper the kids with huge amount of pocket money and fulfil all their wishes.

3. Discrimination in society: To fulfil their desires and wants children often commit crimes, as the children are more prone to stress due to discrimination in our society.

4. Bad company: Some children become a part of bad company knowingly or unknowingly and are motivated to commit crime by their criminal friends.

5. Masculine Nature: Young man in their adolescence are more aggressive and pretend to be powerful and strong, step into the world of crime.

6. In House Atmosphere: Certain problems at home may lead a child in the wrong society like treatment from step mother, poverty, effect of T.V, no one to look after children after they return from school or excess of discipline at home.

7. Electronic Media: Media has played a vital role in exposing children to sex and violence. Media becomes an invaluable and powerful tool for development, growth, innovation and enhancing competition on one hand, on the other hand, it is full of violence, horror, cruelty which distorts the awareness of the youth. Electronic and print media along with social networking sites have played a big role to expose children to such activities.

Electronic media play a negative role in paving a way to move children towards evil practices. Children involve themselves with T.V and internet and parents due to their overbusy schedule are unable to handle them and children are affected adversely watching violence, bloodshed, robbery etc. on T.V

The role of parents is most important as they can not only support children but also help them get rid of confusions which arise in their mind seeing conflicting situations on T.V and internet. So it is parents responsibility to keep an eye on their children and see what they are watching on TV and internet. Parents hankering after material comforts are unable to take care of their children. It is the responsibility and duty of the parents, family members and society to provide healthy atmosphere to the children.

The family is one of the most logical starting place for preventing children from becoming juvenile criminals. Parents should maintain a favorable emotional atmosphere, establish friendly relations with their children and guide their moral development. No child becomes criminal overnight, there is gradual development, so parents should observe their children carefully and nip the evil in the bud itself. Vigilant supervision is required on the part of parents.

Moreover delinquency is mostly not inherent but it is due to environment, social influence and economic conditions. Parental care is needed to improve the social environment. Parents should make children well adjusted to the social organization and economic situation in which children are brought up.

Parents role becomes more significant in this world of growing technology. Parents have to be more caring, attentive and alert specially in nuclear family set up. Undoubtedly socio-cultural, economic and political factors can make a child delinquent but good parental care can set everything right and reduce the chances of delinquency in children.

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Child being a national asset should be protected. It is the duty of entire society to protect our future generation. The government along with non-government organizations should protect the future of the nation. One major factor responsible for juvenile delinquency is poverty. Juveniles totally depend on the parents income, when their needs are not fulfilled due to poverty of the parents, they look forward to other ways. The poor people should be made aware of different policies and schemes which are made by the government for their welfare.

The adolescent period is full of stress and it is parents' duty to handle children with care and maturity. The children need to be taught how to enjoy life out of simple things. It is necessary for parents to maintain healthy communication with their children so that mutual understanding develops.

The children must start learning to control impulses at a very early age. Impulses vary according to a child's personal attributes like aspiration, need and social characteristics. School education plays an important role to prevent the juvenile from committing crimes by teaching traditional beliefs and schools should emphasize moral, social and value based education. There should be educational books and programme to let children distinguish the right from the wrong.

Juvenile delinquency need to be checked at a very primary stage. Here comes the role of home and school to bring children out of any such characterization. Schools neighborhood family, society and sometimes satiations are responsible for degradation of a child. Instead of labeling juveniles, we must rectify errors in their lives which are responsible for their behavior. Parents have the art and knowledge both to mould children who are like soft clay. Criminals are made not born and we as a society have the power to cure them. The effects of juvenile delinquency are very costly for individual family & society at large. So juvenile delinquency can be diminished through parental care and support.

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