



The Delinquent Child: Causes, Problems and Remedies

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Abstract

The delinquents are anti-social behaviour children who are at the lower extreme ends of normal distribution of social tract. The problem of delinquency has posed as serious concern for persons, teachers, parents, psychologists and the teacher's are responsible for Shaping the personality of young students. The criminals are found generally at the stage of adolescence. The children who felons below the age of eighteen years are known juvenile delinquent and order in its structure. It persuades its members to follow them strictly by Every society establishes some social and moral norms to maintain harmony timing legal laws and codes. The behaviour which is contrary to these stablished norms is referred to as anti-social behaviour or crime. It involves nyury either to the property or the people in the society. Society for its protection them such anti-social elements or criminals has due provision of punishment and often such people are kept behind the bars. Such anti-social behaviour or criminal I tendency is not only found among the adults or grownups, but children and adolescent's who are minor in age also suffer from such social diseases. These individuals are known as juvenile delinquents or young delinquents. Therefore. juvenile delinquents are essentially the criminals minor in age and are usually refferred to as minor with major problems. The violate the law of the and commit offences like thefts, gambling, cheating, pick-pocketing, number, dacoity, destruction or property, violence and assault, intoxicating, vagrancy, begging, kidnapping, abduction and other sexual offences etc.

Keywords: Delinquent, Causes, Problems and Remedies. Student.



Introduction

Meaning and Definition of Delinquent Children It is difficult to define the term 'delinquency' comprehensively and universally because it has wide coverage of anti-social behaviour that varies time-to-time, place, cultural, social and political conditions of particular conditions. It may be stated that the child who violates the social and normal values, is called delinquent.

"A child is said to be a delinquent when he starts stealing, assaulting, indulging in sex offences and develops symptoms like pathological lying. These offences are said to be criminal actions when committed by a person beyond the age handled by juvenile courts. **Cyril Burt**, in his book revealed, "A child is said to be regarded technical as a delinquent, when his antisocial tendencies appear so grave that he becomes or ought to be become the subject of official action."

"A child who deviates from the social norms of behaviour, is called delinquent children" -**Healy**

"A delinquent is one who behaves against social norms breaks, laws, creates indiscipline in school or other institutions of disobey the rules. His immoral behaviour is considered not so serious that he should be considered a culprit juvenile courts look into his illegal behaviour."

-**Education Dictionary**

"A child is technically delinquent when his anti-social tendencies appear so grave that he becomes or ought to become the subject of official action." -**Cyril Burt.**

"Delinquency may be defined as anti-social behaviour." -**Head Field**

"Delinquency implies from anti-social behaviour involving personal and social disorganisation." -**Neumeyer**

According to **Bandura and Walter** (1959), delinquency is aggression. They law tried to relate delinquency to the frustration of dependency needs which cause aggression. In many studies, psychologists came up with differences between was quantitative rather than qualitative. The consider delinquency between the psychological make-up of the delinquent and non-delinquent. The to be unfortunate expression of t the personality and emphasis that the various indices of maladjustment shown by the delinquents have one or more personal meanings behind them.



Characteristics of Delinquents: which have been enumerated as follows : In the above definitions of delinquency indicate the following characteristics which have been enumerated as follows

1. A delinquent child possess anti-social behaviour.
2. He breaks the laws and create undiscipline in school.
3. A delinquent, deviates from norms of social behaviour and creates problems in society.
4. A delinquent child is aggressive and hostile behaviour.
5. A He behaves in such a way that it is harmful for himself and also for other.
6. His ego is bent upon immediate pleasure without obey in the norms of social behaviour.
7. His immoral behaviour is not considered so serious that may be referred to court of law.
8. His anxiety. level is generally very high.
9. It is acquired behaviour by the child and not the innate.
10. The delinquents are emotional and maladjusted.
11. The economic conditions of his family is generally poor. The parents are unable to fulfil his needs,
12. Delinquency is an acquired behaviour.
13. It is unmindful of social norms and expectations.
14. Delinquency is problem for every one.
15. Delinquency is not the abnormality in its true sense.

Taking the above point into consideration, delinquency may be considered as an ego defence for the tension caused by frustration of one or several of the needs present in the individual. Due to their intrinsic nature, the nation's laws cannot be applied to every individual.

Before the age of 14, a boy is not considered capable to having sexual relations according to English law. In one case, the court had to return a verdict other than not guilty for a boy little over listens, who had raped a small girl, thereby causing her death. Considered from the psychologist's point of view, the enforcement of law by the police brings an arbitrary element into the concept of e delinquency. It is realised element into the concept of juvenile delinquency. It is realised that a country with efficient police network will have a higher delinquency rate than a country where police network is fallacious. Truly speaking, the social



position and influence of parents play major roles to refer a boy to a juvenile court in any country.

The foregoing discussion proves that juveniles do not fall into One simple homogeneous psychiatric or psychological category. The distinction between the delinquents and the non-delinquents is based on factors which have quantitative differences.

Classification of Delinquency

The psychologists have classified delinquency in various ways. The classification of delinquency in five categories have been done by Had Fiel have been listed below:

1. Benign Delinquency. It includes such which may be termed as breach of discipline or law, or crimes from legal point of view but from mental health view, they may be normal behaviour e.g., truancy on some beautiful rainy day or for seeing some extraordinary act in the city.
2. Temperamental Delinquency. Temperamental delinquency of certain physiological activities. For example it is found that girls may steal the things during their m.c. days.
3. Simple Delinquency. Simple delinquency is the result of the conflict between the need of child and the home, school or society conditions. It is also known as anti-social behaviour. The main cause may be the poor environment, in which the child is living.
4. Reaction Delinquency. Reaction delinquency, as its name suggests, arise from the reactions of the children against the society when the child thinks that he is the victim of the society, he revolts and tries to break the rules and conventions of the existing society. For this type of delinquent child should be guided very carefully and psychologically.
5. Psychoneurotic Delinquency. "This type of delinquency is created on account of the expression in anti-social manner of the repressed tendencies. These repressions occur on account of resentment." For example repression of sex urge or instinct may develop the tendency of truancy or telling lie or stealing etc. For psycho-neurotic delinquency the teachers and parents should refer their children to some clinical psychologist.
6. Aggressive Tendency. The mode of attack may be physical aggression damaging school property torturing, committing suicide and forgery.



Other Classification of Delinquency:

- (i) Aggressive and hostile basis with some person, institution, objects, elder, birds and animals and may be with self.
- (ii) Standard basis--may be of four types (a) Institutionalized (b) Offender at large (c) Habit basis (d) Individual standard.
- (iii) Basis of Individual standard-Individual and group.
- (iv) Habit basis-First offender and habitual offender.
- (v) Truancy from school, and running from home.

Nowadays, psychiatry has recognised two types of reactions that are different both in terms of prognosis and management :

1. **Dys-social Reaction.** Under this type of reaction, the children are brought up in a normal or immoral home or social environment. Their behaviour in conformity with that small community although they are unacceptable to the society at large, for example, the children of gypsies, migrant or criminal bos Children's personality development is influenced by distorted values of a special subculture. Here the children are capable or establishing enduring emotional attachments and loyalties.
2. **Psychopathic Reaction:** The children in the second category have poor ego development and even poorer development of super ego. They are incapable of forming stable emotional relationships. They have no insight or foresight and they cannot profit from past experiences. They show poor control and seek gratification of immediate desires. Most of them are refractory to all forms of punishment. These children tend to use other human beings as 'pawns' or toys'. The second group cases have constitutional or genetic defects. There are some behavioural disturbances of children that are also seen in adult psychopaths like truancy, alcoholism, drug addiction, stealing, burglary and sexual promiscuity. In 1951, the International Union of Child Welfare especially recommended the following categories of offences (by children) for investigation: Stealing from home, persistent telling of lies, wandering from home, cruelty to animals and



other children, repeated truancy, setting fire and sexual offences etc. Of these setting fire and sexual offences are not so commonly reported in India.

Etiology of Delinquent Children or Delinquency: Delinquency is a acquired behaviour of a child which is not in accordancg with social standard and norms. It is not caused by one single factor but it is an end product or several factors. Some are hereditary and other are social and psychological. There may be some physiological factors which are responsible of delinquency. These are as follows:

1. Heredity Factors
2. Environmental Factors
3. School Environment
4. Physical Constitutional Factors and
5. Psychological Factors.
6. Causative Factors
7. Social and Environmental Factors

Review of Causative Factors

Some eminent scholars reveal that causative factors are really attempting to account for the deviant behaviour in the individual Healy, in his research on delinquency, set the pattern for this approach and discovered that, in contrast to their many, general theories of criminal behaviour, case. hypotheses William delinquency in individual cases is a product of multiple causative factors. He has discovered 3.5 factors per case.

After a long period of time, Cryil Burt has found 9.5 factors per case using essentially similar case history methods of factor determination. But Freudians and Neo-Freudian clinicians challenged the role of multiple causative of delinquency, rather they laid stress on some deep motivations.

Prevention and Treatment of Delinquency :

Prevention and treatment both the devices are employed in delinquency. It has two phases the first phase is to treat those who have become delinquents, another phase is to prevent delinquency by organizing educational programmes and other activities in such a way that children may not become delinquents.



(A) Treatment of delinquents Children:

Generally, the following method and techniques are used in the treat of delinquents:

- (1) Psychological method of treatments and
- (2) Psycho-analytic method of treatments

(i) Camp Programme Approach. In this approach, a camp is make a treatment centre for the adolescent because it is generally felt that. adolescents are more difficult to handle without intensive observe This programme has got three main themes:

- (a) Group-counselling is keystone of the programme, which was "buil! around the concept of the conscious cooperation of all elements within it for the welfare and development of the inmates."
- (b) The camp programme strives to attain the cooperation of guards and to involve the inmates in their own treatment.
- (c) It has a Probation-Recovery Camp' also if the campers do not have a desirable home to go back to. This approach has been used for prisoners in USA but now attempts are being made to use it for non-prisoners also.'
- (d) Re-education. The scientific approach which is very much conducive for juveniles is re-education. "This technique reforms the offender, re-educates him and rehabilitates him. The objectives also include the change of Aiour and attitude of the offender. By that he will look upon the world as sale potential friend. Social adaptation under better conditions is possible through this technique.
- (e) Mental Catharsis. Catharsis means the avoidance of under repression. It Provides opportunity to the child t0 express his pent up and suppressed emotional feelings by means of free expression. Page has rightly pointed out that catharsis consists simply in eliminating troubles, worries and conflicts. Here the therapist has to hear the delinquent's outpouring patiently and without imposing any comments of his own. Through this method, the delinquents is encouraged to realise the cause of his own problems. Play therapy, finger painting and psycho-drama are some of the important techniques which are used by the therapists to treat juveniles.
- (f) **Persuasion:** Through this procedure, the patient's symptoms, actions and reactions are analysed, many logical and common-sense facts are suggested and the delinquents it



therapists may persuade the delinquent not to get involved in delinquency in future. But this persuasion should be logical and appealing. One major drawback of this procedure is that it is limited to the conscious, whereas the delinquents whose problems lie in the unconscious, cannot benefit from this technique.

- (g) **Suggestion:** Suggestion is nothing but the implantation of an idea and it successfully appeals to the subliminal self. It is true that children are more suggestive than adults. Positive suggestions may strengthen the superego in juveniles. Basically, this technique implies the influence of one person upon the other and it is a process of communication from one personality to another other methods of cure. It is one of the oldest techniques of mental treatment and is used to supplement
- (h) **Change in Environment.** Different studies on delinquency reveal that changes in human and material environment of the delinquent can help in among many of the symptoms of the delinquency in him. Nobody is a born delinquent. Therapists suggest that the delinquent may be shifted to better environment. Rather delinquents are the products of environmental influences. Environments like foster homes.

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