

IMPACT OF SOCIOLOGICAL FACTORS ON JUVENILES AND THEIR REACTION

T.SATHYA NARAYANAN B.A.B.L(HONS),ML(Criminal law).

ADVOCATE

INTRODUCTION:

Juveniles who live in unstable homes and social environments are deemed to be at-risk children because of their vulnerability to detrimental influences. Depending on the type and degree of these influences, unstable environments can induce antisocial behavior in children, often resulting in criminally deviant behavior later in life. Juvenile deviance is influenced by a number of factors. Among these are family, socioeconomic class, and educational experiences.

FAMILY:

Family background is one of the most potent influences on juvenile development. When antisocial and criminal norms exist within families, lay persons and experts agree that this can lead to one readily observable outcome. Families that disintegrate into divorce can also exhibit a higher incidence of delinquency if the resulting arrangement continues to promote intra-family dysfunction. This certainly does not mean that all single-parent homes are likely to produce dysfunctional children. Family is the first institution of children's socialization and one of the most influential agents, determining the formation of a personality; the family transmits social values, improves morality and proper behavior. Children learn from

their parents. Parents, in their turn, see to it that their children would not take on socially unacceptable norms. Yet, it is not always the case and the child might form in the way that society does not tolerate. The family influence in the first years of life is the greatest. Later, year-by-year, the influence becomes less intense, but everything that the child has experienced or learned in the family, and parents' expectations about him/her bear a considerable influence on his/her behavior.

Violence in the family, justification of any measures to achieve the aim is one of the forms of deviant upbringing (a child might think that the stronger is always the winner). Such families cannot guarantee a normal development of a child. Children may stop going to schools, fall behind their friends, start looking for similar ones etc

SOCIOECONOMIC CAUSES:

Past conventional wisdom held that children from poor and working-class backgrounds—that is, youths born into the “dangerous classes are much more likely to engage in delinquent behavior. Reasons for middle-class delinquency include parental pressure, peer pressure, uncertainty for the future, experimentation with intoxicating substances, experimenting with alternative lifestyles, and strong youth subcultures.

ANTI-SOCIAL GROUPS:

These are groups of juveniles, sometimes of the same age, that may greatly influence underage people, especially when they have problems at home or at school. Young people have similar views, and can freely communicate

make them feel relaxed as they can act in the way that is not tolerated at home.

The character of the group determines whether its members commit offences or not. Even though the groups are oriented to crimes, juveniles prefer to remain there as long as their friends substitute the family or the school.

After a group commits a crime, the relations among its members become more intense, as now they are connected not only by common interests but also by common secret. The group might as well not be directly oriented to crime, but its members may become offenders simply for having fun.

The ambition to establish positions in a non-formal group may stimulate juveniles to commit crimes. Such kind of behavior may also strengthen their authority. It is important to note that juveniles are too young to be legally responsible for their actions; therefore they may be intentionally taken into non-formal groups by grown-ups. The young people may then be exploited by adults who encourage them to act antisocially.

POVERTY & UNEMPLOYMENT:

At present poverty & unemployment is a frequent phenomenon in the social environment. It is the problem of needed finance to meet out essential expense, unavailability of opportunities of employment and the organization of free and wasteful time. Crimes are most often committed when people are poor and unemployed. Juveniles cannot or are unwilling to express themselves in a particular sphere, that is for reasons of poverty a child is unable to find a suitable employment, and this is especially difficult for the

offenders with a previous crime record as their chances to find a job or take up a new activity shrink as soon as employees find out facts about their past.

THE MEDIA:

The fact that movies and other modes of visual representations, media, have strong impressions on young minds can never be denied. It is also seen that media as a causative factor in juvenile delinquency is significant.

Movies (and other forms of visual media often depict a high-consumption lifestyle that is largely unattainable for most children & youth. The quick pacing and rapid, up-tempo montages produce a visual experience of constant stimulation, and may induce a gap between media-fueled expectations of material gratification and experience that fails to meet them. Youth, especially delinquent youth from deprived backgrounds, may be especially sensitized to such influences. Shoplifting, theft, and petty larceny, for example, may represent ways delinquent youth attempt to bridge the gap.

It is observed that the media is taking the role that once belonged to the family or the school - it determines values, goals and types of behavior. It teaches the society. The way that the media presents information on crimes and offenders is extremely important, for its access to wide audiences can easily form an opinion about criminals. Consequently, it is very difficult for delinquents to adapt to society and if they fail there is a possibility that they will do the crime again.

Regrettably, there are too little research carried out about the influence of the media on criminal behavior and its present results don't give a clear answer to the question. For example, whether aggressive movies and

depiction of anti-social activities to their last and minute detail, gives a positive or negative impact on young minds in not known concretely.

These are the determining factors. It is by no means a final distinction, as social life is very diverse and constantly changing. It can thus be stated that juveniles are sensitive to social environment and its changes. Therefore, it is difficult for them to orient themselves in it, to find right solutions, especially when they find themselves in a conflicting situation (for example, their family wants them to behave in one way while their friends' expectations are quite different). Such conflicts may lead to crimes. For this reason, it is important to see that an underage person would be correctly oriented in life and their negative experience would be as little as possible.

BEGGARY:

Beggary is often the cause of juvenile delinquency. Child beggars mostly come from either very poor families or broken homes. These children are betrayed of the needed love and affection of the parents.

They crave for the satisfaction of their inner impulses, desires and ambitions. They choose to become beggars for the same. As beggars they get annoyed to see others enjoying life. Some of them may even become rebels. They realise that only through deviant practices, they can satisfy their desires and meet their needs. They thus become delinquents.

PARENTING – THE FAILURE METHOD:

Apart from the general sociological and psychological factors outlined above, certain individual factors need to be addressed. First among them is the method of parenting the child. Parental punishment and over-supervision

were seen as the cause or prompters of delinquency and aggression. However, through re-evaluation, it is found that my research actually proves the opposite. Parental permissiveness and laxness is the cause or prompter of such delinquent and aggressive behavior. In fact, children coming from homes with permissive parents are thirteen times more likely to produce delinquent and aggressive behavior than children coming from homes with overly strict and punitive parents. Permissive parenting far more than punitive parenting result in juvenile delinquency and adolescent aggression.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Educational experiences are, in many ways, a coequal influence on juvenile development, along with family and socioeconomic factors, because school environments can shape many youths' sense of opportunity and self-worth. For example, school dropouts and poor academic performers exhibit a higher incidence of delinquency and crime than graduates and academic achievers.

CONCLUSION:

These are some of the sociological factors affecting the juvenile's attitude towards crime. Interaction with these circumstances shapes the views of society in a juvenile and in turn the juvenile either projects a cynical view or detaching view of the society. Thus making the juvenile a perfect target for anti social elements, unless such juveniles are reformed and rehabilitated. such cycle of juvenile to criminal will continue.

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