

Addressing Juvenile Delinquency: A Comprehensive Approach

Dr. S. Rajalakshmi, LLB., LL.M., Ph.D

Head of the Department & Associate Professor

Department of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Administration The Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University,
Chennai, India

Author Email: 979lakshmi@gmail.com

Abstract- This research paper delves into the complex phenomenon of teenage crime, employing expert assessments to explore international experiences, juvenile crime definitions, and influencing factors. It particularly focuses on criteria for assigning responsibility and discusses rehabilitation methods for minor offenders, offering prevention recommendations. Juvenile delinquency is a global concern due to its potential to catalyze criminal behavior among teenagers, forming deviant pockets in society. The study highlights the multifaceted nature of adolescent delinquency, considering both social and legal implications. Despite existing legislation, recent data reveal a worrisome increase in teenage convictions, signaling the inadequacy of current measures. The paper redefines adolescence, extending its boundaries from 11 to 17 years, emphasizing the need for a holistic understanding of this critical developmental phase. It explores global shifts in juvenile offender laws, exemplified by India's Juvenile Justice Act of 2015, illustrating a move towards a more reformatory justice system. Examining key influences on teen offenses, the study identifies traits associated with antisocial and psychopathic personalities, emphasizing the role of psychoneurotic disorders and inadequate upbringing. The research asserts that juvenile crime, being a social problem, requires a nuanced approach, considering both legal repercussions and preventative measures. The analysis dissects crime's essential components, emphasizing cultural nuances in defining criminal acts. While advocating for the punishment of juvenile offenders, the article stresses leniency, recognizing the formative stage of adolescence. The conclusion calls for a comprehensive approach, merging legal, psychological, and social interventions to dissuade teenagers from illegal activities. It contends that solely tightening sanctions is insufficient, urging socio-psychological approaches and specialized programs alongside legislative measures to effectively curb juvenile delinquency.

Keywords: crime, teenager, delinquency, deviant behaviour, prevention, punishment, socialization, sanction, favourable social environment, personality of the criminal.

I. INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is a subject of interest to the entire world community since one teenager who has committed a crime is capable of luring both his people into criminal acts and, in the future, creating a deviant cell of society where an unhealthy criminal situation has been formed, which will lead to the emergence of one teenager who is a criminal and several potential criminals at once. Given this circumstance, within the framework of this article, the personality was considered teenager-criminal, with possible aspects influencing his criminal behaviour, and also considered measures to prevent criminal acts among teenagers and reduce the overall number of teenage criminals.

In general, we can say that juvenile delinquency is not only a social problem but also a legal problem. Accordingly, to minimize crime in the teenage environment, we need to carry out a set of measures of a different nature: psychological, social, and legal. All these tools can work only if applied in aggregate. To date, legislation is sufficiently formed; From the period of January 1, 2021, till May 31, 2023, a total of 94 juveniles were convicted by the concerned juvenile courts — including 33 this year till June, 46 convictions in 2022 and 15 juveniles convicted in 2021, then it can be concluded that the number of crimes committed by teenagers is actively increasing, which indicates the inadequacy of measures as a legal character and other social measures. So, we can say that the problem of legal regulation and the application of related measures to counteract juvenile delinquency is a pressing issue to consider, as well as juvenile delinquency in general. In addition, on a global level, juvenile delinquency is also a global problem that is quite acute because the high level of teenage crime causes more serious problems in adult human life activity. Former teenagers—criminals—start families and have children, who may also be susceptible to future negative influences and immersion in the criminal world. The study centers around the pervasive issue of adolescent delinquency, a complex challenge entwined with social and legal dimensions. To unravel its multifaceted nature, root causes, and societal implications, a meticulous investigation is imperative. While prior research has provided valuable insights into juvenile delinquency, there exists a critical gap that necessitates a more holistic exploration, considering the evolving dynamics and emerging trends in adolescent behavior.

This research paper is designed to fill this void by conducting a comprehensive examination of the social, psychological, and legal aspects of juvenile delinquency. The primary objective is to peel back the layers of this complex issue, offering a nuanced understanding of the elements contributing to the surge in adolescent convictions. Besides, the research endeavors to propose practical preventative and intervention measures, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and actionable

strategies. The significance of this study lies in its potential to close current information gaps surrounding adolescent delinquency. By synthesizing data from multiple domains, the research seeks to provide valuable insights for communities, practitioners, and policymakers alike. The proposed all-encompassing strategy integrates social, psychological, and legal actions to create an environment less conducive to teenage engagement in illicit activities.

This research not only aims to advance our understanding of juvenile delinquency but also advocates for a multifaceted strategy that extends beyond punitive measures. The anticipated impact of the findings extends to shaping future policies, interventions, and research efforts, contributing to collective endeavors in addressing and mitigating the challenges posed by adolescent criminal behavior.

II. TEEN HOOD AND DELINQUENCY: RETHINKING DEFINITIONS

According to K.K. Mutaliev, on adolescence, it is necessary to understand the period of human life from childhood to adolescence. According to the traditional classification, adolescence begins at age 11 and ends at age 15. However, if we consider the boundaries, age is wider, and then adolescence falls on 11–17 years, where up to 15 years will be adolescence, and from 15 to 17 years old, early adolescence [6, p. 365]. Within the framework of consideration of juvenile delinquency, broader borders, that is, from 11 to 17 years.

III. GLOBAL SHIFT: TRANSFORMATIONS IN JUVENILE OFFENDER LAWS

Currently, in all progressive and civilized countries in the world, the legislation regarding juvenile offenders has been changed. In world practice, for the trial of criminals, special courts have specially trained magistrates. Today, a juvenile misdemeanour, delinquency is viewed more as a misdemeanour, or social nuisance, than a crime. In India, the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 replaced the Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 in order to establish a more robust and effective justice system that incorporate both deterrent and reformative approaches. The new act recognizes that the approach towards juveniles should be different from that of adults. It emphasizes the need to provide juveniles with space for transformation, reformation, and improvement, which requires a specialized justice system.

Crime committed by children and adolescents less than 18 years of age is called delinquency. The maximum age limit is also the meaning of the offence, which varies from country to country. But he is always below 18 years of age, which is the legal age for committing an offence. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 brought numerous significant changes to India. It defines a child as an individual under the age of eighteen and makes a distinction between a "Child in Conflict with Law" and a "Child in Need of Care and Protection." The act divides crimes into three categories: horrible, serious, and minor. Juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18 may be tried as adults provided their mental competence is taken into account. The act also established juvenile courts, whose purpose is to deal with transgressions committed by minors. The definition of a "Child in Need of Care and Protection" was further broadened. This covers circumstances in which the guardians of the child are incompetent or unwilling to provide for them, where the youngster is involved in. Starting with theft and the use of illegal drugs and ending with murder, teenage crime may include various types of dangerous criminal crimes. Crime is undoubtedly a social problem. This socially unacceptable behaviour is committed by boys and girls less than 18 years of age. To punish these offenders, they are held in juvenile prisons and correctional homes, where various measures are taken to correct their behaviour in a positive direction.

In many developing countries, such as India, criminal tendencies are seen as the result of evil deeds in the past lives of the parents. This is undoubtedly a misconception and a prejudice. When a child's delinquency develops, many believe that this is due to the actions, omissions, and instructions of his parents in childhood. For delinquents, there are no ethical standards or emotional connections. They are very impulsive and act on the spur of the moment. They are socially insensitive and devoid of guilt. Delinquents, despite their socially unacceptable behaviour, create difficulties both for themselves and for others. It was found that delinquency, viewed as a learned behaviour, largely correlates with a low lifestyle and a lack of opportunities for recreation and permanent residence.

IV. DECIPHERING TEEN OFFENCES: UNVEILING KEY INFLUENCES

Considering the main factor influencing the commission of illegal actions on the part of teenagers, it has been found that a large number of persistent offenders have traits and characteristics of antisocial and psychopathic personalities. Row studies conducted in the UK and India using Eysenck's personality analysis show that delinquents are more extroverted, more neurotic, more psychotic, and have more criminal history inclinations than the control group. They appear to be quite impulsive and socially insensitive, and they lack feelings of sadness, guilt, and remorse. They are unable to install suitable interpersonal relationships and do not learn anything constructive from the experience way. They also have no control over reality; they have no inner conscience or morality. Thus, they indulge in what they like, what gives them pleasure, and what satisfies them without judgment about the impact of their behaviour on society and its ultimate consequences. For example, they can commit theft without any purposeful need, only to satisfy their aggressive inclinations and need for deviant behaviour. They don't get themselves into such troubles for personal gain, which, according to researchers, reflects their hidden resentment and hostility towards the outside

world, a world to which they have no sense of belonging or accessories [1, p. 166]. Drug abuse can also influence the behaviour of a teenager. Quite a large number of offenders, especially those involved in theft, prostitution, and physical violence, turn out to be dependent on various prohibited substances, which influence the fragile psyche.

Approximately 3 to 5 per cent of delinquent behaviour is directly related to psychoneurotic disorders. A delinquent person, being antisocial, is the result of a certain pathological and badly developed social environment. Mistreatment and miseducation of children lead to various emotional problems. Expert observations, case histories, and interviews demonstrated that quite a high percentage of offenders exhibited emotional disturbances. In approximately 50% of cases, feelings of inadequacy were constantly present, inferiority. Feelings of insecurity and rejection by parents and other family members were the next important factors causing delinquent behaviour. About 33% had a strong feeling that they interfered. Disharmony and discipline problems were found in about a third of offenders.

In addition, the improper upbringing of a child can affect his behaviour in the future. When parents or one of them uses harsh discipline, it increases hostility in the child. This factor is explained by the fact that, due to strict discipline, all his desires are suppressed and restrained. This leads to the development of a growing child with an antisocial, rebellious, and hostile personality. With constant suppression of desires, the child never feels free and clear. This is facilitated by the conflicting views of parents and teachers about discipline.

If the methods of raising a child are erroneous and based on harsh, dictatorial principles, if a child always cries if he is not treated with due love and affection, if the discipline is harsh, inconsistent, and irrational, his repressed aggression spills out through antisocial and illegal behaviour.

V. THE ANATOMY OF CRIME: EXAMINING ITS ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

Looking what constitutes a crime. An act that is a crime in one society may not always be a crime in another society because crimes are acts that violate personal or property rights, as provided for by criminal law. Laws in different societies may be different; for example, in India, there is a punishment for an ignorant attitude towards religion, while in Russia, there is no corpus delicti "ignorant attitude towards religion." Nevertheless, some actions are considered criminal in every society, such as murder, theft, and so on.

Despite cultural differences in different parts of the world, criminals are always punished by society or the law, although the degree of punishment may vary from society to society. Many in society believe that punishment must be exemplary so that others do not dare to commit it. The goal of the punishment of the guilty is mainly to prevent criminal acts. However, the question arises whether juvenile offenders should be punished in the same way as adult criminals or not.

Juvenile crime should be punished in any case; however, there should certainly be leniency because adolescents have not yet fully formed. This means that the punishment for them should be less harsh so that within the framework of the socialization of adolescents, criminals do not cause the opposite effect. However, we also believe that juvenile delinquency must be prevented. Need to emphasise measures to combat and prevent juvenile crime, not increase punishment for crimes already committed.

Note that the rehabilitation of offenders is an important social problem. Delinquency is antisocial behaviour that produces unrest and indiscipline in society. It makes public life dangerous. It also affects the peace and prosperity of the nation. Therefore, the problem of reforming offenders must be solved comprehensively and effectively. Juvenile delinquency is a social disease with which the child or adolescent should be treated in such a way that he or she can adjust to society. His maladjustment to society must be changed. Since delinquency occurs in society under social conditions mainly because basic needs are not being met, first of all, efforts should be made to satisfy the basic needs of each child in a socially approved way.

Rehabilitation programs are not enough, given the rapid growth of juvenile delinquency around the world. In addition to effective rehabilitation programs, long-term crime prevention programs should be prepared. This can be achieved by improving the conditions of disadvantaged areas, providing suitable educational and recreational facilities, raising children in a disciplined and organized society with certain role relationships, and instilling in the main social institutions—school and family—respect for each other and respect for the law. Teenage crime cannot be completely eradicated from society. No society can completely prevent or eliminate crime. Nevertheless, this issue can be studied by sociologists, psychologists, and lawyers, who can think about how to reduce crime.

VI. CONCLUSION

Thus, based on the analysis of juvenile crime, it can be conclude that the state of adolescent crime in world as a whole is at an extremely high level, and to prevent the possibility of development and increase in crime among adolescents, it is necessary to apply comprehensive measures, not only legal character—punishment for what was done—but also measures of psychological and social character—that is, it is necessary to create for the teenager such a psychological and social environment in which he will not have thoughts about committing illegal actions. To do this, it is necessary to improve work with children in educational institutions, be more actively involved in special programs aimed at preventing crime among teenagers, pay more attention to

the teenager's personalities and problems, and help them solve the problems that arise together. So, it can be concluded that the tightening of sanctions for committing crimes by teenagers will not solve the problem of juvenile crime and will not reduce its quantity, so it is necessary to develop comprehensive socio-psychological approaches and introduce special programs for the level of legislation.

The heads discussed in this paper provide a holistic approach to dealing with juvenile delinquency, from comprehending the intricate structure of the problem to suggesting workable solutions with real-world implications. The paper's comprehensive comprehension is essential for formulating successful strategies. Through the application of social, psychological, and legal frameworks to the study of juvenile criminality, stakeholders are provided with the in-depth knowledge required to make well-informed decisions. Proposing comprehensive measures that go beyond legal consequences, the report offers workable policy interventions in addition to highlighting viable remedies. Policymakers can better address juvenile delinquency by using this knowledge, which points them in the direction of a multifaceted strategy that takes into account a variety of contributing factors.

The focus on instructional tactics is a concrete addition with practical ramifications. In addition to implementing specific programs, educators might benefit from suggested changes inside educational institutions. These tactics offer a road map for developing settings that actively dissuade youth from partaking in illicit activities, establishing a foundation for prevention. At-risk individuals encounter a variety of issues, which is acknowledged by the emphasis on customized solutions. The study supports customized therapies by acknowledging and addressing the distinct personalities and issues that affect youth. Developing durable and successful solutions that address unique situations requires this kind of thinking.

The research notes significant limitations in spite of these advantages. Obstacles to the proposed comprehensive solutions might include implementation issues like collaboration among stakeholders and budget allocation. Also, society must move in the direction of a more restorative perspective due to the possibility of opposition to change, especially with regard to conventional penalizing methods. The found possible uses, which span from community activities and policy formation to instructional strategies and educational practices, highlight the research's practical applicability. The paper's conclusion highlights how important its findings are in combating juvenile delinquency. It urges stakeholders to adopt a new paradigm that takes into account social and psychological aspects in addition to legal measures. The paper's socio-psychological approaches can be expanded to adjacent fields by more research, as the discussion of applications and extensions suggests.

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