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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:

AN ANALYSIS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO FAMILY AND TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS

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Introduction:

Juvenile Delinquencies are those crimes which are conducted by juveniles of age 18 and below and are tried in special courts, called Juvenile Justice Board (J.B.B.). In these courts, the punishment is not that rigorous or harsh as in traditional courts whereas they tend to have more relaxed punishment.

An adolescent sex offender is deliberated to be a person from 12-16 years of age, who commits any sexual act with a person of any age against the victim's will, without permission, or in hostile, manipulative, or intimidating way.

Behaviors of sex offenders are sometimes treated lightly, such as numerous obscene phone calls, frotteurism, and other forms of harassment. According to National Crime Record Bureau reports, over the period of last 10 years, the juvenile crime rate data increased slightly from 1% in 2004-05 to 1.2% in 2008 and further increased from 34,465 in 2012 to 42,566 in 2014. This increasing number and incidences of sexual offenses recorded is day-by-day declining the spirits of the society, "who is to be blamed?" is the most important issue coming up in the minds of the public that are affected.

Family and Technological factors:

This study explores how family life and technology influence Juvenile delinquencies and how these are two major factors promote the same.

(I) Family:

Juveniles tend to become delinquent if the foundation of the learning is itself at fault, which are their homes. The variants which are taken into consideration while judging how family can play a role in these delinquencies are , family functioning, impact of family disruption, and two-parent versus single parent households.

(i) Broken Family:

Love and control is at failure in the broken family. Children from such families are deprived of care, protection and support from both the parents and where single parenting affects the child mentally, emotionally as well as psychologically. In most of the cases juveniles don't know how to contain these emotions and as a result they deal with them by engaging in some or the other criminal act to liberate the built-up aggravation within them. Most of the times a single working parent does not have parent-child connection because they do not have enough time to lend a hand to their children to deal with the emotions and feelings of having only one parent.

(ii) Family Tension

Family tension is also a principal contributory issue to aberrant behavior. It is found that family tension results in the child behaving in unfriendliness and hatred manner. Children often do not feel secure, protected and satisfied in the strained-filled environment dwelling in such homes. Long-standing concern minimizes family cohesiveness and hampers parents' capability to present a friendly, free and happy ambiance for suitable child- rearing and family problem-solving. Unified homes create smaller number of delinquents whereas homes where tension and hostility are filled were found to be good breeding grounds for possible delinquents.

(iii) Parental Rejection

Parental off-putting response or emotional deficiency is major factor for juvenile delinquency. If a child who is unwanted or neglected does not get love and affection as well as support and direction at home, he will often turn towards groups of an odd nature outside the family sphere. child's maturity and growth of a conscience is directly affected by parental rejection. It is also seen that the lack of sense of right and wrong mixed with feeling of antagonism for being rejected, and unfriendliness led to violence and hatred, it affects the way children look at others.

Parents who are unsuccessful in providing regular direction and supervision take away from their children the opportunity to have support by choosing to behave in agreement with parental rules.

(iv) Sibling's Role

There has always been a lot of room for parents to fail to see the pattern of bullying among older brother towards younger siblings. Studies have been conducted to show that it is very common to see that bullying among older siblings often coverts into aggressive behavior in younger children, creating them bullies or worse.

It is usually observed that there are high chances that younger siblings would follow footprints of a trouble maker older sibling. The probability is far above the ground that such children will end up being juvenile offenders themselves¹.

(II)Technology:

Technological development in recent times in children's lives has opened many doors and opportunities for their educational progress. However, if not used efficiently or correctly, technology can also be hazardous to them both academically and morally. One of the differences that have been most noticeable is the transformation of children interacting with each other their playing and cooperation with previous generation. Although technology does have many benefits such as learning and other cognitive growth but it comes with its own side effects and cons which hampers child personal growth and social life.

The convenience and affordability of technological devices, and mobile phones with camera and video-streaming technology have given them new opportunities for the creation of distasteful images of children with such images over and over again shared by sex offenders in the online environment, resulting in the increasingly large and well-paid online accessibility of indecent images of children.

Effect of decreasing the age of Juvenile from 18 to 16 for delinquency:

¹Ahuja, Ram "Social Problems in India". Rawat Publications, Jaipur; Printed at nice Printing Press, New Delhi.

According to the Juvenile Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2015, being cleared by the Rajya Sabha, has decreased the age of a juvenile in case of any deviation with law from 18 years to 16 years. The question which arises in our mind is that “When in the 16 to 18 yrs age groups be inclined to commit crime, will the new policy act as deterrence on people below 18 years?”

16th December, 2017 had noticed the gang rape of a paramedical student that resulted in nationwide protests and led to the inclusion of new laws on crimes happening against women. On 16th December, 2012, the 23 year-old, who was popularly known as ‘Nirbhaya’ was brutally gang raped by 6 men. Among those 6 rapists, one was juvenile who was the main culprit and participator of this case, was sent to a probation home.

It is debatable whether such a reduction in the age limit bracket will bring down the crime rate among adolescents, especially teenagers falling in the 16-18 age groups as the offender in most of the instances descend in this set.²

Changes in law do not necessarily mean changes in practice. Legal reform and policy change that have taken place are not sufficient to curtail these loathsome offences by juveniles. Even if the age is deduced to 16 years, even then it shows that offenders have a very little consideration for deterrents. These laws only provide for offenders that of 18 to 16 year old age bracket but what if the offender is less than the age bracket so set.

CONCLUSION / SUGGESTIONS

“Juveniles who force sexual offences are different in terms of their criminal behaviors and prospect public security risk...”

So as to reduce the rate at which delinquencies by juveniles are committed, here are some suggestions in contrary to the same:

- *Parent-Child Interaction Training* program should be organized which should target low-income groups where the child has at least one behavioural or emotional issue. This program is to get improved family supervision and practices it also decreases children's disruptive behaviors, including aggression and fretfulness.

² P.V. Ramakrishna Rao, former Additional Public Prosecutor and the Legal Advisor to the Police Commissionerate

- *Behavioral training for classroom management* is a worldwide policy for modifying the classroom surroundings. This strategy helps to establish clear rules and instructions, use of admiration and endorsement, performance modeling, self-specification of contingency, self-assessment, and behavior determining. Several strategies are put into practice to aspire at reducing negative student behaviors which will show efficient: ignoring misconduct, reinforcing behavior that is mismatched with negative behavior, leisure methods, and using punitive techniques such as soft reprimand, timeouts, and point loss and fines in token economies.
- Though our country is transforming into a modern country day-by-day but it lags behind in giving teachings to a child related to sex. School should carry out sessions or separate classes for providing information related to sex education for the children so that no track of curiosity is left in the mind of the children.
- School should carry out seminars for parents to teach them how they should keep an eye on their children and how to give them direction and should time to time keep a check on the behavior of their children. They should be aware about the type of group, friends or environment their children are hanging out in.
- Technology should be used in an effective manner and not in an exploitative manner by children; it should be used with determination. Encourage children to watch TV shows or programs that are of some productive nature and some learning is derived from it, importance and power of social media should be taught to them by their parents and it should be made clear that this platform is not to be misused and should be used to raise awareness and for good cause. This will help them appreciate the use of technology and will be grateful for its accessibility in their lives, which will in turn prevent the senseless usage that is problematic for many people.