

The causes of delinquency in children and adolescents with emphasis on internal and external origins

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Abstract

One of the major issues raised by scholars and lawyers and criminologists, is the juvenile delinquency. Basically, delinquency is attributed to less important crimes, usually committed by juveniles, so the use the term "Delinquency" seems to be more appropriate. Delinquency is a kind of deviant action with more tendencies toward breaking the norm rather than values, so in comparison with crime, it is of more semantic expansions. Delinquency is a term that generally referred to rule breaking in adolescents (typically about 16 to 18 years old). In a simple definition it can be said: delinquent offender is a child before the age of 18, committed a crime. Question in this regard is that what the causes of crime committed by children and adolescents are? The present study briefly discusses some of factors causing offense which could help as much as possible prevent children and adolescents from delinquency.

Key Words: Offense, Children and Adolescents, Delinquency, Factors causing offense.

1. Introduction

Discussion of childhood and adolescence is not a new debate. Childhood and adolescents will be the future of society and indeed in childhood and adolescence, a person can be led to either spiritual evolution or be drawn into the corruption and criminality. We must understand the causes of their crime. According to of law's perspective, juvenile delinquency include behaviors which are prohibited in the principles of family or state laws and these children(in other words not legally adult), according to the jury trial, are underage(Anthony, 1997). Factors causing offense are not the same, but always some reasons, together, cause people to be criminal. Leaving school, frequent lying, running away from home, vagrancy, begging, arson, vandalism, driving without a license, theft, drug trafficking, violation of the rights of others, sexual deviations, etc. are examples regarded as common offensive acts among children and adolescents, and in fact, conduct disorder,

is the consistent pattern of behavior out the social norms (Ghiyasi et al., 2008). What causes these acts? Many researchers, criminologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, psychoanalyst, sociologists, biologists and others answered to this question, and to argue and explain the factors causing offence in detail and in depth, we need all these expertise's contributions.

2. Factors causing juvenile delinquency

2-1. Internal factors causing offense

Heredity

On the effect of inherited moral, it can be said that delinquency is not inherent in human being, thus will not be transmitted from one generation to another and whenever someone brought up in a healthy environment with the right upbringing, the inherited effects could be prevented. Sometimes parents are the cause of transferring some chronic diseases to their children and that disease transmission is due to parent's physical weakness,

microbes causing diseases (tuberculosis, syphilis) or spread of infection by blood flow to the fetus, and brings about effects such as deformation of members, development disorders or hereditary defect types. Also, if conditions for embryonic development are not favorable, member producing cells will not have a full development and as a result various diseases occur in children. In fact, you could say, an imbalance in normal physical and psychological circumstances is one of the causes of offence (Chehrazi, 1964). Parents and grandparent's addiction to alcohol and drug, has a direct genetic effect in the offspring and toxins produced by alcohol and drugs in the body of the father and mother's blood, are transferred to the fetus by the chromosomes and results in physical and mental weakness of the child. Chromosomes carry some of physical origins and characteristics inherently, and the disruption of chromosomes, causing problems with people. For example, some chromosomal disorders are:

1. Mongolism or Down syndrome disorder is a disorder occurs in chromosome 21 row and an extra chromosome in the chromosome pair 21 can be seen.
2. Turner syndrome which sperm are formed from xo chromosome and then the child will suffer from physical disabilities.
3. Xxy chromosome compounds causes Klein Felter Syndrome and the disease itself could be the cause of the delinquency in some affected people.

Increased chromosome is a kind of chromosome disorder which is increased chromosome x like xxx or create a female sperm, and also increased chromosome y which some of serious offences are committed by them. One of the biological and inherit factors contributing to human personality, is blood group. RH factor is special chemical compounds that are other than the four normal blood groups.

Mothers with positive RH do not cause danger to their babies, but if mother has a negative RH and her fetus has positive RH, this causes a disorder in fetus which in fact leads to adverse effects like mental retardation. So with an extensive and detailed study of genetics and its role in the incidence of crime, the hereditary factor cannot be ignored in criminology.

Inherent non-hereditary factors

In fact congenital factor are median factors between genetic and acquired factors (Shambayati, 2003). These factors are related to pregnancy and childbirth. Mother's age, malnutrition, the effects of chemical drugs, the effects of drugs and alcohol, disease of mother in pregnancy, emotional states of mother, the effect of radioactive radiation in the pregnancy can affect the fetus and also the use of some anesthetic drugs during childbirth or bumps into the child's skull and such cases, could have a great impact on the child. The study of social deviations has long been considered by social thinkers. A group of these thinkers attribute abnormal behavior to human nature and regard it as an inherent in human nature from the childbirth and believe that education and social training is non-efficient. A group of social thinkers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau consider human nature as a role receptionist mirror and give priority to the role of social education. Durkheim believed in the duality of human nature. According to these thinkers, human nature is a combination the main character or social nature variable (Salimi and Davari, 2006). According to Aristotle, as the spirit is the center of physical forces, but the body cannot live without soul. So to knowing the spirit, on also needs to know the body (Noori, 1989).

Psychopathy

On body and mind, and their interdependence, scientists and philosophers have offered different opinions. Organized characters of the man

are composed of identity, self and ultra-self. Infrastructure of human and natural identity represents innate and internal parts of him, called "entity" or "He", which according to Islamic interpretations it is called "carnality". Human nature always follows "the pleasure principle" and is only in favor of enjoyment. Criminals only obey "He" and ignore the rules and traditions. Because "He" is not restrained in criminals. Self is an aspect or factor of a person's character which makes relationship with the real world in which he lives (Keynia, 2005).

"He" follows "reality principle" and obeys the realism and truth, and in Islamic psychology it is called "self-inspiration (Molhameh)". "Ultra self" is a person's moral reputation and is the high level of character. "Ultra-self" or "Superior I", has criticized itself, and whenever "Self" wants to accept the hit back impulses and instincts of "entity, it's avoided and blamed. So in Islamic psychology, it is called "Self-Lavameh". "Superior I" is multi-source, such as narcissism, parents and their successors, abusing others or friends.

What will be the impact of mental disorders on delinquency?

Mental disorders in legal terms, means mind's malfeasance and it could be because of hardening of the arteries. Mental disorders in children and adolescents can be originated in hereditary aspects of disease or as a result of disease is achieved. The smallest defect or brain surgery may cause the child not to understand the consequences of his/her good and bad actions. Psychologists and psychiatrists to diagnose the cause of the committed offences by child and his personality, they evaluated mood, intelligence and mental condition of him and believe that the brain is the center of every body's intelligence and perception and to do an action it is brain ,s duty to command and as a result the other members will obey.

2-2. External factors causing offense

2-2-1. Family environment

The family is a social unit which is the result of marriage of man and woman and their children, will be its complement (sarookhani, 1991). Family is the first institutional, public and the universal system which has an absolute necessity for meeting the needs of human life and survival of the community (Shambayati, 2003). As in the agricultural society, the family has been more stable with more diverse functions, in industrial society, the family has become more limited with less functions. By changing the shape of the family from a producer and consumer unit into an almost consumer one, there is no need to make a large number of children and relatives, collectively work together. In a civil society, a family who should provide a lot of children, the economic hardships is more than a family with small and less children (Cohen, 2002).

The first people, who shape the character of children, are parents. Delinquent juvenile, often have either very strict or indifferent parents are. Most parents are illiterate or less literate, and many of them are unemployed and financially disadvantaged. In addition to parents, delinquency of other family members may also impose effects on family situation. So an unbalanced family can cause pollution in all the family members. Family members' addiction can effect on the behavior of children and adolescents directly or indirectly. Children dependent on addicted parents or "drug children", are those who, in a nurturing environment, live with their parents or an addicted family member, and grow in such an environment.

Addiction in family members

Behavioral changes in addicted family members, is the first factor in tendency of drug children to addiction. Also apart from the negative effects of alcohol on the sperm, parents' addiction to alcohol, will economically effects on providing the

children with their basic supplies and these parents don't spend time on caring and upbringing of their children so this situation would be intolerant for child.

Lack of affection

Parent's affection is a critical factor for emotional development of children and in fact lack of affection is frequently a very powerful factor for offences committed by children and adolescents. Some of children, in return, begin to steal and harass others because they are deprived of family affection and confronted with an unfriendly and disregard behavior by their parents. These children are eager for affection and attention and in order to revenge or attract the attention of parents, will commit such crimes and it could be said that the core and foundation of nervousness and mental illness will develop in his character which later in adolescents will be the source of many emotional conflicts and deep anxiety (Sharghi, 1985).

Family disputes and blame

One of the other issues that cause children and teenager's delinquency is the family disputes and blames and constant disputes between parents. Observing parents' conflicts and being left with one of them, the child emotionally becomes bored and often is drawn into crime and even suicide. Some of conflicts in the family could be the result of some constraints which criminologists took into consideration. Indifference, neglect of family discipline, the absence of parents, working parents, strictness and lack of parent's agreement about custody of children may have horrible consequences. A strong relationship between parents and children caused more transmission of cultural traditions to the child (Sadat, 1992).

Weakness and nerveless of father

Father's weaknesses in the management of family, his fun in the outdoor, bullying and violence in the family, will cause child's

apathy and cynicism towards life, bullying, drug abuse, running away from home committing indecent behaviors and sometimes make the child secluded. The disintegration of the family due to death, divorce or separation of parents may be followed by the augment of delinquency in children and adolescents. The disintegration of center of a family will be a fatal blow to the future of child welfare and society (Keinia, 2009).

Death

Death of parent will be effective in mental balance. An orphan child must live his stepfather or stepmother, in a place other than his house, will make him sad and distracted and constantly anxious and unstable. Divorce or separation of parents, will be followed by concerns that makes him nervous, irritable and inconsistent and will suffer from lack of social conformity. Disintegration of family due to parent's death, separation, and divorce will lead the children toward banding the child will have more tendency towards his peers, and as a result bad friends will provide them with a delinquent context(Danesh, 1995).

2-2-2. Social problems

Social factors include all common conditions in a community which have the same effect on all people in the community. One of the effective social factors that influence the behavior of individuals, including children and adolescents, is the social environment. The social environment qualitatively is divided into natural, cultural and economic environment. Cultural environment in criminology includes customs, morals, beliefs and institutions of education, which can be a factor in the behavior of children and adolescents. Child's education is directly related to his training and personality development and the types of communication, including teachers-students, student- student interaction will have an important role in child development. Personality of the child will

evolve in school and the family. Among the various causes for justification of antisocial behavior, two qualities are of more importance than others: first quality, membership of a person in deviant group and the second, the rejection of parents' moral (Azimi, 1971).

Discipline

In fact, one of the aspects of the child's personality is having discipline at home and school. Child's indiscipline emerges under special conditions, including the indifference and apathy of parents to discipline, their lethargy and failure to discipline their children because of physical, mental or moral weakness, disagreement of parents in child rearing and discipline, too much strictness regarding the discipline and remoteness or lack of parents.

Education

Sometimes problems are made for children, since parents are ignorant or don't have enough education. For example, selfish and oppressive parents causing violence and selfishness and rebellion of child. As a result we can say, lack of affection in family, cultural ignorance in child education, cruelty, violence, mental fatigue, conflict between parents, disorder, alcoholism, drugs, or gambling in a family environment, make parents not eligible for education of their parents. Natural environment is the external environment in which people live and could be useful in delinquency of children and adolescents.

Emigration

Immigration could be considered as one of the effective factors. Because the child is grown up in his own environment, and has adapted the custom, and by leaving their homes and migrating to other areas, will have a cultural conflict and will not be adapted to the new environment and may perform acts that are punishable.

The economic situation

The impact of the economic environment on delinquency has been investigated by criminologists. Lack of enough money in family and their economic problems causing malnutrition in children and adolescents and make them deposed to diseases. Including tuberculosis, anemia and so on which as a result of the lowering of the living standards of families, children suffer from anxiety and often abandon school and also suffer from inferiority complex.

Number of family members

Large number of children in poor families creates other problems such as jealousy and conflict between the children of the family. Housing shortage in poor families requires several children sleeps in one bed in a room, or even d, or spends the night in parent's bed which such conditions inadvertently cause some sexual deviations in children. Sometimes they have inadmissible information from parent relationships and unusual experience in this area, which tell their friend, and are corruptive for listener, and provocative for speaker (Ghaemi, 1986).

Supervision

Orphans and stray children who are deprived of parental supervision and training, are more influenced by movies and books that are harmful. Emotional and cognitive aspects, psychological mechanisms and child's imitation of the cinema, are the most important factors for juvenile delinquency. Children, who are abandoned, suffer from deprivation no supervision is provided for the child by parents. Frequently, family dissolution, parental disorder and abuse, poor housing conditions and its problems, can cause children to seek pleasure for them to be able to compensate for these deficiencies. So looking for participating in groups and bands, dances, play equipment, as well as gambling and alcohol and so on which are fun for youngsters and in fact, entail costs that must be paid to them, which leads to

vagrancy, theft or other anti-social behavior on his behalf.

Cinema

In relation to the delinquency of children, the impact of cinema and press has been studied. Cinema is a powerful stimulant and children who watch action, murder, robbery, violence, or sexual, in the following days may show criminal acts that actually imitate his hero and of course a child who always goes to the movies will suffer from a kind of disorder in life and society and always seeks for adventure. The cinema issue as a social association, avoids vagrancy and is of cultural, artistic and educational value, and is different from the corrupt movies (Keinia). The potential of the cinema and television will cause a deep psychological impact on children and youngsters. Social and educational films, will guide children to noble objectives and in verse the criminal movies displaying murder, looting and others, strengthen a sense of adventure in children and provides an imaginary context for him which may leads to antisocial and destructive actions in him.

Press

Press in any society, represent the growth charts and predispositions and is the language of demands and thought and literature and culture of the community (Keinia, 2009). The press can be both a factor causing crimes and a factor prohibiting crimes. Criminal reportages which are the most charismatic column of any newspaper can play an important role in promoting and increasing delinquency. As newspapers and magazines state criminal and sexual issues clearly and with exaggeration, and they have a deep impact on the minds of children, we should not ignore the beneficial and positive effects of useful books and magazines in the proper upbringing of children.

Discussion and conclusion

According to the study we can conclude that the harmful and risky patterns will cause crime, weather they are deliberately delivered to children or they are the result of confused life or generally because of children's upbringing at small or uncomfortable house or poor training of parents and friends and corrupting scenes in the streets, the press and the characters and the actors on the screen were factors causing offences and also remember children have a potential tendency for imitating. These factors like family, socializing with friends, groups, gangs, domestic and economic environments are family, socializing with friends, groups, gangs, domestic and economic environments are effective for mental development and growth of the child and makes the family less emotional and tradition will be broken and the child is looking for overtaking his peers. Basic investigation of children's issues or achieving an ideal society, including child's delinquency, will be necessary. So by understanding the causes of delinquency of children and adolescents, we can prevent from these delinquent actions. Among all the types of prevention, social prevention is important. Social institutions such as family, school, media, etc., are trying to prevent victimization of people, especially children, adolescents and young people and reduce the opportunity of committing crimes much as possible. In this type of prevention, the police whose responsibility is to maintain security and safety of citizens, has been highlighted and is more serious. (Golmohamadi Khamene, 2006) and In fact, social prevention of delinquency, is the set of actions and measures aimed at eliminating or reducing the risk of social and economic and environmental delinquent factors. (Mohammad Nasl, 2008).

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