

## **Intellectual Grooming and Responsiveness: A Remedial Measures towards Curbing Juvenile Delinquency among Children in Pakistan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*In present era surveys of social behavior in society suggest a variety of behavioral expression. The family is the foundation of human society. Children who are rejected by their parents and society grow up at the greatest risk of becoming delinquent. One of the big anti-social behaviors worldwide is juvenile delinquency. This situation has become worse in Pakistan due to poverty and illiteracy. This paper attempts to unearth the comparison of causes of juvenile delinquency between male and female teenagers of Karachi, Pakistan. This research is descriptive, exploring the existing attribute and behavior of crime level in children of the society. Interviews have been taken as a survey instrument for collecting data from local central jail, based on 20 questions. The population consists of ten boys and ten girls (teenagers). Data has been collected from superintended Jail as well to see the sights of prison environment. Juvenile delinquency is a result of distraction between social and psychological factors of child upbringing. After the in-depth analysis child labor, trading and money dealing from early age make them greedy. Parental unemployment and destructive attitudes encourage and promote juvenile crime. Lack of readiness and anger towards life complexities also lead to negative short term outcomes including, peer and teacher rejection, failures and eventual dropout causes delinquency acts.*

**Keywords:** Anti-social Behavior, Crime Rate, Human Rights, Juvenile Delinquency.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dealing with the modern world is becoming challenging day by day. Youth are now dealing with problems and social issues that their parents could not even dream about when they were teens. In present era living standards have raised up to the new world of information and technologies, sharing and gathering data about materialistic things but when it comes to moral and ethical values the role of society and its agencies has been disappointing. As a result, unsupported social establishment, failing schools, zero tolerance in behaviors, lack of quality in childhood education, child abuse and neglect, isolated family environment and lack of access to health and mental health care ascend the crime rate and become destructive gradually for humanity. The field of delinquency has been an important area of study in society since twentieth century. Academicians,

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policymakers, practitioners and scholars have devoted their attentions to basic questions about the nature of youth crime. A theory can be defined as an abstract statement that explains why certain phenomena or things do or did not happen yet to control juvenile delinquency.

The success and growing needs of every state depends on its man power. The mentally and physically strong power of people can play dynamic role to set national and international standards for upcoming breed so that they can accomplish given task and keep their living standards morally and educationally high. The efforts done in Pakistan in order to improve criminal behavior in children's need more attention and skilled team to control delinquency effectively. In our society literacy rate is very low, due to unawareness, uneducated thoughts and poverty many natives failed to control their initiatives to commit criminal acts against society. This fact needs a major focus on effective education and long term actions to control uncertain consequences causes misuse of children.

Research indicates that parents whose marriage is secure produced children who are secure and independent. In contrast, children raised in homes with one and both parents absent may be prone to antisocial behavior<sup>1</sup>.

## **OBJECTIVE**

This study was focused on exploring main causes of juvenile delinquency and a comparison between male and female responses, so that the underground realities and aptitudes towards crime in children would be peak out.

## **FACTORS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN PAKISTAN**

Juvenile delinquency, also known as "juvenile offending", is participation in illegal behavior by minors (juveniles, i.e. individuals younger than the statutory age of majority)<sup>2</sup>. Data confirms that sex differences in crime relate to attitudes of legal authority as well as developmental stages with parents, prompting the undifferentiated behavior that associates with a risk of promoting delinquent behavior. The study of gender behavior that makes juveniles amendable at their early developmental stage is a thorough analysis of why juveniles create delinquent behavior. Through feminist analysis, it is important that juvenile behavior be studied through the critique of the traditional masculine and feminine constructs to see how these attitudes shape the nature of the crimes committed between both sexes. From the gender roles expectations to convergence theory and differentiation, these psychological factors shape the risk of delinquency that juveniles may intend to act upon. More importantly, these suggestive studies are still being researched to promote safer behavior for juveniles. There is also a significant skew in the racial statistics for juvenile offenders. When considering these statistics, it is important to keep the following in mind: poverty, or low socio-economic status are large predictors of low parental monitoring, harsh parenting, and association with deviant peer groups, all of which are in turn

associated with juvenile offending. The majority of adolescents who live in poverty are racial minorities and delinquency is one of the major factors motivated by rational choice<sup>3</sup>.

The rate of children crime in Pakistan's society was not as high as present era. It increases day by day due to undecided aims of life and unsupported state involvement. It has been observed that all agencies and institutions have failed to offer their responsibilities accordingly and sincerely, they also seem to be suffering from social disharmony. Mostly children are vulnerable so they can easily be targeted by anti-social community. There are some distinguished factors which make children's highly ignorable figures in family and society as well. Because of least participation in personal family activities, lack of coordination and unshared decision making can develop personality disorders. Somehow, these all factors are usually the main reason to develop criminal thoughts in children's mind to ruin their lives inadequately.

Family factors that may have an influence on offending include: the level of parental supervision, the way parents discipline a child, particularly harsh punishment, parental conflict or separation, criminal parents or siblings, parental abuse or neglect, and the quality of the parent-child relationship<sup>4</sup>. Juvenile Delinquency, which basically is the rebellious or unlawful activities by kids in their teens or pre-teens, is caused by four main risk factors namely; personality, background, state of mind and drugs. These factors may lead to the child having low IQ and may increase the rate of illiteracy<sup>5</sup>. Peer rejection in childhood is also a large predictor of juvenile delinquency. Although children are rejected by peers for many reasons, it is often the case that they are rejected due to violent or aggressive behavior. This rejection affects the child's ability to be socialized properly, which can reduce their aggressive tendencies, and often leads them to gravitate towards anti-social peer groups. This association often leads to the promotion of violent, aggressive and deviant behavior. "The impact of deviant peer group influences on the crystallization of an antisocial developmental trajectory has been solidly documented"<sup>6</sup>. Aggressive adolescents who have been rejected by peers are also more likely to have a "hostile attribution bias", which leads people to interpret the actions of others (whether they be hostile or not) as purposefully hostile and aggressive towards them. This often leads to an impulsive and aggressive reaction<sup>7</sup>.

## **COMPARISON BETWEEN CRIME RATE OF RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN PAKISTAN**

In Pakistan the living style, standard and custom of rural and urban people are different. Different situations made different types of crime. In rural areas people highly valued their cultural norms and social discipline because of feudal system, on the other hand urban region located at huge areas with different multi cultured people having various ways to live life with different mindset, independence and without any restrictions like rural region. Moreover, the existence of slum areas

in cities usually causes the holistic development of crime in children's mind. Population of these areas are mostly reluctance, uneducated and detached from their surroundings, as a result early childhood education cannot provided properly which is the main reason of juvenile delinquency.

The past array of experience and observations showed that commercial areas, big trade centers and business circle also appeals children towards crime in urban areas, because they have many resources for robbery, smuggling, stealing and other antisocial activities to cope up with rather than urban region. In other words crime acts are actually because of commercial areas. Perception should be clear about the relationship between traditional and modern beliefs, why some children in our community have some disability or difficulties in their lives.

However the constitution of Pakistan promulgated that *“no child below the age of 14 years shall be engaged in any factory or mine or any other hazardous employment”*. {Art, 11(3)}[Constitution of Pakistan, Govt. of Pakistan].

At the age of six or seven parents enforced their children to help them financially in slum areas. For that reason they enlarge their family, so that they can earned and support all family members till whole life. Population of Pakistan has been increased day by day due to poor people, because they have child labor culture in their minds to develop in slave like conditions. Rural areas and traditional societies involved in agriculture and handicraft manufacture, they work under their parents' supervision for the purpose of learning family business. Classical criminology stresses that causes of crime lie within the individual offender, rather than in their external environment. For classicists, offenders are motivated by rational self-interest, and the importance of free will and personal responsibility is emphasized.<sup>8</sup> Juvenile delinquents are often diagnosed with different disorders. Around six to sixteen percent of male teens and two to nine percent of female teens have a conduct disorder. These can vary from oppositional-defiant disorder, which is not necessarily aggressive, to antisocial personality disorder, often diagnosed among psychopaths<sup>9</sup>. A conduct disorder can develop during childhood and then manifest itself during adolescence<sup>10</sup>.

Juvenile delinquents who have recurring encounters with the criminal justice system, or in other words those who are life-course-persistent offenders, are sometimes diagnosed with conduct disorders because they show a continuous disregard for their own and others safety and/or property. Once the juvenile continues to exhibit the same behavioral patterns and turns eighteen he is then at risk of being diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder and much more prone to become a serious criminal offender<sup>11</sup>. One of the main components used in diagnosing an adult with antisocial personality disorder consists of presenting documented history of conduct disorder before the age of 15. These two personality disorders are analogous in their erratic and aggressive behavior. This is why habitual juvenile offenders diagnosed with conduct disorder are likely to

exhibit signs of antisocial personality disorder early in life and then as they mature. Sometimes these juveniles reach maturation and they develop into career criminals, or life-course-persistent offenders. "Career criminals begin committing antisocial behavior before entering grade school and are versatile in that they engage in an array of destructive behaviors, offend at exceedingly high rates, and are less likely to quit committing crime as they age"<sup>11</sup>. Juveniles who commit sexual crimes refer to individuals adjudicated in a criminal court for a sexual crime<sup>12</sup>. Sex crimes are defined as sexually abusive behavior committed by a person under the age of 18 that is perpetrated "against the victim's will, without consent, and in an aggressive, exploitative, manipulative, and/or threatening manner"<sup>13</sup>. It is important to utilize appropriate terminology for juvenile sex offenders. Harsh and inappropriate expressions include terms such as "pedophile, child molester, predator, perpetrator, and mini-prep"<sup>14</sup>. These terms have often been associated with this group, regardless of the youth's age, diagnosis, cognitive abilities, or developmental stage. Using appropriate expressions can facilitate a more accurate depiction of juvenile sex offenders and may decrease the subsequent aversive psychological effects from using such labels<sup>14</sup>. In the Arab Gulf states [sic], homosexual acts are classified as an offense, and constitute one of the primary crimes for which juvenile males are charged<sup>15</sup>.

## PREVENTING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Special programs are needed to tackle the problem of unaccompanied and homeless children, including rehabilitation schemes that take children off the streets.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a framework for improving the living conditions of children, focusing on the following four broad areas:

Juvenile Delinquency World Youth Report:

- **Survival Rights:** Articles 6.1, 6.2 and 24.1 deals with the basic needs that must be met for children to enjoy good health for adequate growth, including medical care, nutrition, shelter and clothing. For street children most of these needs are not satisfied.
- **Development Rights:** Articles 6, 26 and 28 relate to the opportunities and means for providing children with access to education, skills, training, recreation and rest, information, parental care and social security.
- **Protective Rights:** Articles 2, 19.1, 19.2, 32.1, 33, 34, 36 and 37 focus on the legal and social provisions that must be made by each country to protect children from exploitation, drug abuse, sexual abuse, cruelty, separation from family, discrimination, and the effects of all types of man-made or natural disasters.

- **Participation Rights:** Articles 12, 13, 14 and 17 focus on the opportunities and means provided to children to enable them to express opinions on matters affecting their lives, including freedom of worship, access to information about oneself, and freedom to give evidence (where applicable). Children are knowledgeable about their situations and can devise innovative solutions to their problems if consulted. Street children, in particular, have already learned to make important decisions regarding their daily lives without the assistance of adults. (*Assorted materials from the following organizations: Human Rights Watch, The International Child and Youth Care Network, Reuters, UNICEF, and World Vision International*).

## **METHOD**

This research is descriptive and qualitative study, exploring the existing attribute and behavior of crime level in children of the society in Pakistan. One survey instrument “interview” was used for collecting data from Karachi Pakistan jail, based on 20 questions. Due to qualitative research purposive sampling can be parallel in order to provide deep analysis to explore responses of children about their inaccuracies and circumstances which made them immoral. Purposive sampling is when a researcher chooses specific people within the population to use for a particular study or research project. The idea behind purposive sampling is to concentrate on people with particular characteristics who will better be able to assist with the relevant research. Therefore 20 teenager hostages were selected from central jail to find out the ground realities of juvenile delinquency.

## **SAMPLE POPULATION**

The population of this study comprised of all children which are meant to be committed crime in Karachi city. Interview has been taken from all boys and girls of central jail Karachi. This study is not without limitations, the most obvious limitation is the small number of children's that participated in the study. The population of this study was delimited to a large number of children's; center of focus in this study is central jail of Karachi. Prisons in all over the country were excluded. The population consists of ten boys and ten girls (teenagers) of central jail of Karachi. Data has been collected from superintended Jail as well to see the sights of prison environment.

## **DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH PROCEDURE**

This data collection carries with it the risk, that respondent are not entirely honestly in his or her responses. To perceive the broad vision of crime level in children's of Karachi, interview has been taken during survey as the data collection procedure required. The time span for interview by participants was one to three hours in order to examine the in depth observation and experienced face expressions and attitude of the participants during interview so that the

researcher discover what causes played role to create criminal thoughts in childish minds.

Researcher visited central Jail Karachi to conduct survey as the data were meant to be collected from the participants on an individual basis, for that purpose few children demanded a limited time span to provide sufficient feedback and some of them responded instant.

### **ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

The raw data were converted in to different category on the basis of comparison, in order to assess the similarities and dissimilarities between male and female in all perspective. The purpose of the study is to point out similar and diverse reasons which are the major cause for them to commit crime. Some similar and dissimilar characteristics in male and female respondent regarding juvenile delinquency have been observed via interview are as follows:

#### ***SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS IN MALE:***

1. Lack of education in male teenagers causes juvenile delinquency.
2. Separation and death of parents has been the key reason of juvenile delinquency.
3. UN educated parents are the main reason behind immorality in children.
4. Alcoholic addiction also involves children in anti social activities.
5. Poverty and negative thoughts towards life can be the purpose of antisocial activities in male teenagers.

#### ***SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS IN FEMALE:***

1. There is gender discrimination in Pakistani society which is the main cause of juvenile delinquency in female.
2. Mostly female are vulnerable so they can easily be targeted by community.
3. Rival thoughts of rural society towards female education cause juvenile delinquency.
4. Traditional norms have restricted mobility and basic right of sovereignty of women in Pakistan.
5. Early age marriages are the key factor of causing dozen of problems to maintain family life.

#### ***SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS IN BOTH:***

Data describes that mostly reasons are same in male and female responses. Basically, it all depends on environmental and cultural values. However, along with some obvious factors causing juvenile delinquency in Karachi has some drawback as well. The following are as follows:

1. Low socio economic living standards and poverty.
2. Low empowerment immorality has been occurred.

3. Lack of implementation in society regarding human rights.
4. Unsupportive family and slum areas.
5. Shortage of basic needs of life.
6. Child Labor.
7. Company of older juvenile offenders in Jail.
8. Violation of Human Rights.
9. Exploitation.
10. Lack of basic resources and unawareness.

### ***SUPERINTENDENT'S RESPONSE***

This study intended to explore ground realities of society and causes regarding criminal behavior in children. In this regard data has been collected from the superintendent as well to observe the environment and development of central jail Karachi. The important points are as follows:

- The superintendent of juvenile jail also affirmed upon the facts and causes of children being involved in crimes which are clear and obvious such as: poverty, illiteracy and separation of parents.
- Eighty percent of children are in juvenile jail due to drug addiction, weapons keeping and violation of ordinance act. Immoral peer groups and unawareness also causes juvenile delinquency in children.
- Due to the implementation of the laws of child labor, community co operation, effective planning regarding education and allocation of resources sincerely by the government can assist to control crime level in the society.

According to superintendent, there is a proper formal education system has been provided for delinquents. In jail; school, library and computer lab efficiently work to make them civilized and literate. Technical and Islamic education also considered as the important pillar for those delinquents who have nothing to offer to society except misery.

### **RESULT**

- i- Juvenile delinquency is a result of distraction between social and psychological factors of child upbringing.
- ii- After the in depth analysis of situation it has been observed that child labor, trading and money dealing from early age make them greedy and are the main determinants of juvenile terrible crime.
- iii- Sometimes children do not see their dreams fulfilled, they come on the streets and entail in illegal activities.
- iv- Parental unemployment and negative thoughts of victimization depressed them. As a result, destructive attitudes encourage and promote juvenile crime.
- v- It has been observed, that lack readiness to attend the school and anger towards life lead to negative short term outcomes including, peer and teacher

rejection, poor academic achievements, failure in class and eventual dropout causes delinquency acts.

## CONCLUSION

Crime violation in society is always undesired and an invaluable component. The various researches suggest that the educated family play an important role to control criminal acts in children. Although the various social agencies like educational institutes, peer group, neighborhood etc also considered as an important elements to manage antisocial behavior in children.

Clayton Hartgen summarizes Bentham's views of "Utilitarianism", and says that:  
*"The human being is basically a rational animal possessing a will that enables the individual freely to choose courses of action. Since human being was also believed to possess the desire to achieve pleasure and avoid pain, this deliberate choice must move to gain goal through breaking of law and delinquency".*

It has been proved and reported in several research reports that some poor peer relationships, financial deprivation, lower class culture and disregarded educational system enforced children to involve in delinquency. It therefore should not be surprising that this kind of delinquency provides them a mean to gain prestige, economic achievements and other human satisfaction in male or female both. In urban areas criminal thoughts are the origin of aggression, failure of academic career and intuition of antisocial intentions. On the other hand, rural areas are quite common in the land dispute, large family size, income discrepancy and friend's motivation.

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