Measuring the Aspects of Youth Crime: An Sociological Study

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Abstract: Youth Crime has become vibrant and serious issue in present day that creates unpleasant situation in society. Where the youths are considered the future and energetic strength of a country yet day by day that group become morally degraded and involve themselves easily in illegal activities. As consequence many menace have arisen such as violent inhumane sex crimes, family conflicts, murder cases, dacoits, kidnappings, attempt to murder, prostitution etc. where most of the youth has been engaged. So, to throw light on the impact of various risk factors behind the crime, in this paper an attempt has been prepared to focus on some important institution as family, and influence of peer groups, neighbours, alcohol addiction and media influences on youth in present day context.

Key words: Youth Crime, Sex Crime, Family conflict

I. INTRODUCTION

Youth are the most energetic, powerful, vibrant and dynamic category of individual which plays a vital role for the all over development of society. The Youth group are regarded as the future of a nation but it has been noticed that they also easily amalgamate with illegal activities. They are motivated to involve in violence and as a way of asserting their independence of the adulthood and their rules, as a way of gaining the attention and respect of peers, as a way of compensating for limited personal competencies, or as a response to restricted opportunities for success at school or in the community. That period of youth life, many changes like stress, depression, reveal the gap between expectation and achievement, ideological conflict between parents and their children, etc may led to create disturbed conditions. Therefore, the present work has been tried to study about the socio-economic association of youth with the family, neighbours, peers and addiction with alcohol during the transitional period youth life.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives are stated below:

- To examine Family as a risk factor of crime.
- To study the impact of neighbourhood and peer-group influences over youth towards involvement in crime.
- To examine Alcohol Addiction and media influence motivate individual to commit crime.

III. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Applied the qualitative approach of data collection from secondary sources the present paper has been prepared. The data has been collected from journals, books, online sources etc.

IV. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Based on the mentioned objectives of the present paper an attempt has been made to make a discussion about the factors contributing towards crime causation.

Family Conflict and Crime:

The family plays a very significant role to formation and development of personality of a child. This paper has tried to analyse the different factors within the family situation which motivated the individuals to committed crime. Family is the major platform, where a child undergoes different guidance and discipline that are maintained & organized by parents and other family members. It is recognised as the stage from where a child's foundations are built. Due to the discordant family situation most of the youth compel endure anti-social activities. The discordant Family situation refers to tension, conflicts, and deviant and anti social behaviour and activities prevalent among the members of the family. However in the present society, it has been found that there are declining in care, love and good rearing of the child, which in fundamental nature coincides with the growing number of youths involved with crime.

Some prior research studies acknowledged that the family is a major risk factor of crime. Wells and Rankin (1988) found that boys with very strict parents reported the most violence. Boys with very permissive parents reported the second highest level of violence. Boys with parents who were neither too strict nor too careless reported the least violence. Also, boys whose parents punished them inconsistently, sometimes punishing and sometimes ignoring the same behaviour, were more likely to commit an offense against other persons than boys whose parents punished them more consistently. Parental punishment or harshness in discipline also predicted later violence. Farrington (1989) found that sons whose fathers did not engage in leisure activities with them more often exhibited violent behaviour as teenagers and adults and were more likely to be convicted for a violent offense. A negative family characteristic such as poor parental supervision of children is often studied as a risk factor for...
future delinquency or crime, and children who come from such homes are believed to be at greater risk or are more likely to commit offenses than children who do not. When the revoke occurs, such as a child growing up in a loving and supportive home—researchers often refer to these variables as “protective” factors, as they promote a child’s resilience or provide protective barriers against the onset of criminal involvement even in the light of adverse condition (Derzon, 2005). Family is also responsible for defective development of personality which results in low toleration of aggravation, maladjustment, antagonism, inadequate frame of reference, inadequate reality perceptions and other psychological malfunctioning. The defective development of personality resulted as violent mood of character of an individual. Gershoff (2002) addressed the question of whether the use of physical punishment by parents has a negative impact on their children. Family also creates such unpleasant situations that finally lead to involved in criminal activities. Johnston (1955) pointed out that “children who demonstrate aggressive, homicide and other forms of violent behaviour are usually what their parents subconsciously wish”. The parents aggressive and violent behaviours influence children’s involved in violence behaviour (Burt, 1944). Lack of affection, either actual or as perceived by the child, is regarded as an important contributory factor in anti social attitude. It is because the child is dependent on its parents for its physical as well as social needs. The lack of affection may arise due to different reasons, like disharmonious relationship between the parents, a broken home, e.g. when one or both parents are missing due to death, divorce or desertion Qadri (2009).

Neighbourhood, Peer group pressure and Crime:

Neighbourhood is played an important role for a child to development of his attitude. It impacts on the development of the behavioural pattern on early stage of life and it’s gradually increased into the young stage. Some earlier studies revealed that Community factors including low neighbourhood attachment and community disorganization, the availability of alcohol and firearms, exposure to violence and racial prejudice, laws and norms favourable to violence may contribute to crime and violence (Brewer et. al., 1995). Maguin and colleagues (1995) examined community disorganization and low neighbourhood attachment as predictors of violence.

Many scholars have studied on the development of criminal attitude by the peer groups from the different backgrounds. Friendship which most commonly exerts a harmful influence on the child is the attachment with persons of the same age and next coming from the same school, or same streets, and either actively engaged in delinquency themselves, or also actively inciting and encouraging it (Burt, 1915). Mills and colleagues (2002) also reported that norms and influence from criminal friends interact with criminal attitudes, and when coupled, the relationship to criminality is particular strong. Additionally, Rhodes (1979) found that people who enter prison with low levels of antisocial thoughts and attitudes develop more deviant attitudes with the passage of time. This increase in antisocial attitudes of youth is likely due to the association with criminal peers within the prison environment. Many violent incidents between strangers take place in or around drinking stablemen’s in which both victims and perpetrators had been drinking (Richardson & Budd, 2003). Young people are at increased risk of criminal behaviour and drug abuse when they feel that they are excluded from the mainstream and do not acknowledge responsibilities towards other people.

Addiction to Alcohol and Crime:

Addiction to alcohol is reported as another major reason for committing the crime by youth. Alcohol is not a new word for anyone. Being treated, a social drink it has led to grave consequences for those who just fall in habit of this deadly drink. Alcohol addiction not only destroys a person's social and family life but can also be a breeding ground for various evils. Alcohol when consumed regularly becomes a habit and the addicts mind desires for the more alcohol addiction that finally it increases the tolerance level of his body. Thus, addiction begins, under high alcohol influence; a person loses control over his senses. Addicts also lost their sleep and get more restless due to these biological changes.

Prior different scholars have already been studied on the relationship between alcohol addiction and crime involvement. Most of the scholars’ findings of the research works have revealed that alcohol is often present, in the offender or victim, in violent crimes including homicide and assault, and in destructive property crimes such as malicious damage (Collins 1982 et.al). Many convicted violent offenders reported that they were drunk at the time of their offence or were a history of chronic alcohol use (Greenberg 1982). Acquisitive property offenders, in addition to violent offenders, report drinking at the time they committed their offence (Collins 1982 et. al). Again the study conducted on juvenile offenders also reported that obtaining money for alcohol, as well as drugs, as their primary reason for committing acquisitive property crime. It is strong evidence that alcohol use is related to the commission of violent crime and destructive property crime and to public disorder. Experimental studies have shown that alcohol can be used to induce aggression (Bushman & Cooper 1990). However, alcohol is not exclusively related to violent crime. Problem of drinking alcohol has been associated with deviant and criminal behaviour in general amongst juveniles (Collins 1986 et. al).

Media Influence on Youth Crime:

Media is also playing a huge role in the creation of attitudes, behaviours and the personality of youths today. The excited modern media and entertainment can also be a major cause of youth violence. Now a day the available access of internet facilities and available use of different social networks such as face book, what up, etc. are also considered other major reasons that lead the youth towards committing crime. A
violent video or a crime movie influences the viewers into high risk behaviours later on. Moreover these movies or programs tend to glorify deviant activities, impart knowledge of criminal’s techniques, and spread of criminality in society. Thus, television programs and motion pictures have been blamed for many youth crimes. Quite a few movies give scenes of adventure, kidnapping, rape, assault, murder which offer new behaviour of today’s youths who impersonate them into their real life. Songs and movies are shown on various satellite channels carry pictures, scenes and visuals that are terribly reduced taste and emotionally disturbed the young minds. A lot of crimes movies are being watched today by the youths that made huge impact towards involvement in anti-social acts. Because, the violent videos or crime movies influences the viewers into high risk behaviours later on. They often give techniques of committing crime and also help to learn such types of behaviours from different shows of televisions. Sex and violence have become the major television broadcasting themes. Some magazines also access the youth people to preoccupy the sense of anti-social behaviour. The available used of mobile phone internet also can impact on individuals to involved in criminal activities.

V. CONCLUSION

After discuss the five major aspects of the society such Family conflicts, alcohol addiction, peer group pressure, neighbourhood and media impact it come to conclude that youth motivated to involve in crime by influenced of such kinds of facts. But the factors all are inter-related which sometimes compelled individuals to committed crime.

REFERENCES