
Causes Contributing To Juvenile Delinquency: In Indian Scenario

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This issue manifests itself in a variety of ways, and the degree to which it occurs, the frequency with which it occurs, and the seriousness with which it occurs may all vary. It also takes a variety of forms, such as theft, pickpocketing, chronic drug use, sexual offences, violent protests, and so on. In order to mould the child into a responsible and knowledgeable citizen who will one day lead the country, he has to be raised in an environment that is appropriate and get appropriate moral instruction. In the same way that other societal problems have complicated origins, so does delinquencyⁱ. If the kid goes through childhood in unpleasant settings, he will likely develop poor standards and values, and it will be tough to steer him back onto the proper road in the not too distant future. Once the youngster has learned how to get away with their first transgression, it encourages them to commit an increasing number of crimes until they are discovered, apprehended, and tried for their crimes. If they are found guilty, they will be sentenced to jail time. Recent years have seen an increase in the number of instances in which these juvenile offenders have attempted crimes against adults that are of a more severe character. As an example, breaking and entering, Stealing, dacoity, murder, sexual assault, rape, etc. The term "juvenile delinquency"ⁱⁱⁱ has never been attributed to a single, overarching cause; nonetheless, the phenomenon itself is likely attributable to a large number of factors. The primary explanations for this may be broken down into three categories, which are as follows:

1. The Biological Roots of Delinquency in Children and Teensⁱⁱⁱ

- i. Eye problems are a leading cause of irritability in children, as well as emotional instability and a decreased quality of life. In addition to this, it may prevent individuals from achieving sufficient awareness, so driving them towards leading a more conventional lifestyle.
- ii. Problems with the nose and throat may cause discomfort and unease, which can lead to a loss of interest in one's place of employment or an unwillingness to attend school. Clogged breathing eventually leads to mouth breathing, which gives the impression that the person is not operating to their full potential.^{iv}
- iii. Hearing Problems: Issues such as deafness or hearing issues render the affected person ineffective. Their capacity to work, in general, decreases, and prejudice hurts their ability to work, which causes the individual to become dependent on other people, which in turn becomes a justification for his antisocial conduct.
- iv. It has been shown that difficulties with speech are the primary cause of delinquent behaviour, especially in youngsters. People are likely to tease or make fun of a youngster who has difficulties with speaking. The youngster will likely acquire a sense of inferiority as a result of this, which may lead to an increased desire to engage in delinquent behaviour.

v. enuresis: this condition describes a problem with the body's bladder that causes urine to leak out. It may be a source of suffering at times, as well as a potential motive for criminal behaviour.

vi. Irritation: Irritation that is produced by illnesses in the body such as 'ringworm eczema' or irritation in the genital organs may also be a significant element that leads in delinquency.

vii. A headache has the potential to make a person more irritable and temperamental. On the other hand, engaging in criminal action could be an exceptionally uncommon outcome.

viii. Excessive strength: The likelihood of a person committing a crime is increased when that person has excessive levels of physical force, and when that individual's psychological characteristics include being impolite and poorly channelled.

ix. Hypoglycemia is a condition in which there is a lower amount of glucose in the blood vessels. This lower level of glucose in the blood vessels causes hypoglycemia, which disrupts a person's sensation of awareness as well as his memory and recognition. This might result in the individual engaging in behaviours such as assault, aggression, disturbing the peace, inclinations towards suicidal behaviour, intoxication, theft, mischief, robbery, or slander.^v

2. Socio-Environmental Causes

i. Mobility is one of the most significant contributors to the development of criminal behaviour in a community. Because industrialisation and urbanisation have led to a movement of people to other locations, the need for communication services and transportation has increased at a breakneck pace in today's world. The fact that these new platforms are anonymous increases the likelihood that criminal activity will take place on them.^{vi}

ii. Conflicts in Culture the rising rate of urbanisation and industrialisation has led to a shift in population to other areas, which has led to conflicts in culture between immigrants and natives.^{vii} These cultural conflicts, which take place among various parts of society, are a cause for the aberrant conduct that leads to an increased crime rate in the particular location. The television show "Ruth & Cavan"^{viii} made the following observation: "Eskimos are also still not free from the problem of crime." Because of their relocation to metropolitan regions and their increased social interaction with people who are not of Eskimness, they commonly engage in deviant behaviours such as intoxication and sexual assaults. In 1947, during the division of India and Pakistan, India too had this sort of difficulty, and in 1971, following the separation of Pakistan and Bangladesh, the same thing occurred in Pakistan. In 1947, a very high rate of immigration of 'Refugees' from the 'Sindh and NWF area' became a key factor of establishing limits in the long-maintained social structure of Indian Societies. This time marked the beginning of the Indian independence movement. Because of this, there was a significant rise in criminal activity.^{ix}

iii. The child's upbringing in their family is a highly crucial aspect that determines whether or not they will engage in delinquent behaviour in the community. "Sutherland" argued that the family history of a criminal or a juvenile has the biggest impact on their conduct. When children see their parents or other members of their family acting in a way that is similar to what they consider to be criminal behaviour^x, it might lead them to engage in criminal behaviour themselves. A kid who is raised in an environment that is antagonistic and confrontational between their parents is more likely to get involved in criminal activity. The lack of parental or familial support and a check on their child as a consequence of separation, divorce, or abandonment may be a major cause for why

they engage in criminal behaviour. This may also be a factor in why they forsake their children. The frequent disagreements and arguments that take place between parents, the superiority of one parent over the other, risky protective behaviour with children, the evil of guardians, neediness, a poor family environment,^{xi} joblessness, low pay, or parents who continue to be absent from home for extended periods of time may be factors that contribute to a child becoming involved in criminal activity and enjoying it.^{xii} The following are examples of elements that are comparable to those that radiate from this factor:

a. The child's character and personality are largely influenced by the structure of the household in which they were raised. A kid needs a healthy environment and positive role models in order to develop the self-assurance necessary to become a responsible and sensible citizen.^{xiii} A family structure that is educated and well-developed may supply this for the child. The majority of juvenile delinquents come from families that are considered to be substandard.^{xiv} The author of "Ingram"^{xv} makes the observation that the composition of a family has a significant impact on the antisocial conduct of a child. According to the findings of a study that was carried out by the researcher "Dornbusch," "both the patterns of family structure and decision making contribute distinctively to adolescent's deviant behaviour."^{xvi}

b. Broken Homes are homes that are unstable as a result of the loss of a family member, such as family homes. These homes are also known as family homes. Children who have parents who are dependent on drugs or who suffer with addiction on a consistent basis may have their hearts broken by the news. The young guy finally begins to feel out of place and begins to find his path. Pull himself towards the antagonistic friendly aspects that provide him joy and mislead him in this discussion. Researchers have shown that a significant number of unwanted young people live in houses that are in a state of disrepair. The authors of the research "Shaw and McKay (1932)" provided extensive information about the correlation between broken up families and delinquent behaviour in their publication.^{xvii}

"Badami (1965)"; Consider broken homes with a range of characteristics as the primary causes of child abuse; necessity, the lack of a sports office, and unstable families such as family dispute and child desertion are examples of these reasons.^{xviii}

c. The Systematic Position of Children within the Family One other essential component of the composition of a family that is often considered to be connected to criminal activity is the birth order of the children within the family. In 1954, the television show "Lis and Newson" revealed differences among the criminals that may be taken into account in relation to the condition of brotherhood. Their papers shown that youngsters in the middle years of their lives who have an older sibling or a younger sibling are more likely to be observed by criminal organisations. It was revealed by them that parents of middle-aged children cared for their children less than other parents cared for their children, which led to misbehaviour among children of that age group.^{xix}

d. The size and composition of the family is one factor that is regarded to be a contributor to antisocial conduct. Because less attention is paid to the children in families that are joined in composition, the majority of criminal minds come from large joint families. This is in contrast to the smaller and more nuclear families that produce the majority of the population.

e. Relationships Between Parents and Children The most significant factor in the development of a child's conduct is his or her connection with his or her parents or elders. Children's social minds and

perspectives are shaped to a large extent by the interactions that they have inside their families. "The Child Needs to Feel That There Is at Least One Solid Dependable Fact in the Changing Confusion of His Social Relationships," writes "Desai" (1979), "the child needs to feel that there is at least one solid dependable fact in the changing confusion of his social relationships, that he need never doubt his parent's affection for him." On the other hand, there are numerous instances in which misunderstandings, hurt sentiments, and overt disagreements take place between the parent and the kid. In compared to those who are habitual offenders, people who are habitual offenders have been seen to exhibit lower levels of love for other members of the family. According to the research of "Lakshmann" (1982), "juvenile delinquency is affected by the differential treatment given to the children by their parents."^{xx}

iv. Neighbourhood: The neighbourhood also has a significant impact on the many types of criminal activity that are taking place in a certain region. Therefore, villages, towns, and cities with a huge population present greater opportunity for illegal activities such as stealing, robbing, abduction, and other similar activities. In recent years, pickpocketing and other forms of theft have grown more common in public settings. Some of the immoral protests that are taking place in the vicinity is the second primary factor that should be taken into consideration for the criminal conduct. For instance, brothels, gambling dens, and similar establishments.^{xxi}

v. The socioeconomic state of the family is also a crucial factor that contributes to the youngsters engaging in delinquent behaviour. The most recent advancements in industries and social processes are having a significant impact on the day-to-day lives of individuals.^{xxii} The parents' inability to exert any kind of authority over their children has given those youngsters the freedom to act in whatever manner that they choose. These days, the benchmark that is used to establish a person's place in society is their level of financial wealth. It is simple to cover one's tracks with money while committing a crime in a society that has evolved. Poverty is increasingly being seen as a significant contributor to social crime.

vi. Alcohol and Intoxication: These days, a growing number of young people are partaking in the practise of drinking alcohol. When a child is sick, some adults may give them a teaspoon of brandy as a preventative measure against colds and coughs.^{xxiii} They believe that brandy is an effective treatment for colds and coughs, despite the fact that drinking alcohol in any form results in significant damage being done to the neurons and body of a youngster who consumes it. People who drink alcohol often lose control of themselves. The majority of the time, it results in arguments between the husband and wife, as well as their children, which leads to violence inside the family. Children's brains might get so filled with anger as a result of this that they end up doing the crime.^{xxiv}

vii. The children a youngster associates with have a significant impact on the child's conduct. Teenagers organise themselves into groups known as gangs and recruit younger children who share their proclivities. Gang's behaviour contributes greatly to juvenile criminality. Gangs are often seen as a method for developing new forms of criminal activity and for protecting its members in order to ensure the group's continued participation in criminal activity.^{xxv} When a youngster is a member of a gang of juvenile offenders, the child's chances of being engaged in illegal activity increase. Sometimes, children have a tendency to join these criminal gangs in order to protect themselves from being detected.

viii. The youngsters in a democratic or socialist society are more likely to use foul language because the conditions of daily existence in such a society shape the attitudes and worldviews from which they form their opinions. One of the most significant contributors to adolescent delinquency is the surrounding community. For example, the rural and urban areas of our nation are vastly different from one another in terms of way of life, language, and other aspects of daily life. The frequency of criminal behaviour is significantly impacted by each of the aforementioned distinctions.^{xxvi}

ix. The sociocultural conditions are a crucial factor that plays a role in the delinquency of adolescents and teenagers. The youngster will encounter a great number of individuals during their time spent in the society, some of whom may become members of illegal faiths.^{xxvii} These antisocial characteristics, which are prevalent in today's culture, have the potential to turn good youngsters into delinquent adolescents for their own nefarious purposes, such as furthering their own criminal activities or gaining advantages by forcing the kids to commit crimes such as "theft, extortion, pick-pocketing, fraud," and so on. According to the book "Clarence Darrow," "the child criminal is now common and for the most part is a product of the city." The rate of all types of crime is unquestionably much higher in the city compared to the rate in the country, and the young offender in particular is the product of the overcrowded society.^{xxviii}

x. Cinema: Movies and drama are also key reasons of delinquency in young generation since they are readily affected by movie clips. This is because young people are more impressionable than older generations. Whatever it is that they see portrayed on screen, they will eventually experience for themselves in their own lives. In modern times, the majority of the time, film is reliant on sexual transgressions and the unlawful types that are prominent in society, like as dacoity, bank robbery, theft, etc. It is of the utmost importance for parents to direct their focus towards their young children in order to ensure that their children steer clear of media depictions of violent or otherwise objectionable scenarios and to prevent exposure to such images.^{xxix}

xi. The press has a significant role in the formation of both positive and negative influences on the developing mind of a child.^{xxx} These children, in general, pay greater attention to the headlines of newspapers and news channel clips that feature discussions on gambling and lotteries, theft, plunder, robbery, and other similar topics. Young people also strive to educate themselves on the methods of committing crimes in order to make easy gains in their careers and become millionaires with less struggles. According to the "Jerome Motto,"^{xxxii} the publication of newspapers is one of the causes that encourages suicidal behaviour. His research showed "that during the ten months strike when newspapers were not available, there was a 20% drop in the suicide rate in the Detroit area." He holds media accountable for their consistent coverage of violent actions, sexuality, aggression, power usage, and legendary deeds.^{xxxiii}

xii. Cheap Literature: Poor quality literature has been shown to have a number of negative effects on the developing brains of youngsters. In the United States of America, Frederick Wortham and in England, Mays have provided an explanation on the effect that low-quality, low-cost compositions have on the brains of children who engage in antisocial behaviours. "Such literature only offers children murder, drug trafficking, and other forms of organised crime," says "Fredrick Wortham." They have an influence that is anti-educational in general, and they interfere with education by cutting significant chunks of time out of a child's life during which he is not positively engaged, that is, educationally. As a result of his research that spanned a span of seven years, he arrived at a

certain conclusion. Similar to this, the author "Mays" made the following suggestion: "cheap advertisements and photos in the periodicals are responsible for providing stimulation to the teenage cult, with the sole motive of promoting sale of certain kinds of articles." Once again, Bhattacharya was in agreement with this notion, stating that "the movie, the radio, and the crime magazine, he says, stimulate crime through imitativeness, especially in the impressionable ones who are open to suggestions."^{xxxiii}

xiii. Mental Constituents: A child's ideas and mentality to a large extent serve as a source of nourishment for the child's conduct and activities. Many experts came to the conclusion that "a significant number of criminals have pitiful minds and lack adequate intelligence."^{xxxiv}

xiv. Due of heredity, a significant amount of emphasis is placed on antisocial conduct in relation to children. The belief of "Goring" that "pathetic mindedness is the result of hereditary transmission" A Seminar's view resulted: "delinquent parents breed delinquent children". "What a child does is influenced more by his environment than by his heredity, which determines what he can or cannot do as a child." A genetic attribute is often little more than an identity in these circumstances.^{xxxv} Therefore, if the father is a thief, it is possible for the kid to begin the behaviour of stealing goods for reasons that are unknown. The parent-child tendency does not manifest itself until it is prompted by outside factors. Therefore, when a criminal youngster commits cheating, not only should he be held accountable for his genetics, but also for the relationships he maintains, the influences he is subject to, and the growth he undergoes. You may avert this situation by removing these children from the club at an earlier time.^{xxxvi}

3. Physiological and Individual Contributing Factors

The psychological conduct of the offender is a very significant factor in determining whether or not someone has committed a crime. The criminal's psychology takes control of his head, which in turn carries out the deviant behaviours that the criminal intends to display.^{xxxvii} The following is a list of the primary contributors to this result:

i. A significant role in the maturation and development of children is played by educational institutions. Students spend the majority of their waking hours at school, where they have the closest connections possible with their contemporaries. Rudeness on the part of teachers in schools leads to kids developing feelings of anger and dissatisfaction towards their teachers, which in turn leads to kids losing interest in school, skipping classes, and eventually becoming delinquents.^{xxxviii} It was claimed by "Bhatia" that "the unfavourable school conditions may include harsh and unsympathetic treatment," which often makes the problem much worse. According to the book "Pathak," "School is usually thought of as a constructive agency; however, when it fails) to perform its designated functions, it may become, by virtue of its negligence, a main contributor to delinquency."

ii. Addiction to drugs: Young people who are dependent on drugs are more likely to engage in petty criminal activity in order to satiate their cravings. Drug use is a common occurrence among young people in today's society. This causes disharmony among families and contributes to an overall negative climate in society. Regarding this matter, the parents are obligated to use extra caution with respect to their children so as to prevent them from participating in the commission of a crime.^{xxxix}

iii. When a child sleeps in the same room as his or her parents, the child is better able to insulate themselves from the many things that he or she sees or hears throughout the night. It is detrimental to the expansion and development of their intellect if members of the family engage in discussions that are unpleasant or harbour feelings of envy towards one another. The violent and antagonistic conduct of the father or mother and other members of the family may have an effect on the brain of the child, which may cause the child to get involved in criminal activity or unlawful activity.^{xi}

ENDNOTES

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