



ROLE OF PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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Abstract

In the present industrialized and urbanized society, Juvenile Delinquency has become a complicated issue in India and the rest of the world. Nowadays, all communities, religion and countries one facing great devastation caused by Juvenile delinquency and it causes major distress to the whole society.

In daily routine life, we read different type of crime news or child offences in the headings of different newspapers. The crimes like murder, robbery, rape and acid attacks on innocent girls are gradually increasing day by day that are executed by youths under the age of 18 years. The case of “Nirbhaya” is example of brutality in which the involvement of youth was of prime concern. Juvenile Delinquency has become a major concern for parents, families, teachers and ultimately society

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1. Introduction

Adolescence is a transitional period of development from childhood to adulthood with evident biological and emotional changes. These changes bring transformation and reorganization in family relationships (Steinberg, 1990)¹. Moreover, adolescents start viewing themselves as adults and, on the contrary, parents may find it difficult to adapt to this perception. There may also be a shift in the unilateral authority enjoyed by the parents towards a mutual authority in which adolescents share decision-making power and increasing amounts of personal jurisdiction (Youniss & Smollar, 1985)². Furthermore, interactions between the adolescent and parents can lead to conflict (Steinberg, 1990).³ Among adolescents, early adolescence (ages 10-15) has been associated with higher levels of conflict with parents (Laursen, Coy, & Collins, 1998)⁴, and adolescent parent relationships may be transformed dramatically during this period.

When considering the development of an adolescent, the quality of parent adolescent relationships is vital. In a study by Chao (2001), the closeness of parent adolescent relationships explained the beneficial effect of authoritative control. Yet another study by Dekovic, Janssens, and Van As (2003)⁵, demonstrated that quality of parent-adolescent relationships explains adolescent antisocial behavior. The quality of relationships could be defined as a constellation of attitudes toward the child that are communicated to the child in the long history of the relationships. Dekovic (1999)⁶ found that the negative quality of relationships between the adolescents and their parents is related to higher levels of externalizing problems, such as disturbing others, verbal and physical aggression, and acts of violence (Nelson, Rutherford, & Wolford,

¹ Steinberg, L. (1990). Autonomy, conflict, and harmony in the family relationship. In S.S. Feldman & G.R. Elliott (Eds.), *At the threshold: The developing adolescent* (pp. 255-276). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

² Youniss, J., & Smollar, J. (1985). *Adolescent relations with mothers, fathers, and friends*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

³ Steinberg, L. (1990). Autonomy, conflict, and harmony in the family relationship. In S.S. Feldman & G.R. Elliott (Eds.), *At the threshold: The developing adolescent* (pp. 255-276). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

⁴ Laursen, B., Coy, K.C., & Collins, W.A. (1998). Reconsidering changes in parent-child conflict across adolescence: A meta-analysis. *Child Development*, 69, 817-832.

⁵ Deković, M., Janssens, J. M. A. M. and Van As, N. M. C. (2003). Family predictors of antisocial behavior in adolescence. *Family Process*, 42, 223-235.

⁶ Dekovic, M. (1999). Risk and protective factors in the development of problem behavior during adolescence. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 28, 667-685



1996). Research has found that the relationships between adolescents with antisocial behavior and their parents are characterized by a lack of intimacy, mutuality, and by more blaming and anger (Dekovic et al., 2003).⁷

Furthermore, research has found that conflicting quality of parent-adolescent relationships leads to adolescent maladjustment (Inge, Maja, & Anne, 2006)⁸. Adolescent deviant behavior from the social norms is also associated with parents' relationship with adolescents. In a study conducted by Krohn and colleagues in 1992, they identified three major factors of family process. They are parental guidance, parental involvement and parental attachment that have effects on delinquent behavior.

2. Juvenile Delinquency: An Overview

Juvenile Delinquency has become a major concern for parents, families, teachers and ultimately society. The word 'Juvenile' comes from Latin word 'Juvenis' that means young and 'Delinquency' extracts from Latin word 'Delinquent' First of all William Caxton used the term Delinquent for a guilty person. A person who below the age of 18 years violates laws or deviates social norms is called Juvenile Delinquent.

According to Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000: both boy and girl who below the age of 18, commit any crime considered as a Juvenile Delinquent.

Section 82 of Indian Penal Code (I.P.C.) refers to nothing is an offence which is done by child under the age of 7 years.

Section 83 of I.P.C. refers to nothing is an offence which is done by a child above 7 years and under 12 years, who has not sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature and consequences of his/her conduct on that occasion.

Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act 2015, refers to a child belongs to age of 16 to 18 years involves in heinous crime will be treated as on adult that will be assessed by Juvenile Justice Board.

From the beginning of human socialization, antisocial persons have been major problem for all over world. A number of Governmental organizations and N.G.O.s are putting efforts in promoting the youth population in the right direction. In spite of all these efforts, problem of Juvenile Delinquency is increasing repeatedly.

3. Juvenile Crime in India

In India, crimes are usually classified into crimes under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and crimes under the Special and Local Laws (SLL). There was a substantial increase in crimes committed by adolescents in India from 1997 to 2007 on the national level under IPC. In this period there was an increase from 0.5% to 1.1% in the total crimes committed under IPC. Crimes committed by adolescents under the Indian Penal Code increased by 8.4% from 2006 to 2007, with a reported registration of 22,865 cases in 2007 (Crime in India, 2007). But in 2010 there was a small decrease in the reported cases of crime under the IPC: 22,740 cases (Crime in India, 2010)⁹. Adolescent crimes under the SLL have shown a 12% decrease from 2006 to 2007 (Crime in India, 2007)¹⁰. This was further decreased in 2010 with 2,558 cases (Crime in India, 2010), while in 2007 there were 4,163 reported cases. There are substantial differences in the number of crimes committed by boys and girls in India. In 2007, a total of 34,527 crimes were committed by adolescents alone, and 32,671 were committed by boys and only 1,856 crimes were committed by girls. Thus, girls contributed only 5.4% of

⁷ Deković, M., Janssens, J. M. A. M. and Van As, N. M. C. (2003). Family predictors of antisocial behavior in adolescence. *Family Process*, 42, 223-235.

⁸ Inge, B.W., Maja, D., & Anne, M.M. (2006). Parenting behavior, quality of the parentadolescent relationship, and adolescent functioning in four ethnic groups. *The Journal of Early Adolescence*, 26, 133.

⁹ Crime in India. (2010). Report of National Crime Records Bureau. Ministry of Home Affairs, India.

¹⁰ Crime in India. (2007). Report of National Crime Records Bureau. Ministry of Home Affairs, India



the total crimes committed by adolescents in India in 2007. Additionally, the ratio of girls to boys arrested for committing IPC crimes in 2010 was 1:20, and the ratio of girls arrested for committing SLL crimes in 2010 was 1:11.

India, the largest democracy in the world, has a population of 1.15 billion people (The World Bank Report, 2009).¹¹ There are more than 140 million adolescents (ages 13- 19) in India according to the 2001 census (Census of India, 2001). The rates of crime are high, with reported cognizable crimes of 6,750,748 in 2010 under the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws (India Crime Statistics, 2010). In India, crimes are generally classified into two categories: crimes that come under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and crimes that come under Special and Local Laws (SLL). The Indian Penal Code Act of 1860 is the act under which all the substantive aspects of criminal laws are incorporated. This act has been amended several times. All crimes that come under other laws are generally termed as SLL.

Non-Western countries have lower delinquency rates compared to those of Western countries (Friday & Ren, 2006). Nonetheless, juvenile delinquency is a serious social problem affecting non-Western countries and there is much less research exploring this problem (Raval, Raval, & Beker, 2011). In the year 2010 itself there were 25,298 crimes committed by adolescents (Crime in India, 2010). Even though juvenile crimes contribute only 1% of the total share of crimes in India, this adolescent behavior cannot be neglected as the delinquent behavior of adolescents has increased at a much higher rate from 2000 to 2007 and showed only a slight decrease between 2007 and 2010 (Crime in India, 2010). From 1953 to 2000, delinquent behavior contributed only a 0.05% share of the national crime rate. However, this rate increased significantly to 1.1% within a span of 7 years and then declined to 1% in 2010. When considering crimes committed by adolescents, there has been a 5% decrease in the IPC crimes from the year 2009 to 2010.

The highest reported juvenile crimes under IPC in 2010 were criminal breach of trust, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, kidnapping, and abduction. Burglary, sexual harassment, death due to negligence, molestation, rape, and gambling also constituted a major number of juvenile crimes in India (Crime in India, 2010).

Another aspect of reported juvenile crimes in India is that a majority of the crimes are committed by boys. In the year 2010, 28,763 crimes were committed by boys compared with 1,540 crimes committed by girls. Thus, girls committed only 5.1% of the total number of adolescent crimes in India (Crime in India, 2010). During 2007, 12,114 juveniles ages 12-16 were adjudicated under the IPC and SLL, but this number has declined to 10,123. The majority of adolescents apprehended in 2010 were between the ages of 16 and 18, accounting for 19,253 crimes.

4. Parent Child Relationship

Parents are the first teacher and role model for the children and socialize. Reactance and nurturance by parents affect a child's social, cognitive, physical and psychological development. Parenting style refers to how parents react, rear and guide their children. Thus, parenting style is the specific behaviour that is used by parents to socialize their children. Family accomplish all type of fulfillment of a child for child's all over development. Failure of Family to accomplish it, may result in serious consequences. Lack of emotional bond between parents and children results in children's indulgence in antisocial behaviour (Glueck & Glueck, 1962). Excessive demanding and destructiveness imposed by parents on the children are the antecedent of delinquent behaviour in their children (Glueck and Glueck, 1962).

¹¹ Ibid.



Marcus and Betzer (1996) Teenagers who perceived strong emotionally attachment with their parents are likely more inclined towards parent in comparison to those who perceived a weak attachment with their parents (Marcus and Betzer, 1996).

Ronald L. Simons et al., (2005) found that authoritative parenting increase the risk of affiliating with deviant peers and indulgence in delinquent behaviour. So, this variable might be useful in understanding the root causes of juvenile delinquency.

5. Juvenile Delinquency and Family Relationships

Some environments restrict certain behavioral responses of adolescents, while other environments tend to promote a wide range of behavioral adaptations. Kubrin, Stucky, and Krohn (2009)¹² posit that there is movement from restricted (e.g., school, family) to unrestricted environments (e.g., peers, gangs) in adolescence. During this period, teenagers begin to exercise choices independently and try to disconnect from the restricted environment. When considering the social causes for delinquent behavior, one can find studies dating back to the 1950's that examined the role of social institutions in delinquent behavior (Glueck & Glueck, 1950)¹³. These researchers found a relationship between the vital role played by family and schools and delinquent behavior. Social role was later incorporated into theoretical perspectives to explain delinquency (Nye 1958¹⁴; Reckless 1961¹⁵; Reiss 1951). Hirschi (1969)¹⁶ developed social control theory and posited that delinquent acts occur when an individual's bond to society is either weakened or broken. The weakening of social bonds frees the individual from constraints, which may open an avenue for committing delinquent behavior. Thus, the weakening of the social bond is a necessary, but not sufficient, reason for delinquent behavior.

6. Parent-Adolescent Relationships and Delinquency

Family is important throughout the period of early adolescence. During early adolescence, the developmental transformations are likely to result in changes in adolescents' needs within the family (Holmbeck, Paikoff, & Brooks- Gunn, 1995)¹⁷. Controlling parents and adolescents who strive for more independence are likely to clash with one another. In this context, parental influence among adolescents is mostly seen as a matter of concern. Researchers agree that "bad" parenting is very much a compelling cause for delinquent behavior (Unnever, Cullen, & Agnew, 2006)¹⁸. Glueck and Glueck (1962) reported that parents who demonstrate extreme restlessness and destructiveness are more likely to play the part of antecedent to delinquency in their teenagers. A lack of emotional ties between parents and adolescents also contributes to involvement in maladaptive behavior (Glueck & Glueck, 1962; Hirschi, 1969). Needle, Su, Doherty, Lavee,

¹² Kubrin, C.E., Stucky, T.D., & Krohn M.D. (2009). Researching theories of crime and deviance. New York: Oxford University Press.

¹³ Glueck, S., & Glueck, E.T. (1950). Unraveling juvenile delinquency. New York: Common Wealth Fund.

¹⁴ Nye, F.I. (1958). Family relationships and delinquent behavior. New York: Wiley. Nye, F.I. (1958). Family relationships and delinquent behavior. New York: Wiley.

¹⁵ Reckless, W. (1961). A new theory of delinquency and crime. Federal Probation, 25, 42-46.

¹⁶ Hirschi, T. (1969). Causes of delinquency. Berkeley: University of California Press

¹⁷ Holmbeck, G. N., Paikoff, R. L., & Brooks-Gunn, J. (1995). Parenting adolescents. In M. H. Bornstein (Ed.), Handbook of parenting (Vol 1): Children and parenting (pp. 91-118). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

¹⁸ Unnever, J.D., Cullen, F.T., & Agnew, R. (2006). Why is "bad" parenting criminogenic? Implications from rival theories. Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice, 4(1), 3-33.



and Brown (1988)¹⁹ found that family instability, deficient family cohesion, and lack of quality relationships between parents and children resulted in adolescent substance abuse.

7. Review of Literature

Hawkins and associates (2000) cite a number of researchers who found that youth living in poverty are more likely to engage in violent behavior. Research has also found that the prevalence of drugs and firearms in a community predicts a greater likelihood of violent behavior (Hawkins et al., 2000). Community disorganization is another predictor of violent activity. This factor is defined as the presence of high crime rates, gang activity, poor housing, and general deterioration in a given community (Hawkins et al., 2000). Home environments have been found to predict early onset and chronic patterns of delinquent or antisocial behavior in children and youth (McEvoy & Welker, 2000). Other factors, such as parental criminality, harsh and ineffective parental discipline, lack of parental involvement, family conflict, child abuse and/or neglect, and rejection by parents have also been identified as important factors related to delinquent behavior (Patterson, Forgatch, & Stoolmiller, 1998; Walker, Stieber, Ramsey, & O'Neill, 1991). Studies have found that children who are exposed to these patterns of coercive interactions at home are likely to repeat them in school, increasing their risk for school failure (Sprague & Walker, 2000; Walker & Sprague, 1999). Overall, the family's influence on a child's or adolescent's behavior is powerful and can be generational in scope (Allen, Leadbeater, & Aber, 1994).

In a study by Chao (2001), the closeness of parent-adolescent relationships explained the beneficial effects of authoritative control. Yet another study by Dekovic, Janssens, and Van As (2003) demonstrated that the quality of parent-adolescent relationships explains adolescent antisocial behavior. However, the literature cited above is from Western societies; therefore, there is a need for research that explores parental relationship and adolescent delinquency in other cultures, such as India.

Although there are many instances of violent or delinquent adolescent behavior, only 3% are adjudicated each year in the United States (Kauffman, 2001). The majority of crimes committed by juveniles are nonviolent, and these crimes do not require the youth to be apprehended; the majority of the behaviors are dealt with in the adolescent's immediate social systems, e.g., family and schools. Law enforcement seems to focus on violent crimes such as aggravated assault, robbery, forcible rape, or murder, which account for approximately 5% of juvenile arrests (Snyder, 2000). Delinquent behavior, however, extends beyond those who are caught by law enforcement; it includes those who commit lesser infractions and who violate societal norms. This study investigated delinquent behaviors among early adolescents who were not apprehended by law enforcement, but reported by school officials. Early adolescence, between the ages of 14 and 17 years, is indicated as the peak period for juvenile offending (Loeber, Farrington, & Waschbusch, 1998). Additionally, the relationship between adolescents and their parents was explored in this study.

8. Objectives of the Study

- (i) To over view the concept of Juvenile Delinquency.
- (ii) To study about the Parent Child Relationship
- (iii) To study about the Juvenile Delinquency and Family Relationships

9. Research Methodology

¹⁹ Needle, R., Su, S., Doherty, W., Lavee, Y., & Brown, P. (1988). Familial, interpersonal, and intrapersonal correlates of drug use: A longitudinal comparison of adolescents in treatment, drug using adolescent not in treatment, and non-drug using adolescents. *International Journal of Addictions*, 23, 1211-1240.



The Methodology outlines the way in which a research is to be undertaken and among other things, and also identifies the methods to be used in it. The present study is done with the help of secondary sources i.e. books, magazines, newspapers, websites, journals, articles, etc.

10. Conclusion

There are various psychosocial factors that induce a child toward delinquency and turned him into a brutal offender. From fertilization to the end of life, family members, parents, peer group, teachers, mass media and other socialization agencies influence the child development both positively and negatively. Parent Child relationship plays an important role as a factor of Juvenile Delinquency that induce a child towards delinquency. A healthy and affectionate relationship between parent and child can make a juvenile a normal person or adolescents whereas disturbed relationship between parents and child can make a normal child as juvenile. Thus, there is a need of healthy, lovely and affectionate relationship between parent and child to stop the juvenile delinquency.

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- ² Youniss, J., & Smollar, J. (1985). *Adolescent relations with mothers, fathers, and friends*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
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