

What is juvenile delinquency? Explain the nature extent and causes of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan. Suggest remedial measures for reducing juvenile delinquency in Pakistan.

Introduction.

Prior to the 19th century, if the juvenile committed any crime, they were treated as adult criminals. There were no difference even in the case of penalties. Later, after some socioeconomic and political developments, separate courts were built. These juvenile courts treat them as victim not criminal. Their emphasis is on their rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. The nature of juvenile delinquency varies in various types of crimes. In Pakistan, there are several reasons behind the criminal behaviour. However, some remedial measures can be taken to reduce the juvenile delinquency in Pakistan.

Juvenile Delinquency:

Definition: by Siegel & Welsh

"It is the act of participating in unlawful activities by minor or individual younger than the statutory age of criminal."

Behavioral definition:

The deviant behavior committed by a juvenile that is against the norms of the society is called juvenile delinquency.

Legal definition:

The act committed by a minor which is the violation of law and have some penalty in criminal law.

For example:

Robbery, murder, assault, property stealing, consumption of alcohol etc.

Nature of juvenile delinquency.

Living in a society, minor involves in various illegal activities. These activities are of different kinds. Such as assault on a person, murder, robbery, property stealing etc

Extent of juvenile delinquency:

Following are extent of juvenile delinquency.

a - Minor crimes:

Such crimes, whose penalty is upto the 3 years in criminal law. for example, burglary, pick pocket etc.

b - Major crimes:

Juvenile offenders are mostly involve in major crimes. Its penalty is 3 years to upto 7 years. The bail can be granted with or without the surety bond.

c - Heinous crimes:

These crimes are vident in nature. In criminal law its penalty is sentence to death or life imprisonment. The bail can be granted with surety bond if less than 16 years. If the offender is more than 16 years old, the bail can be granted on discretion of court.

d - Involvement in gang activities:

Juveniles often involve in gang activities in communities. It depends upon the social environment of a society. According to Social Learning Theory:

The juveniles learn from their environment and act accordingly.

e - Substance abuse:

Children become addicts of alcohol and drugs in a society and they involve in crimes.

Causes of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan

In Pakistan, the juvenile offenders involve in crimes because of certain reasons.

1. Individual reasons:

a. Disability in a child:

A child which is disable and having some physical problems. It leads him into some psychological problems and then he commits crime.

b. Low intelligence level:

Low IQ level or late understanding of things by a child push him to crimes.

2. Family reasons:

a. Separation of parents:

Parents love keeps the child in good environment and positive growth. When there will not be the attention of parents because of separation or divorce, juveniles attract towards crimes.

b- High expectations of parents make the child rebel:

Parents often expect more good performance from their children. They impose restriction, resultantly, a child becomes rebels because of inability of excellence and commit crimes.

3- Social causes -

a- Low socio-economic status:

When a family is poor than other neighborhoods with least facilities. Their children become offenders and violates the law to get their basic needs as per the social disorganization theory.

b- High rate of crime in a community:

Such societies, where crime rate is high, more people are involve in violation. The juveniles get exposure of crimes and commit crimes what they perceive (Social Learning theory).

Remedies for reducing juvenile delinquency in Pakistan.

Juvenile crimes and many cases are pending in courts. In 2019, 1209 cases were under trial and 215 were convicted juvenile prisoners. This is an alarming number. However, some remedies can be taken to mitigate the juvenile criminality/delinquency.

a- Drug control:

When the children involve in substance abuse and drugs. The tendency towards crime increase. By taking actions to control drugs in society, the crimes can be reduce.

b- Training of parents:

By proper training of parents about the children upbringing can save the children from violation.

The most effective guard against the delinquency is the father, who is loving

and strict at some time.

(Sheldon Glueck)

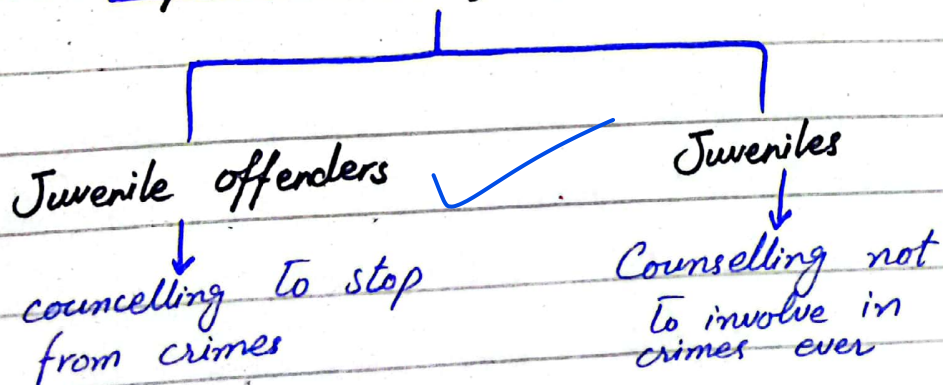
c- Educational support:

Schools can play an important role in reducing crimes by the proper counselling and involvement in healthy activities. This character building will become a barrier in personality of a juvenile towards criminality (psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud).

d- Community programs:

Some recreational activities in a society, which educates the children and increase their interests in healthy activities can decrease the delinquency.

e- Empowerment of children:



Conclusion:

The involvement of minors into the crimes are of many types such as heinous crimes, gang involvement and minor crimes. There are various individual causes, family reasons and social reasons behind the juvenile delinquency in the Pakistan. To mitigate the large numbers of crime various remedies can be taken at home, society and in schools. These steps will convert the children into learning and beneficial activities.



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