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Q) What is juvenile delinquency? write down the causes and preventive measures of juvenile delinquency.

* INTRODUCTION

Juveniles are defined as any person under the age of 18 years and delinquency can be defined as the committing of those things considered crime by the state. In any country juveniles are considered the most important part of the society. As we often come across this saying "Today's Children are tomorrow's Citizens", juveniles are expected to be the future leaders of our society. But in a country like Pakistan where crime rate is increasing day by day, we find a lot of instances where juveniles are responsible for a particular crime committed.

This is very devastating and shocking news for any country seeing their future leaders committing crimes ranging from small theft to high profile murders, sexual offences, smuggling, etc.

The reason might be anything behind the crimes that are committed by the juveniles but it can be tackled and if the juveniles are provided with a proper environment, they can develop good skills and abilities. Such

crimes committed by juveniles should not be neglected as this has a high chance to become serious nature among them. Juvenile crimes have now become ~~serious nature~~ a national concern and government has expressed concern about preventing juvenile delinquency as well as their correction.

* DEFINITIONS-

The term "juvenile delinquency" refers to a large variety of behavior of children and adolescents which the society does not approve and for which some kind of admonishment, punishment or preventive and corrective measures are justified in the public interest. Juvenile delinquency refers to the failure of children to meet certain obligation expected of them by the society. ~~As to~~ ~~Walter Reckless (1957), the term~~ ~~juvenile delinquency applies to the~~ ~~violation of~~ ~~criminal code and~~ ~~pursuit of~~ ~~certain patterns of~~ ~~behaviour~~ ~~disapproved of~~ ~~of children~~

* Age of Criminal Liability in Pakistan

→ Section 82 PPC & Nothing is offence, which is done by a child under seven years of age.

→ Section 83 & Nothing is offence done by a child b/w seven and twelve years of age "who has not attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge of the nature and consequences of his conduct on that occasion."

* CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

Theoretical Perspective

- Sociological Perspective on Juvenile Delinquency
- Psychological Perspectives
- Biological Perspective

General Causes

- Individual factors
- Family Factors
- Peer Factors
- School and Community factors

Causes can be categorized in two categories

- 1) Theoretical Perspective/Causes
- 2) General Causes

1) THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:-

a) Sociological Perspective on Juvenile Delinquency.

1. Social Disorganization Theory
2. Social Control Theory
3. Social Learning Theory
4. Labeling Theory

b) Psychological Perspective on Juvenile Delinquency

1. Psychoanalysis Theory
2. Aggression approach
3. Depression
4. Mental Disorder

c) Biological Perspective on Juvenile Delinquency

1. Genes / DNA

2) General Factors:-

General factors can also be categorized into four groups.

- 1) Individual
- 2) Family
- 3) Peer
- 4) School & Community

1) INDIVIDUAL FACTORS?

a) Antisocial Behaviors

Early antisocial behavior may be the best predictor of later delinquency. Antisocial behaviors generally include various forms of oppositional rule violation and aggression, such as theft, physical fighting, and vandalism. In fact, early aggression appears to be the most significant social behavior characteristic to predict delinquency behavior before age 13.

b) Emotional Factors

By the end of 3rd year of life children can express the entire range of human emotions, including anger, pride, shame, and guilt. Parents, teachers, and even peers affect children's socialization of emotional expression and help them learn to manage negative emotions constructively. Thus, how children express emotions, especially anger, early in life may contribute to or reduce their risk for delinquency.

c) Cognitive Development

Poor cognitive development and behavior

Problems during early childhood could explain the association between academic achievement and delinquency. For example, numerous studies have shown that delinquents' verbal IQs tend to be lower than their nonverbal IQs. Delinquents also have lower mean global IQs and lower school achievement rates compared with nondelinquents (e.g., Fergusson and Horwood, 1995).

d) Hyperactivity

If a child exhibits signs of hyperactivity they might be at greater risk for future delinquency later. Kids who talk almost constantly and rapidly, can't stay still even when seated, and seem overly clumsy in their movements might be hyperactive.

2) FAMILY FACTORS

a) Parenting

Parenting style also matters and many researchers say that it is one of the biggest reasons why teens commit crime. Parents are sometimes very harsh and they punish their children for small issues/reasons. Children start disrespecting their

Parents and they become violent.

b) Maltreatment:

Child Maltreatment focusing specifically on the relationship b/w physical abuse and children's aggression, one study suggests that 20 percent of abused children become delinquent before reaching adulthood (Lewis, Mallach, and Webb, 1989). Abused or neglected children attacked more frequently and began doing so at earlier ages.

c) Family Violence:

Witnessing domestic violence has been linked to increased child behavior problems, especially for boys and younger children. In most families, when women is battered, children are also battered. The co-occurrence of child abuse and witnessing domestic violence affects children's adjustment more than twice as much as witnessing domestic violence alone.

d) Teenage Parenthood:

Being born to a teenage mother has been found to strongly predict offending in adolescence, although

much of this effect may stem from the mother's own antisocial history and involve work with antisocial partners.

3) PEER FACTORS &

a) Peer rejection &

Young aggressive children who are rejected by peers are at significantly greater risk for later chronic antisocial behaviors than children who are not rejected, whether or not they were aggressive early on. For example, one study found that peer rejection in third grade predicted increasingly greater antisocial behaviors from sixth grade onward, even when boys' earlier aggressiveness was accounted for in the predictions (Coie et al. 1998).

b) Association with Deviant Peers &

Association with deviant peers is related to increased offending and, in a minority of cases, the joining of gangs. The deviant peers influence juveniles who already have some history of delinquent behavior to increase the severity or frequency of their offending.

4) SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY FACTORS:-

a) School Factors:-

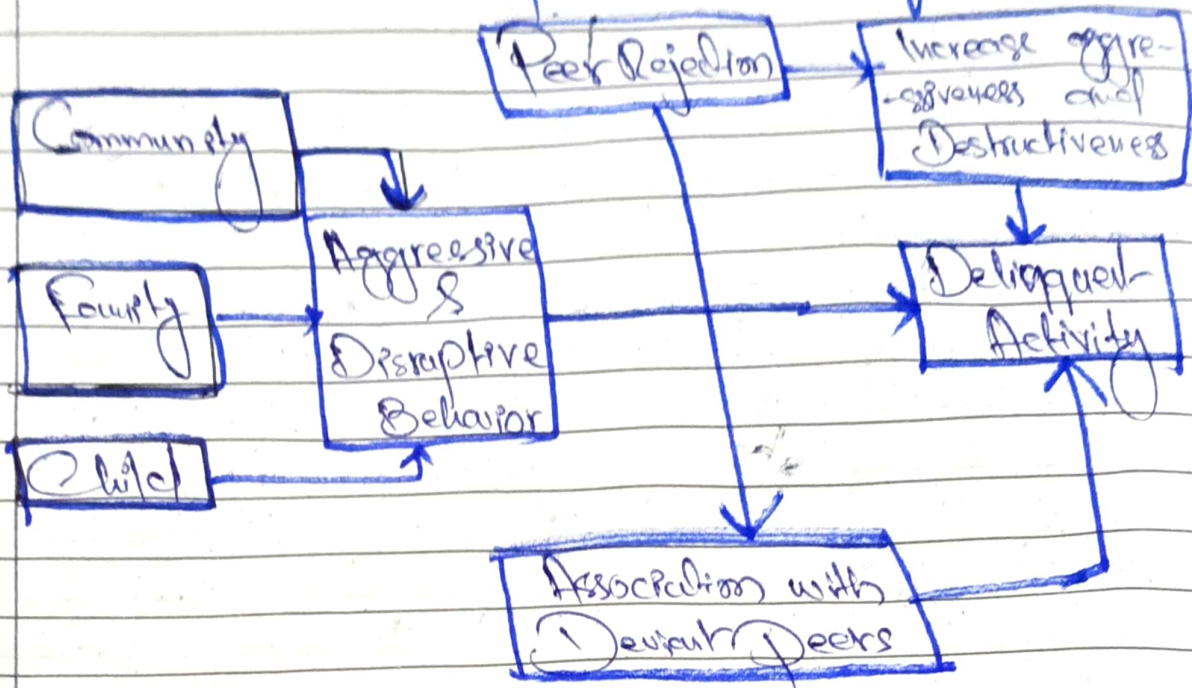
The failure to bond to school during childhood can lead to delinquency. Early neurological deficiencies, when combined with the failure of family, school and community to provide adequate ~~socialization~~ socialization, lead to early-onset offending that persists throughout life. A specific school risk factor for delinquency is poor academic performance. Children with bonds to school, low educational aspirations, and poor motivation are also at risk for general offending and for child delinquency.

b) Community Factors:-

The environment in which youth are reared can influence the likelihood of delinquency. Certain residential areas may support greater opportunities for antisocial learning. For example, disadvantaged inner-city neighborhoods are often characterized by predominance of delinquent-peer groups and gangs that draw young people into crime.

In addition, having ready access to weapons generally increases the risk for violence.

Development of Early Offending Behavior and Peer Influence.



Early Risk Factors
School Entry
Early School Years
Preadolescence

* PREVENTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Prevention of juvenile delinquency requires lot of effort on the part of the entire society. Prevention of juvenile delinquency is considered an essential part of crime prevention in a society. By engaging young people (children) in socially and legally usual activities, we can create awareness among young children as to what is right and what is wrong.

Gracy

Prevention of juvenile delinquency through family interventions has been found as the best way to control juvenile delinquency. Family interventions have a major impact on stopping the life of the child. So, parents should stop nagging and use threats on children in order to gain control of the children. Some of the other ways to prevent juvenile delinquency are

a) Educational:-

Educational and awareness programs such as Program Programs for Parents on how to behave with children, how their behavior will have an impact on the children, how important is interaction with children should be conducted. And children have to be properly educated in schools about social behaviors.

b) Parent-Child Interaction:-

Programs should be conducted about parenting skills and how the interactions should happen b/w parents and children. Healthy discussion should take place b/w parents and their children in order to educate the children properly regarding the

behaviors issues. Programs on how to respond to their child's behaviors should be conducted for the parents.

c) Prevent Bullying-

Most of the time children become victims of bullying near their neighborhood by the other peer groups or in the school campus. This bullying might have an impact on mental health of the children. Sometimes children might hold grudges and commit offences unknowingly.

d) Recreation-

Recreation programs extend opportunities to the children to connect with other children and adults. They might take make a positive friendship which might help them in future. These recreation programs should be designed in such a way that they would fit the personalities and skills that children have. Extra curricular activities, such as music, dance, sports, martial arts etc., have to be provided to children to keep their mind refreshing and occupied.

* CONCLUSIONS

Every country in the world has faced the problem or still facing the problem of juvenile delinquency at some point in time. However, the problem of juvenile delinquency is much higher in developing countries. In the developing world, there are many factors which are affecting the child behavior. People have to work hard to earn a living in the present era and most of the time they have to leave their children alone in the home and they interact less with their children. Parent-children interaction is a most important aspect which can majority influence the shaping of a child's life.

In order to tackle the juvenile delinquency, every person in the society has to play its role. Separate rules have to be made for different levels of crimes committed by them. If they are really found guilty of the offence, they have to be punished appropriately in a rehabilitation centre. It is important to educate parents on how to behave with children if they commit any mistake and it is also important to provide children with proper legal and social education so

Date

that they can understand what is
wrong and what is right.