

Criminology

(CSS 2023)

(Q)

How juvenile delinquency can be reduced through institutional role, professional counselling and increased care?

INTRODUCTION:

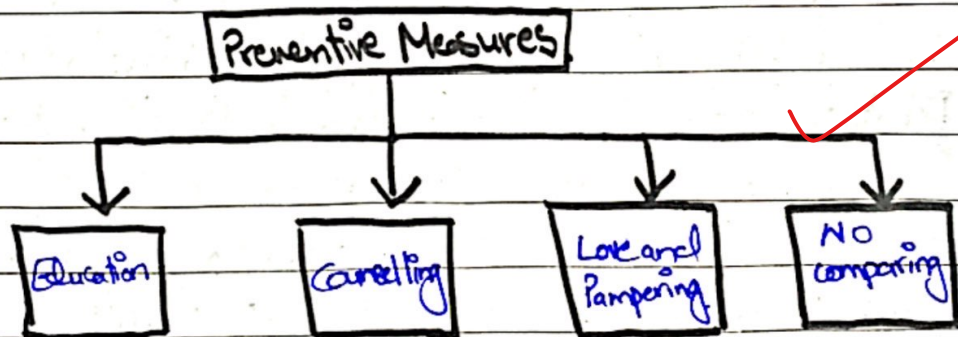
Juvenile delinquency is a major problem today. The sole reason for such problem is negligent upbringing of children. **Plato** stated many years back that the element of disrespect has been growing ever since. Economic, mental, social and environmental restraints are the major reasons why children choose crime over their wellbeing. However, there are a few measures which can be taken to stop juvenile delinquency.

A brief detail on juvenile delinquency:

Juvenile delinquency is the conduct of crime by children. Elizabeth of England in 17th century said that the rising incidents of juvenile delinquency is due to parent's negligence towards their children and whatever crime children ~~do~~ commit represent their parents.

Preventive Measures to put an end to juvenile delinquency:

There are a number of preventive measures which can inculcate the sense of wrong among children.



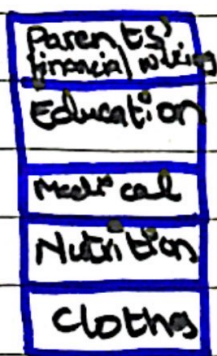
- Institutional Measure: Education can play a vital role:

Education plays an important role in grooming children. Not only education but also quality education. According

to United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), around 26 million children are out of school in Pakistan. One step towards their education can take one step towards the reduction in juvenile crimes.

Economic opportunities by the incumbent governments:

Poverty has increased around the globe. Which is why, head of states should initiate programs which support child upbringing and grooming. According to **Strain Theory**, when an individual is deprived of economic resources, he reverts to crimes. Following includes a holistic view of economic resources:



} An end to juvenile delinquency.

Providing a better educational environment to children:

Unfortunately, students at a school

face bullying, physical abuse, fat shaming etc. Such types of toxicity takes a child to the brink of crime like physical harm and burglary.

Toxic Environment



Bullying, body shaming etc



Social Deviance
(change in behaviour)



Crime like physical harm, acquisition of knives.

- Creation of Professional mental health centres:

Not only do adults need mental health privileges but also children. According to Mental health Services, children are in dire need of counselling. Such counselling sessions help children to avoid deviant behaviours and

remain fearful of crimes.

- **Professional counselling by teachers in schools:**

Schools are places where children face issues and they feel threatened by other students. To create a friendly environment, teachers need to be well trained in order to prevent fights and hatred among children which is the leading cause of juvenile delinquency.

- **In countries like Pakistan, probation officers need to be trained:**

In order to give punishment to children, there is juvenile justice system. Probation officers in Pakistan are not given **psychological training** to deal with children. According to Pakistani researchers, children are often chained and treated like adults. Hence, probation officers need to be trained.

- **Parents should avoid labelling their children:**

Labelling is the major cause of juvenile delinquency. According to **Larry Siegal's book**, labelling theory states that when a person is belted as worthless and worse than his siblings, he becomes susceptible ~~crime~~ to crimes.

What should you
not say

- "Your brother is better than you!"
- "You should have gotten better grades"
- "You need to lose weight"

What you should say.

- "You are the best version of yourself"
- "Well done! You will ~~be~~ get even better in future"
- "You look beautiful the way you are"

- **Parents need to avoid aggressive behaviour in front of their children:**

Parents have a significant role to play while stopping deviant behaviour. When a child sees his father misbehaving with his mother, he

idealizes his father and might engage in gender-based crimes in future.

Conclusion:

There are a number of factors which cause juvenile delinquency and such ~~measures~~ crimes can be stopped via institutions, professional counselling and increased care. Before 16th century, juvenile delinquency ceased to exist but with passing time, it has increased. From robbing to mass shooting, children bear the brunt of the toxic environment around them.

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