

CRIMINOLOGY

Explain juvenile delinquency / What are socio-economic, demographic and environmental factors lead to juvenile delinquency?

Introduction:

Juvenile delinquency is a legal term that deals with ~~different~~ elements that distinguish between crime and legality. It differentiates between youthful offenders and adult offenders. Juvenile delinquency is caused by many socio-economic, demographic and environmental reasons. Therefore, it is necessary to understand each cause with prevailing theories of criminology.

Defining Juvenile delinquency:

Juvenile delinquency is a term that is used for those offenders who commits the crime in minor age according to their country's law. Except in rare cases juvenile offenders are not referred as criminals, in such acts that are forbidden by law, such acts are called delinquent acts. These forbidden cases includes littering, theft, robbery, decay, drug addiction and smuggling, snatching and sometimes murder.

Causes of juvenile delinquency :

It is a complex phenomenon caused by variety of reasons. Moreover, some of the theories of criminology are also relevant to specific circumstances.

Socio-economic causes of juvenile delinquency :

There are following socio-economic causes of delinquency.

i) High ambitions of parents creates strain led toward crime :

In most of the societies child suffers from pressure by parents to achieve desirable ambitions, with limited resources.

Such pressure led the child to acquire illegal way to achieve goals and avoid failure. This argument is also supported by "social strain theory". Accordingly, crime is a function that is associated with people's goal and ways to achieve them. Society including parents pressurize child to achieve socially accepted goals. In some cases which leads to juvenile delinquency.

ii) Absence of basic necessities led to juvenile delinquency :

The basic necessities in every society includes literacy, better healthcare facility and sustainable employment. Unemployment and illiteracy led the young individual to commit crime. The "social disorganization" theory also suggested that in areas where criminal activity is high are facing lack of basic necessities.

iii) Affiliation with other delinquents :

In the young age between 14 to 18 children are influenced by their friends and environment. Therefore, the chance of meeting with other individuals of same age that are involved in delinquent acts are high. This give rise to the "social learning" theory of Edwin Sutherland. Accordingly, people learn crime from others after getting emotionally attached and influence. This led them to commit delinquent acts.

Demographic factors led to delinquency:

Demographic factors includes ethnic discrimination changing in wars and conflicts in the country.

iv) Ethnic discrimination led to the juvenile delinquency in the following way:

In any society, if specific ethnic community suffers neglect and discrimination on the basis of racial traits, then there are lot of chances that members of that community cause crime because of lack of opportunities. Additionally, sometimes the specific ethnic community is labelled by the criminal title, that also fosters young individuals to commit crime, due to the discrimination.

v) Conflicts in the country or unrest plays pivotal role in juvenile delinquency:

In any country a unrest or wars breakdown the social norms of the society. If norms, values and customs of society breakdown in such critical time, it developed the ideal situation for crime. Young individuals becomes part of smuggling racket and involved in many other delinquent acts.

Environmental factors of juvenile delinquency:

Environmental factors includes, family environment, environment created by media and environmental stressors.

vi) Family environment is the foundational cause of juvenile delinquency:

Family is the school from where a minor takes all learning that goes life long. If minor witnesses the fight between parents, use of drugs and alcohol in the house and other activities that violates the moral standards of environment, influences the minor to react and commit crime. In most of cases minor reacts in safeguarding mother against abuse of father and commits delinquent act.

vii) Role of media in fostering delinquent acts:

Media play essential role in the juvenile delinquency, particularly social media. The decentralized nature of social media influences young individuals with violent activities, that are emotionally attached with

them. Social media creates the environment in which some individual influenced by propaganda commits the delinquent act.

Conclusion:

ans is enough for 10 marks note or question but too short for 20 marks
theoretical perspective is missing too
need improvement 6/10