

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi Disciplinary
Peer Reviewed Edition :

www.ijlra.com

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Megha Middha, is working as an Assistant Professor of Law in Mody University of Science and Technology, Lakshmangarh, Sikar (Rajasthan). She has an experience in the teaching of almost 3 years. She has completed her graduation in BBA LL.B (H) from Amity University, Rajasthan (Gold Medalist) and did her post-graduation (LL.M in Business Laws) from NLSIU, Bengaluru. Currently, she is enrolled in a Ph.D. course in the Department of Law at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur (Rajasthan). She wishes to excel in academics and research and contribute as much as she can to society. Through her interactions with the students, she tries to inculcate a sense of deep thinking power in her students and enlighten and guide them to the fact how they can bring a change to the society

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Avinash Kumar



Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC - NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR - Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.

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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS
ISSN

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ROLE OF FAMILY AND PARENTING IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

AUTHORED BY - SALONI VERMA &

DR. PIYUSH KUMAR TRIVEDI, Assistant Professor

(LL.M. Semester-4 Session- 2022-24)

Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University, Lucknow, U.P. (India)

ABSTRACT

Children require skilled hands to shape them into valuable diamonds since they are the unpolished gems of human society. Just as a gardener ropes the plants into the soil, parents are the ones who sow the seeds of virtue in their children. A child's heart is like an empty slate because, once imprints are made, they won't be removed and serve as the best basis for a child's character development. Children should be raised by their parents with love, care, affection, and appropriate direction. A youngster who experiences neglect or punishment as a young child will undoubtedly grow up to be a delinquent. The primary objective of this research was to investigate the connection between several family-related variables and criminal activity. The research also looked into the possibility that a few elements could serve as catalysts for "juvenile delinquency." The research that the family has a significant influence on the character of a kid's growth, even though there are additional variables that also affects a child's growth in character. The idea behind the research was rigorously analyzed in this paper by going over the ideas of family and juvenile delinquency. The study placed the same importance on non-family factors that affect juvenile delinquency rates even though it focused on the family components that influence delinquency. The research discovered that a number of significant family-associated variables had an effect on juvenile criminality. These pertain to abusive behavior, neglectful parenting, family cohesiveness, and parental views. Juvenile delinquency is also influenced by non-family variables, such as drug misuse, destitution, insufficient access to school, the juvenile justice system's shortcomings, and inherited disorders.

KEYWORDS:

Antisocial Behavior, Bad Parenting, Child Development, Family, Family Influence, Juvenile Delinquency, Parents, Support

1. INTRODUCTION

In India, the number of young individuals engaging in criminal activity is rising, making juvenile delinquency a serious problem. The term "juvenile delinquency" refers to a variety of illegal behaviors carried out by people younger than 18 years old. This covers offenses like drug usage, theft, vandalism, and violent crimes. A multitude of factors, such as family dynamics, socioeconomic situation, peer pressure, and insufficient parenting and education, can contribute to juvenile delinquency, making it a complicated problem.

There is growing worry about juvenile delinquency in India. Urban regions pose a particularly concerning risk for juvenile delinquency due to the multitude of socio-economic issues that youngsters encounter, including but not limited to poverty, family discord, substance addiction, and peer pressure. These issues raise the likelihood that minors may engage in delinquent behavior.

In particular, the role that parents and educators have in influencing children's behavior is vital to averting delinquency. The purpose of this study article is to investigate how, in an Indian setting, parents and educators might avoid juvenile misbehavior. This essay will examine the causes of juvenile delinquency, how parenting and education affect young people's behavior, and the tactics that educators and parents can use to stop juvenile delinquency. Thus, investigating how parents and educators may reduce adolescent misbehavior in India is crucial.

The phrase "family" is explained in a number of manners because of the vast differences in family numbers and structure. Such different arrangements for family enable each member to attain different objectives. A family comprises an association of people that communicate with each other and belong to each other by marriage, genetics, the adoption process, or a mutual union, as defined by Mapp (2009). Desai, on the contrary, describes a family as an association of several people who are linked by marriage, blood ties, the adoption process, or a close emotional connection.

Family may also contain people who have common ancestral connections in addition to people who adhere to the identical descent, clan, or tribe. According to UNESCO¹ (2014), a family is a

¹ Abbv. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

social reality in general, even though its members do not necessarily need to live in the same home as one another. Families around the world may differ greatly from one another; however, they nonetheless share fundamental characteristics. Families, for instance, are a vital component of society given that they raise kids, provide them in terms of finances, nurture them, care for those who are less fortunate of the family, and so forth. Notwithstanding cultural variation, families usually accomplish the three fundamental aims of sustaining family existence, upgrading living conditions, and obtaining financial autonomy.

According to Simons (1991), the conventional notion of a family includes responsibilities and roles concerning love and tenderness, assurance, bearing kids and maintaining them. Conventional duties within a family involve assigning positions fostering social interaction between loved ones, offering medical attention, assigning supplies, preserving spirits and inspiration, and communicating with the external community and its organizations.

The number of step families, also referred to as reconstituted families, is increasing due to increased rates of divorce and remarriage. A stepfamily is a group of people who live together but are only genetically related to one of the adults. Family structure and functioning must frequently adapt to changes in the social environment.

2. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: THE CONCEPT

There are multiple theoretical perspectives that can be used to interpret the concept of "juvenile delinquency." Sociologists characterize "juvenile delinquency" as a spectrum of violations against the law and social norms, from small to significant offenses, whereas criminologists describe it as all public wrongs committed by people between the ages of 12 and 20. Sociologists claim that acting in an unsocial way can either be a normal part of growing up or the beginning of a long-term criminal society.

The United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency do not classify disruptive behavior or adolescent conduct as "juvenile delinquency" or conduct that could lead to criminal impulses in the future.

Rather, these principles make it abundantly evident that such behavior is frequently a natural byproduct of growth and maturation and that it usually ends on its own when a person reaches

adulthood. It is common for young people to commit minor crimes at some point in their teens without going on to become professional offenders.

In a similar vein, the 2003 World Youth Report acknowledges that juvenile delinquency is a frequent occurrence as children grow into adults. The UN arrived at an understanding that juvenile delinquency is predominantly a group problem because youth who engaged in groups or other social circles performed between two thirds and three quarters of all juvenile crimes.

In the Russian Federation, juvenile unlawful activity collectively was discovered to be greater compared to the number of adult criminals. Juvenile peer networks are identified by a common repudiation of adult principles and instances, a set of rules of conduct, and an organizational model that is hierarchical. They also constitute strongly knit social communities.

Those features have been correlated with young people's potential for perpetrating misdeeds when engaging in organizations. The fundamental causes of delinquency or illicit conduct are specific communities and adolescent subcultures that see physical violence and aggression as a plausible, even more appropriate, alternative to overcoming disagreements between individuals.

3. FAMILY: THE CONCEPT OF IT

The phrase "family" has been interpreted in numerous manners because of the expansive fluctuations in family numbers and structure. These distinct familial setups enable people to accomplish different objectives². A Desai family is an assortment of a minimum of two individuals who are biologically related to one another by genetics, marriage, the adoption process, or mutual association and who communicate and interact with one another.

The Population Reference Bureau identifies a family as group members who are connected together by a common descent, union, place of residence, robust emotional connection, or the adoption process³. A family is defined by UNESCO as a social reality in general, even though its members do not necessarily need to live in the same home as one another⁴. Families worldwide might vary considerably from each other, yet they possess fundamental fundamental features in

² *Family: Basic Concepts Gordon, L.2003*

³ *An Overview of Family Development Enrique 2007*

⁴ *UNESCO 1992 The Changing Family in Asia*

common⁵.

Families, for instance, are crucial to community due to the way they raise young ones, provide them economically, nourish them, watch out for those who are less fortunate of the family. Notwithstanding cultural variations, families typically serve the three fundamental purposes of maintaining family unity, enhancing economic self-sufficiency, and ensuring the family's continued survival.

According to the classical definition, a family comprises of different people who have connection with each other, and who cater for one another's protection, bear offspring, and raise them⁶. Typical family tasks involve delegation of obligations, cultivating interpersonal relationships among the members of the family, delivering medical attention, splitting up cash flow, sustaining optimism and drive, and communication with the external realm and its agencies.

The rising prevalence of separation and reconciliation are responsible for a surge in the variety of stepfamilies, additionally referred to as reconstituted families. Adolescents in stepfamilies are those who have a biological connection to only one adult member.

The framework and dynamics of families frequently require adaptation in response alterations in society as a whole.

4. CONCEPT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

"Child development" describes the emotional, brain function visual, and cognitive abilities of a kid as they grow normally. The term additionally refers to the scientific investigation of the development, equilibrium, and transformations arising between from birth to adolescence.

The time from conception to birth is referred to as the "prenatal period," followed by the "infancy period" and the two years after birth, the "early childhood" stage and the age of six, the "middle childhood" stage and the age of twelve, and the "adolescence" stage and the age of nineteen.

⁵ *Understanding Family Resilience 2002*

⁶ *Traditional and Emerging Families: A Typology Based on Structures and Functions*

5. CONCEPT OF CHILD CHARACTER DETERMINATION

There are numerous theoretical perspectives from which to interpret the concept of "juvenile delinquency⁷." While criminal justice researchers refer to "juvenile delinquency" as any kind of public injustices performed by those between the age bracket of 12 and 20, sociologists comprehend it as a broad spectrum of lawful and normative infringements, from indiscretions to substantial felonies⁸.

Sociologists claim that engaging in a way that is antisocial can either be a normal part of growing up or the beginning of an ongoing criminal society⁹.

6. FAMILY'S ROLE IN COMBATING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY THROUGH FOSTERING CHILD DEVELOPMENT

A child's mental, psychological, interpersonal, and developmental milestones are all based on their family. A child's values and skill set are developed and their sense of security is provided by the family system, which is crucial in forming them. A child's emotional, intellectual, social, and physical development are all contingent upon their family. A child's sense of security, competency, and values are profoundly affected by their family¹⁰.

a. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECURITY OF A CHILD

Youngsters look to their family for basic needs like clothing, food, and shelter, and they get the majority of their physical security from them¹¹. They also receive emotional stability from the family that they are unable to obtain from anybody else, which aids in the development of their self-confidence and capacity for full expression.

Children who have a set schedule at home feel safer since they don't have to worry about anything when they ingest, have drinks, take baths, or sleep through the night¹². A number of committees

⁷ *World Youth Report Juvenile Delinquency 2003*

⁸ *Sociological Theories of Crime 2011*

⁹ *The Role of the Family in Crime and Delinquency 2011*

¹⁰ *Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with Physically Abusive Parents: Efficacy for Reducing Future Abuse Reports 2004*

¹¹ *Meeting the Basic Needs of Children: Does Income Matter 2010*

¹² *Child Safety from the Perspective of Essential Needs 2014*

have also been established, including the Human Rights Commissioner, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee against Torture, and others.

For children, security is a recipe for skill and talent development, physical growth, cognitive and emotional development, and growth. Building trust between family members and children also requires security. Children feel more at ease and secure when they know they can trust the people in their immediate environment.

b. A CHILD'S VALUE DEVELOPMENT

Children are largely imbued with conventions and values by their families¹³. These consist of duty, empathy, justice, respect, and a sense of right and wrong¹⁴. Children pick up these values from their parents, who also teach them through behavior modeling and observation. As a result, kids pick up on the significance of these ideals as well as the negative effects of breaking them.

c. A CHILD'S SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Kids begin to develop their oral, intellectual, psychological, and communal abilities from the time of births¹⁵. These abilities come with time and are very important because they enable people to become the best versions of themselves and realize their own potential.

Emotional competency, for instance, educates kids how to overcome challenges throughout their lives when it's appropriate to show compassion and feelings of empathy for other people. Kids who lack psychological maturity are more likely to make error-prone choices as grownups. For example, kids who have trouble with emotional intelligence are more likely to be criminals¹⁶.

7. ROLE OF BAD PARENTING

Bad parenting isn't just about one specific behavior or deed; rather, it's a sequence of negative behaviors that can on an evident level impair a child's general wellbeing. A kid will without a doubt go down the wrong path if their parents are ineffective in raising them. Examples of this include berating or making fun of them in public, failing to provide them with appropriate advice

¹³ *Introduction: Parents' Involvement in Children's Lives in Africa 2012*

¹⁴ *Role of Parents in Inculcating Values 2016*

¹⁵ *Ours Reading to Young Children: A Head-Start in Life 2013*

¹⁶ *Abuse-Resistant Youth: Some Factors That May Inhibit Violent Criminal Behavior. Social Forces 1987*

and communication, and providing inadequate love, care, and affection.

Inadequate parenting not only harms children in their early years but also has a lasting impact on their attitudes and behavior. Parenting, whether good or poor, is sometimes compared as a hammer that shapes a child's personality (positively or adversely). Scholars, educators, and sociologists have frequently asserted that inadequate parenting is a primary contributor to a child's aberrant conduct. Not only do factors like harsh discipline techniques, excessive control, lack of communication, strict parents, poor parent-child involvement, and parental rejection fall under the category of bad parenting,

However, they also fall into the categories of bad command, apathy, excessively cautious or tolerant caregivers, and wrong supervision. Both of these parents share equal blame for overindulging their child and encouraging disruptive behavior. Not only can incompetent parenting lead a child down an incorrect path, but it may also make a delinquent child into a career felon.

8. SOME SUGGESTIONS OF EFFECTIVE PARENTING

- In order to provide their children with a clear understanding of what constitutes socially acceptable behavior, parents should strike a healthy balance between their affection and control. This can be achieved by establishing boundaries and providing rational justifications for rules and regulations.
- Some parents never let their kids make mistakes. They have unwavering faith in their kid thus, they never hold them accountable for anything. Some parents never discipline their kids because they worry about losing them. Both styles of parenting are detrimental to a child's social and mental health. Children raised by these parents frequently develop the belief that "they are always right" or "all in all." These kids don't ever own up to their mistakes and are more likely to become delinquent.
- Kids always want their parents to be there for them in everything. When parents do not support their children, they may become habitual offenders as they turn to peers or deviant organizations for moral support.
- Kids have absolutely no idea what is right or wrong. They only obey their parents while they are young. Children are frequently led down the wrong path by parents who give them bad guidelines or none at all.

- Children that exhibit deviant behavior are frequently the product of parents who chastise or beat them in public. Since children are delicate beings, they ought to receive love and care.
- Youngsters who are constantly being compared to other youngsters may frequently exhibit deviant behavior. Parents should avoid attempting to instruct their children in front of others as this may damage their feelings and set them down the wrong path. Because of this, youngsters who experience parental conduct may become irritated or aggressive. The best traits in their children should be recognized and encouraged by their parents.
- Some parents frequently have excessively high or unrealistic expectations for their kids. Children with overly expectant parents frequently exhibit depressive or aggressive behaviors. Since children are not the means to achieve your goals or desires, parents should treat them like any other human being. A youngster who has too high of expectations from his parents may develop despair, annoyance, anger, and violence, or he may become delinquent.
- Children should be raised with clear guidelines from their parents. It will make positive behavior very evident to your child. Youngsters who grow up without clear boundaries in their homes frequently don't know what social norms are. Additionally, these kids frequently struggle to abide by social norms and legal requirements, such as not destroying government property, not drinking and driving, or driving without a license. Their repeated violations of the law often turned them into habitual offenders.
- A common temptation among parents is to point the finger at their child for every single error. Youngsters who seldom receive praise or admiration from their parents frequently turn to their peers in search of encouragement and affirmation.
- Some parents never express their affection and love for their kids. They never use words to convey their love. Youngsters yearn for parental affection at all times. They enjoy hearing how much their parents value them. Youngsters who never receive hugs or "I love you" statements from their parents frequently feel unwanted or unloved. Children that lack emotional expression are more likely to become delinquent.
- Less time spent with their kids by parents frequently causes a rift between them. Youngsters enjoy spending time with their parents. Kids whose parents don't have time for them tend to gravitate toward peers or antisocial groups. Ignoring a child when they are young frequently results in delinquency later in life.

9. CONCLUSION

Being politically acceptable is not the only requirement of being a parent. Although parents do not yet have a handbook on "good parenting," it is the essential duty of parents to give their kids the guidance, loving, encouragement, and instruction they require. Parents are regarded as a child's initial character founders.

Thus, parents have a moral obligation to raise their children to be responsible members of society by instilling in them the ideals of humanity, truth, goodness, and morality.

Given that a child's behavior, either beneficial or detrimental, will definitely have a lasting impact on their character, punishment from parent's ought to be tailored to the kid's individual behavior. In order to empower their children to make independent decisions in the future, parents should also provide them the freedom to make their own decisions.

Recognizing that they are investing in their children's future, parents should constantly lead by example and discipline their children in a calm and courteous manner. Never forget that your child is a blank canvas; anything you put on it will stay there forever.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the research, which indicate that the family is a major factor contributing to adolescent delinquency, lead to the subsequent suggestions:

- The relevance of stable family structures must be emphasized in order to provide children with safe homes where they can learn and assimilate positive principles from society. This will assist in lowering the juvenile delinquency level.
- In a bid to reduce familial destitution, authorities should reevaluate their economic strategies. The government should particularly think about providing free educational opportunities, counseling, and mentoring services for kids.
- The juvenile justice system needs to be redesigned to provide workable and comprehensive remedies by accounting for the various elements that contribute to youth criminality. To be more precise, the juvenile justice systems ought to be set up to handle child misdeeds from the standpoint of a remedy rather than treating them in the same way as a sequential list of violations and punishments.
- When it comes to providing remedies to adolescent crime, multidisciplinary cooperation

is required. To fight adolescent illicit activity, several sectors such as society, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and government agencies must work together. This is not the case with the modern strategy of deferring juvenile infractions to the law.

