Mainstreaming The Juvenile Delinquent

Abstract

Every Society establishes some social & moral norms to maintain harmony and order in its structure. It persuades its members to follow them strictly by framing legal laws & codes. The behaviors contrary to these norms is referred to as anti-social behavior or crime. It involves injury either to the property or the people in the society. The society for its protection from such anti-social elements has due provision of punishment and such people are kept behind the bars. Acc.to Hear Field- “Delinquency may be defined as ‘Anti-Social Behavior’ There is prime need of restricting such children from their anti social activity by providing better or adequate schooling to make them responsible citizens of the country.

Introduction: The delinquents are anti-social behavior children who are at the lower extreme ends of social tract. The problem of delinquency is a serious concern for persons, teachers, parents, psychologists & social workers who believe in harmonious development of human personality. The children who are delinquent at the age of below eighteen years are known as juvenile delinquent. They are involved in anti social acts like thefts, gambling, cheating, pick-pocketing, robbery, dacoity, violence, sex offences, assault, begging, kidnapping, intoxicating and other social offences etc.

Meaning of Delinquent Children: It has wide coverage of behavior that varies from time to time, place to norms & values is called delinquent. Acc.to Cyril Burt: “A child is said to be a delinquent, when his anti-social tendencies appear so grave that he becomes to be the subject of official action.”

According To Healy, “A child who deviates from the social norms of behavior, is called delinquent children”

Acc.to Telford; “Delinquency is an aggressive behavior in general & anti-social behavior involving personal & social disorganization.”

Characteristics Of Delinquents:-
1. A delinquent child possess anti social behavior.
2.a delinquent breaks the law & order & create indiscipline in the class.
3. A delinquent breaks the laws & create indiscipline in some or other way in school
4. A delinquent is aggressive & hostile in behavior.
5. He behaves in such a way that it is harmful for himself & also for society.

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6. They are emotional & maladjusted in many aspects of life
7. Delinquency is an acquired behavior & not the innate.

Classification of delinquency: The psychologists classified delinquency in various ways:

1) Benign delinquency: It includes breach of discipline or law, or crimes legally but mentally they have normal behavior. E.g. truancy for watching a movie etc.

2) Temperamental delinquency: It is a kind of certain physiological activity, e.g. girls steal sanitary pads during their menses period.

3) School Environment: The teacher in school is an ideal for the children. There may be few factors responsible for delinquent behavior of child.

3. Simple delinquency: It is a result of the conflict between the need of child and the home, school & society conditions. E.g. poor living of child.

4. Reaction Delinquency: It arises from the reaction of the children against the society. When a child thinks that he is a victim of society, he revolts to take revenge.

5. Psychoneurotic Delinquency: It is created in an anti social manner of the repressed tendencies. For this the parents or teachers should refer the child to a clinical psychologist, e.g. repression of sex urge, stealing etc.

6. Aggressive tendency: The mode attack may be physical aggression damaging school, railway property, committing suicide etc.

Identification of Delinquent Children:
Delinquents are identified by observing their behavior in society & schools. Their behavior is a part of dynamic process so when we deal with delinquents we should view it in the conditions of individual persons or the social environment in which they live. They may be identified by their anti-social offences like thefts, gambling, dacoity, intoxicating, begging, kidnapping, abduction & other sexual offences. Etc.

Etiology of Delinquency:
Delinquency is an acquired behavior of a child which not in accordance with social standard and norms. It is caused by several factors as under:

1) Heredity Factors: The children may get delinquency from their parents (Heredity) who are suffering from epilepsy etc. e.g. an ugly boy in physical aspect may wish to destroy whole society because his defect was laughed at low I.Q. of the parents comes to their children which causes anti-social behavior.

2) Environmental factors: These may play main role in causing delinquency —
   a) Poor Socio-economic status of the family tempt children the easy path of crime.
   b) Unemployment, quarrel among parents, d) partial treatment towards children. e) delinquent members of the family, f) sexual and poor films, g) parents low character and mental abnormality are few of the environmental factors.

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3) School Environment: The teacher in school is an ideal for the students. There may be few factors responsible for delinquent behavior of child.
behavior in schools:

i) Partial behavior of teachers and teaching methods and techniques may cause dissatisfaction among students.

4) Physical Factors: the defects in body organs make the child insecure, and disability of sex organs may cause delinquency.

5) Psychological factors: Freud Psycho-analysis is a factor of delinquency.

Prevention & Treatment of Delinquency:

The methods and techniques are used as:

1) Psychological treatments: camp program approach, community planning, change of environment, and group counseling.

2) Psycho-analytic methods: It is very time consuming but very pinpointed and effective.

It may include Re-education, growing suppressed emotional feelings, persuasion, continuous suggestion & change in environment.

Prevention from Delinquency:

A) Well adjusted homes: The purpose of prevention is to develop attitudes, moral values & other competencies among the children so that they may not acquire anti-social behavior. It requires cooperation from the home, school, society & other social agencies. It is noticed that parents' behavior & home conditions are responsible for delinquency. There is an urgent need to educate parents, affectionate behavior towards children, keep conscious watch on the friends of your children, adequate amount of pocket money be given to the children.

B) State & social Agencies: They should establish good schools, staff infrastructure, should make provision for educating poor students by giving financial help, anti-social element should strictly dealt with law.

Legal Provisions for Delinquent Children:

The 1860 Indian Penal Code was the first modified law of country under British Rule under section 82 & 83, 1884 & 1898 sections 29(b), 199 and 362 have suggestions for socialized treatment to the young offenders.

The report of Indian Jail Committee 1919, 1948 & 1974 stressed on reformation & rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. They suggested rehabilitation centers in place of Jail.

Juvenile Court for Delinquent Children:

The juvenile court was first instituted by the Bombay Act of 1924. This court is for young criminals. Main idea of this court is not to mix young criminals with seasoned criminals. Here the hearing is not in open but court is presided over by Juvenile Judge.

Educational Provisions:

These are:

1) Adequate Schooling: It contribute great role to prevent delinquency. Personality development of children of children is influenced by the schooling. It requires trained and high moral character teachers.

Recreational Activities: Research reports show that recreational activities play an important role in preventing delinquency. Poor children living in slums do not have facility for any healthy recreation. Improper use of leisure time is another sole cause of delinquency in children. So organized recreation centre may root out the problem of delinquency to any extent.

References:

5. Hallahan & Kaufman- Exceptional Children: Introduction to Special Education.