

Theory of Delinquent Behaviour In Relation To Study of the Personality and Adjustment

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ABSTRACT

Deviant behavior can be defined is action or behaviour that violates widelyaccepted cultural norms including formally-enacted rules as well as informal violations of social norms. For example, theft is a common instance of deviant behavior which violates the social norms and could be said to have been driven by sociological pressures such as poverty. Homicide is a form of extreme deviant behavior which violates the cultural norm which states that it is unacceptable to kill another human being. Several psychological, biological and sociological issues can play a role in deviant behaviour of children.

KEY WORDS: violates the social norms

INTRODUCTION:

In the view of some observers, young people are more rootless, more troubled emotionally, more promiscuous sexually, and less idealistic than their peers in earlier generations. As evidence, they point to rising rates of delinquency, drug use, adolescent suicide, the current epidemic of adolescent pregnancy, and a growing pre occupation with self-fulfillment at the expense of societal concerns (Conger, 1981; Wolf, 1986). Other observers assure us that today's youth are better informed about the world in which they live than any generation in history; no less idealistic, though more pragmatic and less sentimental; more open, honest and tolerant, and less given to viewing others in terms of simplistic stereotypes; no more, and perhaps less promiscuous than their elders were at the same age; and more caring and responsible but less hypocritical. We are informed by these optimistic observers that youth today have, if anything, a cleaver sense of their own identity and are less emotionally conflicted than their parents were at the same age. Yet another group of observers feels that presumed differences – good or bad between today's adolescents and those of earlier generations are largely illusory and more a matter of form than substance; or that they stem from unwarranted generalizations based on the behaviour of numerically small numbers of atypical young people. Proponents of this latter view remind in that there have always been difference between generations in social and political beliefs, tastes and fashions, and fundamental liberalism or conservatism (Mussen, et. al., 1974).

Young children do not have as complex and realistic a view of themselves and their world as they will have at a later age. They have less self-understanding and have not yet developed a stable sense of identity and an adequate frame of reference regarding reality, possibility and value. Immediately perceived threats are tempered less by considerations of the past or future and thus tend to be seen as disproportionately important. As a results, children often have more difficulty in coping with stressful events than do adults (Compas & Epping, 1993; Kepel Benson & Ollendick, 1993).

Children also are more dependent on other people than are adults. Though in some ways this dependency serves as a buffer against other dangers, it also makes them highly vulnerable to experiences of rejection, disappointment, and failure. On the other hand, although their in experience and lack of self-sufficiency make them easily upset by problems that seem minor to the average adult, children typically recover more quickly from their hurts (Carson, Butcher & Mineka, 1998). Moreover, many problematic behaviours and threats to adjustment emerge over the course of normal development (Kazdin, 1992). Indeed, several behaviours that characterize maladjustment or emotional disturbance are relatively common in childhood. Despite the some what distinctive characteristics of childhood disturbances at different ages, there is no sharp line of demarcation between the maladaptive behaviour patterns of

childhood and those of adolescence, nor between those of adolescence and those of adulthood. So far criminal behaviour is concerned, there is also a difference of age and punishment system between a child criminal and an adult criminal. The child criminal is called juvenile delinquent whereas an adult criminal is called basically a criminal.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Daley (2010) reveals that the juvenile offenders share a number of characteristics such as single-parent households headed by the mother, siblings or parents who have been involved in the legal system, the use of cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana at an early age; a friend who sells drugs; high rates of suspension and expulsion, no aspiration for higher education, early sexual activity, and weapons ownership.

Jarveline (2012) found that 6% males acquired a criminal record between 15 and 22 years. A higher than average delinquency rate was found among those with lower socio-economic status especially when combined with low intelligence. Family social problems had a greater predisposing effect for delinquent behaviour than mental disability.

Richard (2012) studied drug involvement to psychosocial functioning among youth entering a juvenile arbitration programme. The results indicate that drug involvement is a significant issue among the youth studied, and is related to functioning problems in a number of key areas of their lives.

MEANING AND CONCEPT:

Despite the attention it is currently receiving, delinquency is not a new phenomenon. Three hundred years ago John Locke, the great English educator, deplored delinquency is much the same vein as we do today. Six thousand years ago, an Egyptian priest carved on a stone, "Our earth is degenerate children no longer obey their parents" (Johnson, 1969). Nevertheless current rates of delinquency are reason for serious concern, not only in the India, but in most other countries as well.

From the beginning, in every civilized society, a definite punishment system was prevailing to check the criminal behaviors. According to sociologists the ancient punishment system did not discriminate between the criminal according to their age, sex or situations. After a long period, a liberal and reformatory view was developed regarding the punishment of children. In this connection, initiative was taken by Chancery Court of London in 1975, who has given some special facilities to the criminals of certain age groups (under, 18). It was the beginning and on this account special courts and reformatory centres are established in different parts of the world.

CONCLUSION:

The findings of the studies referred to above are the representative of the studies such as factors influencing Juvenile Delinquency, behaviour problems shown by Juvenile Delinquents, and non-delinquents, and studies in general. But the forgoing studies which show close affinity to the present study, are the studies related to Juvenile Delinquents. This was the major inspiration and great help for the Investigator. Related literature helped the Investigator in determining the objectives, selecting the methods for the collection of data, and in fixing the statistical techniques.

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