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Empowering People: Effective Social Work Approaches & Strategies



RELATIONSHIP OF PARENTAL AFFECTION AND DISCIPLINE ON THE DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR OF URBAN SCHOOL CHILDREN

KEYWORDS: Parental Affection – Parental Discipline – Delinquent Behaviour – School children .

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ABSTRACT *Children of today are the future of nation, it is them who will decide the fate of the country, but in a present world, due to various factors young children are misled to anti-social behaviours that make adverse effect on their physical, psychological and social wellbeing. One major threat that brings attention of all is juvenile delinquency. Juvenile crime has seen a spurt in India during the last decade according to the 2011 report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The Tamil Nadu state accounts for an astonishing 23.7% of all juvenile cases in the country, according to 'Children in India 2012', a report released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Special Programme Implementation. According to the report, it was highly disturbing to observe that, out of the total juveniles involved in various crimes, 81.4% were children living with parents, whereas the share of homeless children involved in various crimes were 5.7% and the remaining were children living with guardians. This shows the impact of familial environment on the increasing trend of juvenile delinquency. Parents teach children to eschew unacceptable behaviour, to delay gratification and to respect the right of others. Conversely, parents can teach children aggressiveness, anti-social and violent behaviours also. Children who are rejected and neglected by their parents, who grow up in homes with considerable conflicts, or who are inadequately disciplined and supervised are at the greatest risk of becoming delinquent. Hence, the researcher attempted an empirical study to analyze the relationship of parental affection and discipline on the delinquent behaviour of urban school children with special reference to Coimbatore city. The findings of the study revealed a significant relationship between parental affection, discipline and overall delinquency of the school children. Based on the results, the present study also gives feasible preventive and social work intervention to curb the delinquent behaviour among the school children.*

Introduction

In the present scenario of contemporary social issues and problems, one major threat that brings attention of all is juvenile delinquency. In country like India the problem of juvenile neglect and delinquency is considerably low but gradually increasing according to the National Crime Record Bureau report 2011. Reports of various researches and surveys show an increase in delinquent behaviour of the school children aged between 10 and 18 years. Children studying in reputed schools and belonging to good families were also found to be involved in serious crimes like sexual abuse, attempt to murder, robbery and many more. The incidence of delinquency is rising amongst the girl children also. The present social disorganization is one of the major reasons for children to get involved into the world of crime. In the present times of modern urban society, families are isolated, with both parents working and the child left alone at home. This results in the lack of parental affection and development of grudges against parents in children and a growing intimacy with friends. This makes them vulnerable to getting into bad company which motivates them to commit crimes and makes them to fulfill their needs through illegitimate means. Ideally the family and parents especially plays a crucial role in socialization of children and it greatly shapes the behaviour of children. Juveniles are more likely to become delinquents if there is little or no proper care, protection, affection, discipline and socialization.

Recent Scenario

According to the 2011 report of NCRB, a total of 33,887 juveniles were apprehended during 2011 out of which 31,909 were boys and 1,978 were girls. Out of total juveniles arrested, 30,766 (90.7%) were arrested under IPC (Indian Penal Code) crimes while 3,121 (9.3%) were arrested for committing SLL (Special and Local Laws) crimes.

Table 1

Juvenile delinquency in India 2011 (IPC + SLL)								
7-12 Years		12-16 Years		16-18 Years		Total For All Age		
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
1072	139	10329	690	20508	1149	31909	1978	33887

Out of the total juveniles apprehended, 1,211 were in the age-group of 7-12 years, 11,019 were in the age-group of 12-16 years during 2011 whereas bulk of juveniles (21,657) were arrested under the age-group 16-18 years. The percentage shares of juveniles apprehended under these age groups were 3.3%, 32.5% and 63.9% respectively. It was highly disturbing to observe that, out of the total juveniles involved in various crimes, 81.4% are children living with parents, whereas the share of homeless children involved in various crimes are 5.7% and the remaining are children living with guardians. This shows the impact of familial environment on the increasing trend of juvenile delinquency.

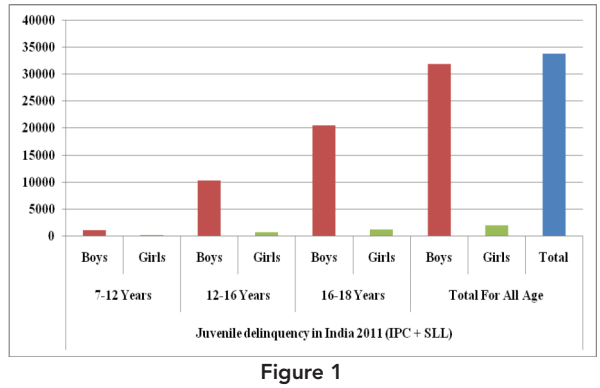

Figure 1

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Impact of Familial Environment on Juvenile Delinquency

The family is the first environment with which a child interacts; it is considered as the backcloth behind his experience and knowledge. It affects him as well as shapes up his behaviour, either negatively or positively. The ability of a child to handle life's issues and demands is based upon psychological foundations of early family experiences. Families, especially parents, play a fundamental role in forming the values of children. The organization of the family has direct effect on the children. Families teach children to eschew unacceptable behaviour, to delay gratification and to respect the right of others. Conversely, families can teach children aggressiveness, antisocial and violent behaviours also. Children who are rejected by their parents, who grow up in homes with considerable conflicts, or who are inadequately supervised are at the greatest risk of becoming delinquent. Familial factors which may have an influence on offending include the level of parental supervision, the way parents discipline a child, particularly harsh punishment, parental conflict or separation, criminal parents or siblings, parental abuse or neglect, and the quality of the parent-child relationship. Therefore, in the present study the researcher felt to study the level of parental affection and parental discipline perceived by the school children from their parents and its relationship with their involvement in delinquent behaviours with special reference to Coimbatore city.

Methods & Materials

Objectives of the study

- To study the personal profile of the school children.
- To measure the level of parental affection and parental discipline perceived by the school children from their parents.
- To study level of involvement in delinquent behaviours (delinquency variables) among the school children.
- To study the relationship between perceived level of parental affection, parental discipline and overall delinquency of the school children.
- To give suitable suggestions and social work intervention to curb delinquent behaviour among children.

Research Design: The present research study has adopted a descriptive research design due to its scope and nature.

Universe & Sampling: Disproportionate stratified random sampling techniques were employed for selecting the samples. The Coimbatore city is stratified into five administrative zones namely north zone, south zone, east zone, west zone and central zone by the municipal corporation. Four schools from each zone were randomly selected by the researcher using lottery method. Hence, 20 coeducational schools were selected for five zones. In order to yield a good age-range for the sample of the present study children studying in the classes 10th, 11th and 12th standard in these schools were chosen by the researcher. Then, each class is stratified into male and female. Ten percent of the total male and female was randomly selected from each class. A sample of 860 was finally obtained for the present study. Only those school children willing to participate were supplied with the questionnaire. Out of 860 questionnaires distributed to the school children, 16 questionnaires were found to have incomplete data hence rejected and finally 844 questionnaires are considered for further analysis.

Results & Discussion

Personal Profile of the School Children

Two third (69.9%) were male and one third (30.1%) were female school children. Three fourth (75.6%) of the respondents were 15-16 years old. More than half (55%) of them were belong to the private schools. Majority (59.7%) were studying in 11th standard. Good majority (80.6%) were from urban area, belong to nuclear type of family. More than half (55%) of the respondents were belong to the category where both parents were employed and earn for the family. More than one thirds (37.8%) monthly family income were between Rs. 15,001/- and 20,000/- . Good majority (88.1%) of the respondents' parents' were live together in the same household.

Level of Parental Affection, Parental Discipline and Involvement in Delinquent Behaviour

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the school children had perceived moderate level of parental affection and parental discipline from their parents. Consequently, their involvement in the delinquent behaviours such as norm violation, regulation infringement, theft and stealing behaviour and overall delinquency were also found to be at a moderate level. Whereas, their involvement in the delinquent behaviours such as alcohol and drug use, violent behaviour and behaviour like causing malicious damage to property were found to be at a low level.

Z test and ANOVA results shows that respondents perceived level of parental affection is significantly differed with the mean value based on demographic variables like class of study, type of family, family monthly income and marital status of parents. Similarly Z test and ANOVA results shows that respondents perceived level of parental discipline is significantly differed with the mean value based on demographic variables like sex, class of study, type of school, type of family, family monthly income and marital status of parents.

Relationship between Perception on Parental Affection, Perception on Parental Discipline and Overall Delinquency Score

Table 2

Variables	Test	Value	Significance	Result
Perception on Parental Affection and Overall delinquency Score	Correlation	r = - 0.101	0.003	Significant
Perception on Parental Discipline and Overall delinquency Score	Correlation	r = - 0.123	0.000	Significant

The table 2 depicts the relationship between perception on parental affection, parental discipline and overall delinquency of the school children. The coefficient of correlation value (r= - 0.101) shows that there is a significant inverse relationship between perception on parental affection and overall delinquency of the school children at 0.05 level. The coefficient of correlation value (r= - 0.123) shows that there is a significant inverse relationship between perception on parental discipline and overall delinquency of the school children at 0.05 level.

Discussion

Results of the study shows a significant relationship between parental affection, discipline and overall delinquency of the school children. This finding is also coincides with several research studies. With regard to parental affection, the Gluecks (1962) found the every affectional pattern of the home (i.e., father-child, mother-child, child-parent) was significantly related to delinquency, with the most important being father's affection for his son. Studies by Robert Andry (1992) and Walter Slocum and Carol Stone (1997) support this assertion. Some research has examined both affection and discipline relates to delinquency. Kirson Weinberg (1975) also cited that parent

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closeness is critical in affecting children's personalities and predisposing them to deviant behaviour. Similarly with respect to parental discipline, Mmari, Blum & Tuefel Shone (2010) observed in their study that one of the major factors contributing to the risk of delinquent behaviour is the lack of parental discipline. Oyet (2011) in his study found parents who lack moral standards tend youth children towards deviant acts. Acoca, (1999) in a study of 200 incarcerated female adolescents found that they witnessed poor conduct, criminal activity and erratic discipline of the parents and lacking proper discipline. Thus, parental affection with their children and adequate parental discipline were found to be a strong factor that has a significant influence on child's delinquent behaviour.

Recommendations

The following suggestions and recommendations would help to prevent juvenile crime and delinquency and proactively deal children who exhibit behavioural problems.

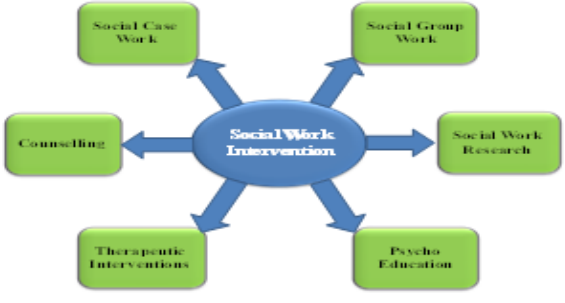
For Parents and Family Members

- Parents need to familiarize themselves with the threats against the children.
- Need to accept that all children need supervision and guidance.
- Parents should continuously monitor the activities of their children.
- Should investigate anything that may be suspicious.
- Need to listen to children and learn from them.
- Parents must desire to help their children when problems arise.

For Teachers and School Authorities

- Supportive curriculum development and effective pedagogy.
- Alternative education for poor scholastic students.
- Career guidance and vocational training.
- Psychological counselling and creating recreational avenues.
- Proactive physical education and adventurous sports.

Social Work Intervention
Figure 2



Social workers deals with the various problems of individuals, groups and communities and assist people by helping them to cope with and solve issues such as family, personal problems and deal with relationships. The methods of social work such as social case work, social group work, social work research and other techniques such as counselling, psychological therapies, psycho education helps to enhance the potentialities of children and to make them a better person and a responsible citizen of this nation. This will naturally contribute to the development of healthy society at large.

Conclusion

Juvenile delinquency is a serious social issue across the globe; however, in the developing countries the problems are all the more formidable. The problem of juvenile deviance and antisocial propensities is rearing its ugly situation that needs to be checked. The result of present study is an empirical evidence to prove that there is a strong impact, influence and relationship of parental affection, discipline on the overall delinquent behaviour of the school children. Majority of juvenile delinquency cases are preventable through proactive parenting techniques. Even with the best intentions, many parents fail to adequately supervise and counsel their children often because they are not fully aware of all the risks and threats their children face until it is too late. Parents need to realize that gangs, drugs, violence, reckless sexual practices and predators are real and present dangers. It is up to parents not only to observe and intervene at the first sign of a problem, but also to create a loving, communicative environment where children can develop their self-confidence and strength to withstand such destructive enticements.

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