



SELF CONTROL - A MEANS TO BRING CONFORMITY AMONG DELINQUENT CHILDREN

KEYWORDS

Juvenile Delinquency, Self Control, Self monitoring, conformity, Delinquent Children.

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ABSTRACT

Self control will reflect the children's attitude towards their own life, and about their present and future. The symptoms of an antisocial child are low self esteem and poor discipline and monitoring. The child has a poor academic record, suffers from peer rejection, parental rejection and depression begins to set in. Later the child starts taking addictive substances and exhibits truant behavior. In the fourth and final stage which is adulthood, they experience disruptive marriages and a chaotic work career. The problem of delinquency is universal and there is a steady increase in the rate of delinquency, where India is not at all an exception. Self-control and self-monitoring is associated with ones behavior. People who closely monitor themselves are categorized as high self monitors and often behave in a manner that it is highly responsive to social and their situational contexts. Low self-monitors are less observant of social context and consider expressing a self presentation dissimilar from internal states as a falsehood and undesirable. An attempt has been made by the research to find out the levels of self control among the delinquent children from the Juvenile Home, Thiruvananthapuram, Idukki Dt. The investigator has adopted a scale developed by Michael Rosenbaum (1980) which measures the perceptions regarding the self control skills. The present study reveals that self control and self monitoring is very low among the delinquent respondent. Hence we can conclude that intervention strategies are necessary at the intra and interpersonal levels for delinquent children in order to increase the social context observation and thereby we can minimize the delinquency rate.

Introduction

It is a fact that most violent crimes among youths are concentrated in the cities and that it is higher in densely populated lower income areas. The poverty of the urban areas breeds not only crime but also chronic unemployment and basic deprivation of human rights. Some delinquent behavior results from peer pressures. A young person may find it necessary to engage in delinquent behavior to the group. To them, breaking the law is an adaptive behavior, which brings prestige, security and acceptance within that group. A small percent of the delinquent acts is directly associated with behavior disorders such as hyperactivity. In case of psychologically disturbed delinquents, the delinquent acts are byproducts of severe personality maladjustment rather than a reflection of anti-social attitudes. In school, they are frequently described as having educational or learning deficits, attention problems and language skill problems. Their early school behavior includes social isolation, acting out, aggression and withdrawal. Their later school behavior includes poor academic performance, aggressive acting out, repeated truancy, and ultimately discontinuance of their education. This may affect their self concept adversely; mostly trounce occurs because of feelings of inferiority. Roger (1980) strongly argues that problems in behavior arise out of a distorted self-concept and when there is a gap between their self-concept and their perception of reality. Juvenile delinquency refers to antisocial or illegal behavior by children or adolescents. Most legal systems prescribe specific procedures for dealing with juveniles, such as juvenile detention centers. There is much debate about whether or not such a child should be held legally responsible for his or her own actions. Violation of law by people over 18 years of age is considered as crime where as violation as law by children below 18 years is regarded as delinquency. The age limit varies in different places according to the law of land. Earlier, children with conduct disorder were called as juvenile delinquents. And the label juvenile delinquency arises primarily out of a legal process. The real definition of juvenile delinquency requires three criteria to be employed. 1.

Seriousness of behavior 2. Frequency of such behavior 3. Attitude of the child towards the lawfully constituted society.

Functions of Deviance

- Deviant acts can be assertions of individuality and identity, and thus as rebellions against group norms
- Deviance affirms cultural values and norms, it also clarifies moral boundaries, promotes social unity by creating an us/them dichotomy, encourages social change, and provides jobs to control deviance.

Types of Deviance

Howard Becker, a labeling theorist, touched basis with different types of deviant behaviors. There are four different types of deviant behaviors falling into different categories. One of the four is falsely accusing an individual which falls under others perceiving you to be obtaining obedient or deviant behaviors. Pure deviance, which falls under perceiving one to participate in deviant and rule-breaking behavior, is also apart of the four types of deviant behaviors listed above. Conforming, which falls under not being perceived as deviant, but merely participating in the social norms that are distributed within societies, can also be placed into the category with pure deviance and falsely accused. Lastly is secret deviance which is when the individual is not perceived as deviant or participating in any rule-breaking behaviors.

Causes of Delinquency

- Rational choice
- Social disorganization
- Strain

Control Theory

A theory that stresses how weak bonds between the individual and society free people to deviate. By contrast, strong bonds make deviance costly. This theory asks why do people refrain from criminal behavior, instead of why people commit criminal

behavior, The control theory developed when norms emerge to deter deviant behavior. Without this "control" deviant behavior would happen more often. This leads to conformity and groups. People will conform to a group when they believe they have more to gain from conformity than by deviance. If a strong bond is achieved there will be less chance of deviance than if a weak bond has occurred. Hirsch argued a person follows the norms because they have a bond to society. The bond consists of four positively correlated factors: commitment, attachment, belief, and involvement. When any of these bonds are weakened or broken one is more likely to act in defiance. Hirsch worked with this idea of a General Theory of Crime with his partner Michael R. Gottfredson. Gottfredson and Hirsch in 1990 founded their Self-Control Theory. It stated that acts of force and fraud are undertaken in the pursuit of self interest and self control. A deviant act is based on a criminals own self control of themselves. 'Gottfredson and Hirschs General Theory of Crime, More contemporary control theorists such as Michael Jordan take the theory into a new light, suggesting labor market experiences not only affect the attitudes and the "stakes" of individual workers, but can also affect the development of their children's views toward conformity and cause involvement in delinquency. This is still an ongoing study as he has found a significant relationship between parental labor market involvement and children's delinquency, but has not empirically demonstrated the mediating role of parents' or children's attitude.

Control Measures

Delinquency Prevention is the broad term for all efforts aimed at preventing youth from becoming involved in criminal, or other antisocial, activity. Increasingly, governments are recognizing the importance of allocating resources for the prevention of delinquency. Because it is often difficult for states to provide the fiscal resources necessary for good prevention, organizations, communities, and governments are working more in collaboration with each other to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Methods & Materials

Need and significance of the study

Self control will reflect the adolescent inmates' attitude towards their own life, and about their present and future. The symptoms of an antisocial child are low self esteem and poor discipline and monitoring. The child has a poor academic record, suffers from peer rejection, parental rejection and depression begins to set in. Later the child starts taking addictive substances and exhibits truant behavior. In the fourth and final stage which is adulthood, they experience disruptive marriages and a chaotic work career. Criminology (1997) beyond assessing the self-control and delinquency relationship, focused on a theoretical proposition that has received limited empirical investigation. The study will be of great help to the investigators, researchers, academicians, and scientists who engage in the development of theoretical knowledge and intervention strategies for understanding the cause, and also in the betterment of rehabilitation, of the delinquents.

Objectives of the study

The primary objectives of the present study are:

- To find out the levels of self control patterns of delinquent children.
- To find out the factors leading to poor self-control in children.

Sampling procedure & research design

In the present study, the researcher has selected delinquent students from juvenile home Thiruvananthapuram, Idukki district using stratified random sampling techniques. Research design adopted by the researcher is descriptive in nature. The present study explains the self control among the delinquent children in descriptive style. Thus the research design is descriptive

nature.

Tools and techniques used

For collecting reliable and valid data for the study the investigator used questionnaire method in which includes the Personal data sheet-It consists of certain questions which are relating to the demographic features of delinquent and non-delinquent children in Kerala. It is mainly the name, sex, date of birth, religion, caste, religion, class etc., Self control Schedule - Investigator adopted this scale from university of Haifa developed by Michael Rosenbaum (1980) and it measures the perceptions regarding the self control skills. The reliability of this scale is 0.86 using test rates.

Major Findings

- It is inferred that 44 per cent of both the delinquents belong to 14 years of age.
- In the present study 94 percent of delinquents are male and 6 percent are females.
- Most of the delinquents have very poor level of self control, which clearly states the main factor to delinquent traits.
- The obtained t value .638 is less than the table value 2.57 even at .05 level of significant. That means there exit no significant differences in the self control of male and female delinquent students so the directional hypothesis is rejected.
- The obtained t value .99 is less than the table value 2.57 even at .05 level of significant. There is no difference in the self control of non-delinquent those students whose parents' educational qualification is below SSLC and above SSLC.
- Obtained t value .768 is less than the table value 2.57 even at .05 level of significant. There is no significant difference among the non-delinquent in their self control based on income of family.

Role of Social Worker in Schools

Schools today cannot be ignored without due professional interventions to prevent delinquents and treat delinquents. In fact, social worker is a complex subspecialty within the field of social work, one that often requires specific preparation. Broad changes in education have consequences for social work practice and social worker's ability to align practice with school goals. [Fuhrman, 1999].

A school social worker helps students resolve problems such as personal issues or family problems and works with students, parents, and the school to improve the lives of the students. The social worker helps students with personal and academic issues. The school social workers can provide counselling and services for students with delinquent behaviour. Assistance includes working with the family to find help dealing with the deviance. School social workers are the link between teachers, students and parents. [Christopher Carter, 1999]

Role of Parents and Teachers

The parent of a child with a delinquent is to recognize that there are many things to help the child. The most important job is to support the child and to help them keep their self-control intact. Embrace the role as a proactive parent and work on the communication skills. It may be frustrating at times, but, the calm, reasonable and firm voice may make the difference in achieving what the parent's wants for their child.

Teacher attitudes, instructional priorities, and communication with parents and other members of the transition team will determine the quality of the child's transition [Hains, 1988] the teacher's attitude toward and experience with children with delinquents may be factors in the success of the child's placement. Some flexibility will probably be required on the

teacher's part in order to adjust expectations and adapt to the child's special needs. The teachers are acting as liaisons between different programs and also with parents.

Conclusion

The problem of delinquency is universal and there is a steady increase in the rate of delinquency, where India is not at all an exception. Self-control and self-monitoring is associated with one's behavior. People who closely monitor themselves are categorized as high self-monitors and often behave in a manner that it is highly responsive to social and their situational contexts. Low self-monitors are less observant of social context and consider expressing a self-presentation dissimilar from internal states as a falsehood and undesirable. The present study also reveals the same i.e., the respondents who have high self-control and self-monitoring are compared to the less delinquent traits. Hence we can conclude that intervention strategies are necessary at the intra and interpersonal levels for delinquent children in order to increase the social context observation and thereby we can minimize the delinquency rate.