



Habitual Forms Of Delinquent Behaviour Of Juveniles

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Abstract: *HABITUAL FORMS OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR- We have to consider the habitual forms of delinquent, behaviour of children which have become habitual. Truancy, Vagrancy, Excusing, Smoking, Gambling and Alcoholism, are some of the forms of such behaviour.*

TRUANCY- Truant, is a boy of school-age, who knowingly and intentionally, or on account of persuasion from a classmate or other companion stays away from his school either partially or completely. It is a symptom of some maladjustment that is never serious.

Regarding truancy, Bettelheim remarks, it is an index of the inner conflict which goes on between the child's freedom which is hedonistic and the high premeditations which society makes on him. Truancy becomes a solution to them when they start pretending that they are not afraid.

Key Words: habitual, Truancy, Vagrancy, Excusing, Smoking, Gambling, Alcoholism, behaviour, conflict.

According to Chauhan truancy appears to be a pattern of acquired behaviour which remains grounded in-home attitudes born, either, in extremely facilitating parental relations leading to parasitism, bondedness, home involvement, personality fixations etc., or in extremely blocked relations, resulting in acute sibling rival, parental rejection, deep-frustration, rebellion and withdrawals.

A comparative study of truants of the institutions had been made with special reference to teacher-student ratio, home-school distance, attitude towards subjects of curriculum, attitude towards examination and to means, of getting through it, hobbies, individual activities and activities of the gang. The findings of the above study correlates the factors hereinbefore with the truancy.

Gleuck has reported following factors contributing towards home tensions- (i) Maladjusted parents, (ii) low income (iii) mother as head of the family, and (iv) poor recreation outlets of family.

There are several causes which make a child truant. It may arise from lack of good bearing, from poor eye-sight, from under-nourishment, from the dislike from the teacher because of favouritism, from being taken away by companions, from a lack of interest in intellectual pursuits, from having poor clothes and due to home-school distance.

VAGRANCY-A child is a tender plant, or a budding flower which is watered, nourished and cared by the parents like Gardner. But if it is neglected, it fades away. Such children, therefore, fail to develop on right lines, and such resultant multifarious ills as truancy, vagrancy and delinquency, which represent various forms of social and personal maladjustment which creep in our social set up and vitiate the social atmosphere. Attempts are needed to cut down its growth to enrich the society in which man may breathe in an atmosphere congenial and conducive to his wellbeing.

Vagrancy is one of the most baffling phenomena an acute problem of the pre-delinquency stage-because it represents the maladjustment between the adolescent and his home environment. Paul W. Tappan regards non-conformity with authority as a significant symptom of potential delinquency. Parents are the authorities with whom a child meets first and hence child's reaction towards his parental authority is very important. Vagrancy represents a high degree of disobedience towards parental authority which results in antisocial attitudes. A Vagrant runs away from home and mingles with the habitually demoralised persons who intimate them in smoking, gambling, sexual misconduct, pick-pocketing, and thieving and he



gradually becomes a delinquent criminal which is due to the rapid industrialisation and urbanisation of the country and unwholesome congestion, loss of privacy, family breakdown, appalling poverty and other connected factors. A study of 40 delinquents of Reformatory School, Lucknow reveals that 25% of delinquents were also vagrants. The importance of vagrancy is self-evident from these facts, according to 1971 census over 1.5 lakh children are beggars or vagrants.

SMOKING- Smoking in the childhood is a problem and a predelinquency phase. Preliminary, it is based on the environment in which a child lives. Generally, parents smoke in the home in the presence of the children. The children watch them and imitate them, and thus form a habit of smoking. In the beginning, smoking does not give them pleasure, gradually they begin taking pleasure in smoking. They take it on an experimental basis often to attract others. When frequent it gives rise to habit. Sometimes, it is acquired in the company of friends.

IMMORAL BEHAVIOUR- Immoral behaviour is the product of those acts, which are not recognised and appreciated by the society's norms and mores, viz. Stealing, lying, cheating, cunningness, dishonesty, forgery, disobedience.

STEALING- Children are the greatest collectors and hoarders. They are attracted to things shining and they own since they have found them. Parents do not mind it as long as it restricts itself to things not belonging to anyone, or things broken and discarded, although a very young child is unable to make this distinction.

The joy of possession is evident in every child at a very young age. How often does a mother use a handbag or boxful of discards brought down from store to keep a child busy and occupied. Some things specially attract and the child having no desire to return them hoards them away in his own special place. If it is an object of little use, the mother gives it no thought. But once in a while, when it is something valuable or concerns money, the trouble arises.

The concept of ownership and possession is man made and it is his conditioning that defines the concept for the child. But he cannot be accused

of taking something that belongs to someone else. Having no idea of what belonging means, he is merely picking up something he is attracted to. If there is already another child or more children in the home, the definition is learnt earlier, but for the first born, since he reigns in solitary splendour as the darling of the house, he may take longer in understanding the rights of others over the things he sees around him.

As the child grows older and is ready for school, this fascination for attractive things is still there but he has, now, however, hazily defined, an idea of ownership. He still might once in a while pick up something that belongs to someone else, but it is only a minor offence. Very often he has convinced himself that since it has fallen from a table to the floor, it no longer belongs to anyone. He might alternatively reason that another child has so many; or if he has some feeling of guilt, he will put it away and gaze at it when he is alone. This is the primary stage of stealing which needs only correction, but is not a cause for anxiety or anger.

There may be various reasons why an older child steal. Surrounded by children of more affluent families, he feels deprived and inadequate and sometimes very insecure. In a desperate attempt to conform and possess something that all the other children have, he might resort to stealing.

The other reason for stealing is 'kicks' and to get attention. This is a common malady of the spoiled child whose rich parents have given children too much, leaving nothing for which a child can strive. There is no excitement left in buying.

Another reason is that this habit has not been checked earlier due to a lack of interest and the fact that previous misdemeanours have gone undetected. The result is a discovery of how lucrative theft is, and hence an addiction to it. This is the greatest tragedy and the hardest to repair.

The parents fail to understand how it all starts, and to what extent it can develop. What begins as a game, if not checked, can develop into a criminal trait? The cases may be few but what is important to remember is that the tendency knows no social stratification or caste barrier.

LYING- Lying means making false



statement to others. It is one of the common deviant behaviour of children. It has been a normal way of behaving in daily routine. From the beginning, children observe their parents and copy them when someone tells a lie. To a psychologist lying means an adjustment of a child with the situation and adverse environmental conditions. A child safeguards himself from the trouble of an explanation from a teacher by simply telling a lie, or making a false excuse. Thus, it is associated with fear. Lying is a behaviour in which child finds self-satisfaction against those realities of life which he is unable to face. It is a compensatory action. On the other hand, the child wants recognition and self-respect to cope with them, hence he makes false statement and shows his ability to command them. The feeling of superiority and command leads to, lying.

Lying is a sign of emotional instability. Someone may be talkative due to un psychological check of certain emotions and then compensating through an biga talk and lying. Lying is a means of maintaining social respect and prestige. It is a means to show verbal sympathy to others. Thus, lying is an adjustment in the environment spoken intelligently, to safeguard his position and prestige.

CHEATING- Cheating means betraying cleverly. Like lying, cheating is a behaviour which is regarded as immoral in the sense that we usurp things and the right of others; betraying them and making them fool in their social dealings. If a child dealing. If a child cheats someone, he is very careful to deal with others in future. The question is 'why children cheat? Every man in this world struggles with life adopting fair or foul means. When fair ways of dealing are not successful, one resorts to some other means to struggle in life. Cheating is a situational, act. A child, who has no book and is in need to consult it, he asks for it, gets from his mate on the return basis. Next fine morning, when he is requested to bring it back, he may beg excuse to bring it next day, and then lastly saying 'it is lost'. The situation and the poor environment of a child may compel him to cheat others.

Like cheating, there are other forms of immoral behaviour such as cunningness, dishonesty, and forgery which are associated with and rooted in

the environmental conditions because the 'money makes the mere go'.

DISOBEDIENCE- It is a breach of social code of morality in direct form by which a child fails to carry the instructions given by a person-father, mother, teacher or any other elder person. It is due to the child's over-estimation of himself. A child may think himself too superior to obey others, because it is a question of equality of rights. When all are equal then why it is that 'one is to command and the other is to be command'. This question often arises in his tender mind.

Socially it is connected with the culture and traditions of home and society in which a child is chanced to live. The culture of the home affects him too much. It is a learning ground to obey and command.

Disobedience is a sort of aggression due to emotional disturbance of a human being. It may be aggressive or regressive in nature. Thwarted instinct of love and respect may be a direct cause of disobedience. It is related to personal relations of a child with the subject to whom it is shown. It may be a cause of disgust and hate.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR- Desire for pleasure is ever present in man, although his idea of pleasure may differ from that which is socially approved. Sexual desire, like emotion, is felt tendency toward something we want or desire. It has an urgency that is akin to emotion, though it has different roots. Basically, sexual desire is an instinctive tendency. Like every such tendency, it is produced by a change in the hormone balance of the body. Sex and detected by a sensitive area in brain (the hypothalamus), which excites neutral pathways that give rise to felt impulses to action, a restlessness that is often called sexual tension.

The sex instinct has been a very powerful motivation since the beginning of the time. For human beings it has two major functions-procreation and pleasure. As a biological necessity, for preserving the species, it has been extolled through the ages but its pursuit fort the gratification of the senses, has been the subject of controversy. When the pursuit for pleasure takes a form which is not recognised by the laws of the state, and; norms and



mores of the society, it becomes sex delinquency.

The desire for sex biological and society prescribes certain tenets for its fulfilment. But in certain situations, driven by passion, the delinquent ignores the norms fixed by the society and fulfils his desires in a manner which the state calls crime or delinquency. The kind of sex crime or delinquency the commits, depends on the degrees of his desire, the quantum of his fear of society and the opportunities available.

Sex crimes are also attributed to unhappy family life which may be due to various incompatibilities with regard to physique, temperament, habits, financial stringency etc., as a result of which marital life is no pleasure. Broken homes and constant friction also turn children into sex delinquents. Suffering because of daily bickering they react against the cruelty or the father or over-protectiveness of the mother. This is particularly true of prostitution which though not by itself a crime undoubtedly breeds crimes and criminals.

Sex crimes also flourish due to the lack of religious education and disregard for moral values. All religious prohibits lust, some forbid even a lustful look at woman. But little thought is given to such a precept now, particularly by those influenced by modern materialism which emphasises the importance of momentary pleasure, drink, drugs, and sensual strip-tease shows rather than the virtues.

There is also the pernicious influence of the modern crimes, obscene literature and see-through and curve-accentuating dresses which arouse sexual desire. Bathing scenes are intentionally introduced in films though not at all necessary to the essential continuity of the story. There is hardly a film in which a villain does not either rape the heroin or make attempts to seduce her. Producers and directors by displaying erotic excesses and illicit sex in the name of freeing individuals from social and religious restrictions encourage lust.

Increasing industrialisation with its commutant evils is also responsible for an increase of sex delinquency in India. Industries growing up

in big cities attract young from the rural areas, they generally can not take their women with them as there is a paucity of residential accommodation and she has to be left in the village to look after the elderly parents. This makes both of them starve for sex and both look for satisfaction in ways not recognised by the society.

Two papers have come to the notice of the researcher on sex delinquency (Dasgupta, 1944; Mukherji, 1955). They were unemployed and did not see to have adequate education. The war and Bengal famine have been attributed to have as cause of this anti-social phenomena.

Immoral behaviour of parents is highly deleterious and exercise unwholesome effect on the development of children. In homes, where mothers of doubtful character are found, children are often considered as hindrance in their way of free meeting with the lovers and seeking of pleasure. It is not easy to know the immorality and irregular sex habits of women except where their ill reputation is wide spread in the neighbourhood or until their husband's complaint against them.

Immoral and irregular sex behaviour has been unexpectedly found to be very high in the above two studies.

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