

FAMILY ROLE IN DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENTS REFERRING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. A QUALITATIVE APPROACH

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ABSTRACT: *Behaviour development of adolescents is a complex phenomenon in all societies. With other factors, family partakes it very diversely. Antisocial behaviour of adolescents is one of the outcomes of negative influences of familial risk factors. Deviant behaviour further contributes to Juvenile delinquency which has become a serious problem in the social order. Previous literature witnesses that family structure, family's deviant past and family reaction to adolescents' felonious actions are risk factor in deviant behaviour development. Taking into account, family influences as risk factors in juvenile delinquency this study was conducted to juvenile delinquents who are either convicted or under trail (accepted their crimes). This study reconnoitrs the juvenile delinquents to find out the main family influences leading them to commit a crime. The methodology of the study was qualitative; using phenomenological approach and total of twelve respondents were interviewed. After analysis of detailed in-depth interviews, it was revealed that in Pakistani cultural organisation, the family has limited effects on the development of antisocial behaviour of juveniles. Three research propositions, namely, Family Structure, Conflict History of Family, and Family Reaction on previous offensive acts of adolescents were tested. The results indicate that these variables do not contribute significantly or have limited effects in juvenile delinquency denoting Pakistani context.*

Key Terms: Behaviour development, Juvenile Delinquency, Family structure, Family criminal history, Family reaction, Phenomenology

INTRODUCTION

A growing body of scientific research efforts suggests, relationships with family have been assumed to influence criminal behaviours of adolescents [1]. Social philosophers have also advocated that families with some inadequate structure be unsuccessful to deliver the attachments that could clout children into the better social fabric of life [2]. The family influences range a number of derisory factors contribute to adolescents' deviant behaviour. Poverty, criminal history of family, broken family structure, maltreatment during childhood, ineffective parental behaviour, and parental substance abuse are few of these familial contributory factors which are influential in offensive tendencies [3,4].

Moving towards Pakistan as the context of this study, the responsible factors in juvenile delinquency are broken home, delinquent environment, bad company, slums with the criminal neighbourhood, poverty, and unemployment [5]. Another evidence supported the argument, establishes the causes of deviant behaviour in adolescents are conflicting environments, in and outside the home, as well as spoiling attitudes of family and other persons in contact [6]. Four juvenile offenders kept in Adyala jail Rawalpindi, Pakistan were interviewed in detail to identify their crime explanations, and results showed that lower socioeconomics and broken family background were the reasons [7]. Family management and relationships are very cosmic variables in juvenile offence studies and sometimes depraved relationships with family appears to be the main reason in the formulation of juveniles' deviant behaviour [8]. The young ones, living in the joint family system are also found less likely to involve in offensive behaviour comparing to others; living without the joint family system [9].

Family Management and Relationships

Family management practices with inadvertence have been found a strong reason in the construction of adolescents' antisocial behaviour [10]. A considerable amount of research

has found a number of family factors play a vital role in making of a juvenile delinquent. Irrespective of the nature of methodology applied, the results tendencies of different studies are in favour to conclude that poor family management and bad relationships among family members lead to construct a rebellion behaviour in adolescents. Rising juvenile delinquency corresponding the family instability providing a spur to carry out research finding associations between disrupted families and delinquency [11]. In the 19th century, ruined family structure has been an important part of delinquency theory as criminology emerged as a subject [12]. Previous studies made a clear statement that most of the juvenile offenders had concerns with their family settings which are an either bad economic situation or broken family intricacies [13].

Family associations to growing youngsters are directly proportional with the behaviour outcomes. Deeper and well-established family relations decrease the chances of negative behavioural leanings in adolescents. For example, having dinners with family is associated with less aggression overall [14]. On the other hand, poor family associations are linked with higher rates of adolescents' problematic behaviour [15,16]. It is important to know that either these findings are pertinent to all cultures, crimes, age groups or not. This research effort is an attempt to find this answer with reference to Pakistani context. Because here we have another argument, "children in welfare families do worse than those in non-welfare families"[17].

Conflict/Criminal History of Family

"Crime runs in families", Dugdale's [18] famous saying, a reputable social scholar. This saying is still valid when we investigate the current scientific literature. The negative influences of a criminal one gone through the blood veins in his dissectors. Furthermore, the negative social representations of parents make adolescents low social acceptance which may prime to many negative outcomes like delinquency [19]. Ferguson [20] an earliest social investigator

conducted a cross-sectional study of delinquents versus non-delinquents, found that “the probability of conviction was especially high among those boys who had convicted fathers”. This family customary is not limited to parents or more specifically father only, rather all other relatives’ absolution in crimes is probable for an adolescent to become a juvenile. However, arrested fathers are more coincide comparing other relatives [21].

Children suffer higher rates of crime and violence exposure than other adults [22], [23] and this exposure has certain negative aspects on children physical and mental health [24]. The exposure of crime is very harmful if family members, i.e. father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, and cousin etc. portray such type of deviant behaviour. A person is very much attached to his family which builds a strong inclination of adopting things from family. Another fact is that adolescence is the age of adventure and suspense which is also a big motivation for them to get stimulated by criminal family members. Familial antisocial behaviour has been investigated associating juvenile delinquency and most of the time found positive conjunctions [25]. So far it is well established in social science research that familial (Parental and other close relatives’) criminal behaviour affects an adolescent’s mental health and appears to be exhibit a grave node of delinquent behavioural tendencies [26][21][27][28][29].

Family Reactions at Offense

Families of juvenile delinquents especially parents are being blamed for their kids’ antisocial behaviour. Social scholars have conducted immense research on this issue and concluded that parenting has very strong relationships with delinquency. However, this issue needs to be further investigated due to certain different familial structures in different cultures and a clear conclusion is required. One of the possible reason concerning parenting and delinquency is heterogeneity of social research, and important to know which kinds of parenting dimension are tested and how constructs are measured [30]. Whether positive or negative, the different aspects of parenting styles can be employed with the level of support (low or high) as is considered as unidimensional [31]. Few dimensions in parenting are linked positively with delinquency like low supportive behaviours of parents, whereas, some parental extents are negatively associated with delinquency with a high level of support by parents[32,33,34].

Parental reactions, knowledge or disclosure of previous offense by a child is strongly linked to delinquency, as rejection or bad supervision lead to abnormal behavioural trends[30,35]. Neglect, rejection, negative re-reaction, and hostility are few traits of behaviours in adolescents as these emerge after experiencing parental unfriendly gestures [36]. And these negative associations have appeared across different demographic groups (e.g. ethnic, socioeconomic, race) applying both longitudinal and cross sections research [37]. A general consolidating imperative in the world of social research is that the likelihood of deviant behaviour increases when a person’s bond to society become weaken or broken [38]. For a child, parents and family make major of its social life especially at the early developing years of age. There may be many reasons for an adolescent to show antisocial behaviour, but it matters that how parents and

family react at that point. Adolescence is very sensitive age and little miss handling may raise grave concerns for the individual as well as for the whole society.

Research Propositions

With the help of previous social research literature, here the propositions of the study have been given.

- Poor family management and bad relationships with family members contribute to juvenile delinquency
- Criminal parent/guardian or other criminal family member provide antisocial inspiration to adolescents
- Family Behaviour/Reaction at Respondents’ previous deviant behaviour decides an adolescent’s future tendencies to crime

Methodology

The characteristics of qualitative research methodology aim to understand some specific aspect of social life in detail, and its approaches generally produce words, rather than numbers [39]. The purpose of this study was to gain a better understanding of the emergence of crime tendencies behaviour in juveniles with denoting their lived experiences. Creswell describes “a phenomenological study describes the meaning for several individuals of their lived experiences of a concept or a phenomenon” [40]. The phenomenological approach focuses on specific situations or people, and its emphasis on words rather than numbers. As the current study was focused on felonious behaviour development of juvenile offenders with reference to their family situations, so this specific phenomenon was investigated with the phenomenological approach of qualitative research.

Data Collection

Each domain in qualitative research data collection methods has its own unique advantages and disadvantages. When the study objectives are a more exploratory type or tend to discover new concepts in depth; then an open-ended procedure considers to be the best fit [41]. Furthermore, the selection of data collection method also depends on upon the resources in hand, including time, number, and complexity of cases [42]. For the current study in-depth interviews conducted to collect data from respondents who all are juvenile offenders. The interviews entailed of structured and non-structured questions. Initial questions were organised in the English language with the help of previous literature (questions indicators), but at the time of the interview, Punjabi and Urdu languages were used for ease of the respondents.

Participants

Many researchers have proposed different sample sizes in qualitative studies; 10 may be adequate [43], might be in single figures [44], Creswell argues five to twenty-five, Morse [45] suggested at least six and fifteen is the figure mentioned by Bertaux [46], but the real sample size is based point of saturation. During data collection, the point of saturation was achieved about ten respondents but to strengthen results a sum of twelve juvenile offenders were interviewed. The target population for this study included Pakistani adolescents who were convicted in any law court of the country and the under trial adolescents who have accepted their offense. As per juvenile justice system ordinance 2000

Pakistan; the age of criminal responsibility is seven to eighteen years [47]. That’s why all adolescents in juvenile/borstal institutions and other jails are included in population for the desired study. The present study conducted in the borstal institute district Faisalabad Punjab, Pakistan; by considering purposive sampling technique. It is important to mention here that only two borstal institutions exist in the whole province of Punjab for juvenile convicts; Faisalabad and Bahawalpur. The crime profile of the respondents is given below.

Procedures

The interviews were conducted in borstal jail Faisalabad premises, and one jail officer was always there to look after the interview protocol and other necessary demands as per authorities’ regulations. At the beginning of the interview, Groenewald’s seven points “informed consent protocol”, for the purpose to gain the *informed consent* from respondents was practiced [48]. Initially, the respondents were little hesitant but later, after some friendly questions they open their mouth and provided good responses to the researcher. One interview prolonged from 90 to 120 minutes even the respondents were not very detailed responsive. To overcome the less detailed responses, the researcher asked and repeated the interview questions with many angles until the true meaningful answer was attained. Certain parts of interviews were verified with the same respondents giving some gap after the first interview. The detailed responses were then categorized into themes by adopting the following theme selection process.

Table 1. Crime Profile of Respondents

Crime Profile of Respondents					
Respondents	Nature of offense	Reason of offense	Offense	Drugs Usage	Gang
R-1	Murder	Family Compulsion	No	No	No
R-2	Rape, Fight	Friends’ Company	No	No	No
R-3	Rape	Don’t Accept	No	No	No
R-4	Murder	Anger	Somehow	Yes	No
R-5	Fight	Anger	Somehow	No	No
R-6	Murder	Anger	Somehow	Yes	No
R-7	Dacoit	Don’t Accept	No	No	No
R-8	Rape	Don’t Accept	No	No	No
R-9	Selling Theft	Money	No	Somehow	No
R-10	Murder	Anger	Yes	Yes	Somehow
R-11	Selling Drugs	Money	Yes	No	No
R-12	Dacoit, Theft	Money	Yes	Yes	No

Analysis

The analysis starts with transcription which is an important step in phenomenology data interpretation. All the interviews transcribed by including exact statements and as much as possible noting. Moreover, significant nonverbal clues and para-linguistic indications also noted because these are helpful to elite a theme at a later stage. After transcription, bracketing and phenomenological reduction of the attained transcribed data leads the initially emerged meanings. The researcher then began to very arduous process of going over every word, sentence, phrase, paragraph and other prominent nonverbal clues in the transcribed interviews to prompt the interviewee connotations. The results of this phase produced a general meaning of respondents’ point of view concomitant with the topic being investigated. Delineation of units of

meanings relevant to the research questions leads to a very critical phase in the elucidation of data. After the general meanings of data have been realised; the researcher then addressed the research propositions. The units of general meanings were matched or compared to the research propositions to decide whether these were pertinent to the RPs or not.

Finally, at this stage, researcher grilled the clusters of meaning to define the central theme expressing the quintessence of these clusters. It was done by combining all the clusters or meaning into a certain relevant portion of transcription and then determining whether if there is a central theme or not. After going through all the sequential steps above mentioned the process of classifying common themes of all the respondents was required. The themes found combine in all or in the majority of the interviews were clustered together as a general theme. Then the other themes appeared by a minority, whereas the rations of emergence remained forty to sixty percent were pooled in sub-themes. The preceding course leads the researcher to formulate a composite summary of all the interviews comprising the major and sub-themes arose after analysis. The subsequent summary of emerged themes contains the juvenile behaviour as general with a touch of significant individual differences.

Findings

Findings of study in the light of emerged themes after detailed analysis are given below. These conclusions are elaborated here as per research propositions of the study.

Research Proposition One: Poor family management and bad relationships with family members contribute to juvenile delinquency

Previous literature provides evidence in favour of an above-mentioned proposition as already been discussed in the preceding portion of this article. However, the results of this study are quite different with the proposition developed earlier. Family management is one of the important variables in juvenile delinquency and inadequate family management seems a big contributing factor, on the other hand, the respondents in this study had very good family management overall. Although there are few exceptions, but most of the respondents had feeling that their family management was very good and their relations with family members were also quite decent. Before further explanations of emerged themes under this head, the family management profile of the respondents is given herewith.

Table 2. Family Structure of Respondents

Respondent	No. of Family Members	Father's Education (years)	Mother's Education (years)	Family Structure
R1	7	10	5	Joint
R2	8	12	14	Joint
R3	8	16	0	Joint
R4	7	10	10	Joint
R5	6	5	12	Joint
R6	7	0	0	Joint
R7	5	Died	5	Joint
R8	6	8	0	Joint
R9	13	0	5	Joint
R10	10	0	5	Mix
R11	6	12	0	Joint
R12	4	Died	0	Joint

The above-mentioned table clearly shows that most of the respondents had lived in joint family system. Whereas scientific literature suggests that there are fewer chances for delinquency if the person is living in the joint family system [14][49].

The themes emerged from analysis are;

- Respondents had Good attachment with family
- They feel pleasure to spend time with family
- Cohesion with family found good
- Respondents had good expressiveness with their families
- Sometimes respondents have feelings of anger at family's reaction
- Overall respondents were happy to live with their families

Research Proposition Two: Criminal parent/guardian or other criminal family member give inspiration to juvenile offenders for offense

In professional literature, criminal parents or other felonious family members are also considered to be a firm reason for an adolescent to become a juvenile delinquent. Here, in this study again the results appeared with some different kind of discoveries. Before going to further explanations of emerged themes, the brief crime history of the juvenile offender and his family is given below in the form of a table.

The above-mentioned table clearly shows that only one or two respondents had some kind of criminal family background and all others' families were not involved in criminal activities. Even though the respondents may conceal this fact due to sensitivity, but researcher tried to get an answer to this question by asking different types of questions. The above-mentioned facts are given after achieving a rational in-depth questioning.

The other themes emerged from a study in the light of research proposition two; are outlined below.

- Most (about 75%) of the respondents didn't have any experience of witnessing violence between parents and in family
- Witnessing criminal activities with parents/family was not found only with few exceptions

- Majority of the families of juvenile delinquents didn't have any type of criminal history

Table 3. Family Background/Criminal Attachment

Respondent	Family Conflict Nature	Family Offence History	Gang Memberships in Family	Family/ Father's Occupation
R1	Yes	No	No	Agriculture
R2	No	No	No	Agriculture
R3	No	No	No	Govt. Job
R4	No	No	No	Govt. Job
R5	No	No	No	Business
R6	No	No	No	Odd Jobs
R7	No	No	No	Labour
R8	No	No	No	Govt. Job
R9	No	No	No	Labour
R10	No	No	No	Labour
R11	No	No	No	Labour
R12	No	No	Somehow	Foreign labour

Research Proposition Three: Family behaviour/reaction at respondents' previous deviant Behaviour decides an adolescent's future tendencies to crime

The detailed literature expressing that family behaviour and reaction after knowing the adolescent's involvements in criminal activities decides the further tendency for such behaviour has been discussed in the upper portion of this article. A vast body of scientific literature argues that familial reactions towards the antisocial behaviour of adolescents are directly related to further felonies acts. If the family show strong opposite reaction, then there are fewer chances for an adolescent to become a habitual juvenile delinquent. On the contrary, if the family take a lenient view then there are more chances for a continuation of juvenile acts by an adolescent. Following are some major themes indicating the family reactions after having knowledge of antisocial acts done by their young ones.

- Family did not provide follow-up to respondents in their previous illicit activities
- Most of the families did not approve the adolescent's' criminal involvement
- Families of juvenile offenders did not reward for felonious actions
- Families did not punish or took severe action after knowing their child has involved in criminal acts

DISCUSSION

This research attempt was made to examine the family role in juvenile delinquency referring Pakistani context. The respondents were male juvenile delinquents who were detained in borstal jail Faisalabad Punjab, Pakistan either convicted or accepted (under trail) their crime. A sum of 12 juvenile delinquents was interviewed; who provided detailed information concerning their lived experiences. The interviews were conducted in Urdu and Punjabi languages taking into account the ease of respondents. All the in-depth interviews were conducted inside borstal jail district

Faisalabad, Pakistan with the permission of concerned authorities. Creswell [50] stated that in a phenomenological study the respondents may be found in one place, though they need not be. He further added that respondents must be the individuals who have experienced the phenomenon under discussion.

The results of the current investigation are quite contrary to the previous findings in the scenario under discussion. As the emerged themes after analysis deny the stated research propositions; based on previous literature. The reasons may be numerous, different methodology, cultural variances, concellations of facts by respondents or their fear of truth, and so on. As per researcher's role, the best possible measures had been taken to conduct the in-depth interviews and then for analysis. In the below section, current findings are discussed with the help of scientific literature. There is an important issue to be disused in scientific literature that if family contribute to antisocial behaviour of an adolescent; then why these family factors don't spoil the behaviours of other adolescents in the family [51].

We have literature evidence that family structure, family felonious past, and family behaviour plays an important role in the development of antisocial behaviours of adolescents. Broken family, criminal parents, and pro-criminal reactions of the family tend to increase immoral tendencies in families' growing ones. But it also essential to note that all the juvenile offenders do not come from a broken family, rather many of the juveniles had a very gentle family, and a lot of antisocial growing ones have confronted strong reactions at their crimes. As in the current study, almost all the respondents were very attached to their families except one. Barber [52] found in an investigation that lack of parental discipline and parental absence are weaker predictors in juvenile delinquency. Further evidence was provided by Sampson & Laub [53], when the findings of their study witnessed ($(\beta = 0.00, 0.01)$: t ratio $(-0.04, 0.23)$) in *parental deviance*. Scientific literature observed that family processes also have insignificant relationships with reference to antisocial behaviours of adolescents and family procedures have partially mediated relationships under discussion ($\beta = -.18$) [54]. The family risk factors contributing juvenile felonious behaviour development were found with relatively smaller effects as concluded by Assink et al. [55].

The family has important consequences in the behaviour development of adolescents in the family. But families also differ from culture to culture and from country to country. A large body of scientific literature has argued that different cultures have different characteristics of life and related phenomenon. It is very difficult to suggest one cultures' findings to other culture especially when the social systems are under consideration. Furthermore, social developmental differences occur within a culture taking into account the segments. As this study was conducted in Pakistan, where the individuals in families are well regulated to each other. Persons in this country are deep rooted in family and family is a real asset. In a close family system, it can be found that adolescents are well attached to their families. Family factors may not be the reasons for antisocial behaviours of adolescents, rather there may be few other factors.

Many factors participate in the development of adolescents' behaviours, including environment which has long-term significant effects on distinguishing adjustments including media, peers, educational systems etc. [56]. There may be many other cultural antecedents, for example, religious beliefs, company preferences, interpersonal manipulation tactics, vocational interests, and group loyalties are few of the influential factors which possibly contribute to the psychological behavioural development of adolescents [57]. Smith & Krohn [58] found in their study that family variables and process have appeared with different results among diverse populations. However, it remains unclear to which extent familial factors are mediated by other behavioural modelling factors, reinforcement of deviant beliefs, labelling, and stigma, or genetic tendency for crime [25].

Behaviour development is very complex phenomena and associated with a wide array of health, socioemotional outcomes, cognitions, with effects beginning prior to birth and continuing to adulthood [59]. A single factor (family) can't be held responsible for the whole behaviour development with negative outcomes like juvenile delinquency. Many of other environmental factors operate at a more direct level in behaviour development and it is also argued that parenting has limited influences [60] on behavioural development; agreeing with Begley [61] saying, "the way parents treat their children does not matter". However, this type of evidence is little and yet to be investigated more, how family factors are specific to adolescents' behavioural problems rather study these behaviours in general. Furthermore, the evidence attests the relationship between family factors and adolescents' mental health problems are predominately cross-sectional [62][63].

Further Recommendations

With the help of the findings of the current study, it is evident to say; more research is required to comprehend the affective, cognitive, and physiological mechanisms through which adolescents are inclined to antisocial behaviours. Complex phenomenon of behaviour development needs to be explored further, taking into account the environmental factors. The differences of diverse environments should also not be ignored as a family environment in America must be very much unlike to family culture in Pakistan. In this digital era of smartphones and hi-speed internet, it is more likely that adolescents are affected more by the world outside homes. One of the important point referring juvenile delinquency is to consider sudden accidental reactions in complex human psychology, as the respondents in this study with dangerous (murder) crimes were not found habitual criminals. It is needed in future research to categorize the juvenile delinquents in habitual and non-habitual offenders. These categorizations might be helpful to measure the family role and related risk factors contribute to juvenile delinquency. Future research is required to investigate the contrivances mediating the adolescents and family's relationships especially in the cases where the deviant behaviour of adolescents is reported.

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