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SEMESTER- IV

SOC GE 404:

TOPIC: JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

MEANING: Juvenile delinquency is one of the serious problems of the mess society. This has almost become a universal problem in most of the industrialised countries including India. Delinquency is a kind of abnormality. When an individual deviates from the course of normal social life, his behaviour is called delinquency. When a juvenile, below an age specified under a statute exhibits behaviour which may prove to be dangerous to society and to himself he may be called 'juvenile delinquency'

1. **According to Cyril Burt** delinquency as occurring in a child "when his antisocial tendencies appear so grave that he becomes or ought to become the subject of official action".
2. **Friedlander says**, "Delinquency is a juvenile misconduct that might be dealt with under the law"

3. **C. B. Mamoria** , “the phrase ‘juvenile delinquency’ may be loosely used to cover any kind of deviant behaviour of children which violates normative rules, understanding or expectations of social system”.

So we can said that juvenile delinquency is type of abnormal and antisocial behaviour by a juvenile between the age of seven and 16 or 18, as prescribed by the law of the land.

Classification of juvenile delinquency

Juvenile delinquents have been classified by different scholars on different basis.

Hirsh has classified them in six groups,

- 1) Incurrigibility (Disobedience, keeping late hours...)
- 2) Truancy (staying away from school)
- 3) Larceny
- 4) Destruction of property(including both public and private property)
- 5) Violence
- 6) Sex offences.

Trojanowicz has classified them as

1. accidental

2. Un-socialized
3. Aggressive
4. Occasional
5. Professional
6. Gang- organized

Causes of juvenile delinquency

The causes of juvenile delinquency may be classified under two major factors: (A) Social factors

(B) Physical factors

(C) Economic factors

(D) Geographical factors

(E) Psychological factors

A. social factors favouring juvenile delinquency

1. **Broken Homes:** The children from broken home

Broken home means a home where either of the parents is dead or living separately or is divorced or that parents are drunkards or drug addicts or he parents or any other member of the family often fights with each other. In such circumstances, the

child feels disowned and insecure and thereby finds his way on the cross roads. He is exposed to the anti-social activities, which he adopts to satisfy himself and in the process, he or she is led towards delinquency.

2. Parents attitude at home: If the parents behaviour at home is not good, the child also behaves in a socially unacceptable manner. This further leads him to be a juvenile delinquent.

3. Urbanization: In modern families, the parents find less time to spend with their children. Due to lack of guidance, the child may lead non ideal life.

4. Lack of proper education: Improper education and lack of proper guidance during school days can increase the criminal activities.

B. Physical factors

1. Hereditary: If the father is a delinquent, this character may be transmitted to his offspring through hereditary. Thus, since his childhood he may have the

tendency to be a delinquent and may express anti-social behaviours.

2. Physical disabilities: some societies do not accept the physically disable or handicapped children like blind and deaf children as they believe that they are good for nothing. Even some parents refuse to take care of these children. These problems can lead the child to become a juvenile delinquent.

C. Economic factors

1. Poverty: Due to the poor economic status or due to the death of the breadwinner of the family, the children compelled to do some anti-social activities like theft for leading their life. When some parents are not able to meet the basic needs of child he starts to involve in truancies.

2. Child labour and child abuse: Abusing and neglecting the children creates more number of juvenile delinquent.

D. Geographical factors

1. Overcrowding and slums areas: children from slums area have more chance of developing criminal

behaviours. These children at the age of learning good behaviours, learn how to steal and rob things.

2. Isolated areas: People living in isolated areas do not have good socialization. The children of these areas may not be able to interact with the society. Since there is no good socialization with the people, these children may develop antisocial attitudes.

E. Psychological factors: neglected children, children from broken homes and death of parents in the early childhood may lead to develop psychological defects, they may develop impulsive behaviour. These situations lead the child to develop physically and mentally aggressive involvement with anti-social activities.

Remedial Measures

Two methods have been suggested to deal with this problem:

A. Preventive Measures:

1. Establishing child guidance clinics to give appropriate treatment to the disturbed and mal-adjusted children.
2. Giving proper training to the members and staff of all organisations concerned with delinquency control.

3. Educating of the family so as to help the parents to realise the importance of giving proper attention to needs of their young children.

4. Giving proper assistance to under privileged children to build them good character and law-abiding attitude.

5. Adopting various means of propagandas such as radio, movies, television, Newspaper, magazines etc., to realise the importance of law-abidingness and how it is always appreciated and rewarded.

6. Improving the social environment ---slum areas, busy market place, gambling centres etc., to prevent children to get polluted.

7. The problems of beggary and poverty are to be removed or controlled and the general economic standards of the people must be increased to prevent children from becoming delinquents due to economic exigencies.

8. Training for parents in parental responsibility.

Method of Rehabilitation

The main purpose of the method of rehabilitation is not punish nor to take revenge upon the delinquent. The intention behind this method is to help the delinquent children to get proper guidance and training so that they so become normal children and never repeat delinquent acts. Various legislations have been made to deal with juvenile delinquency.

- a. The first juvenile court was set-up in England.**
- b. The children Act pass in India in 1960**
- c. Apprentices Act of 1850**
- d. Reformatory schools Act of 1897**
- e. Juvenile smoking Acts.**
- f. Suppression of immoral traffic Acts.**
- g. Probation of offenders Act.**
- h. Borstal school Acts for adolescents.**

Institutions to Rehabilitate Juvenile Delinquents.

1. Remand Homes: When a child is apprehended under the act, he is brought before magistrate within 24

hours he is kept in the remand home until the final disposal of the case take place.

2. Certified schools: Certified schools are for the treatment of children with subnormal mental ability and they are sent for long-term treatment.

These are two types of school:

- a. Junior schools: under 12
- b. Senior schools: under 16

3. Auxiliary Homes: Delinquents are kept for some time and studied by a social worker and then sent to the certified schools.

4. Foster Homes: These are for delinquent children under 10 years, who cannot be sent to approved or certified schools, unless the court is satisfied that they cannot be dealt with otherwise.

4. Reformatory school: These are meant for the education and vocational training of delinquent children with much regard to the type of crime committed. The delinquent are removed from bad environment and places in the reformatory school for

some time after which they can adopt some vocational learnt in the school.

5. Borstal Institutions: social treatment is provided for adolescent offender between the age of 15 to 21 years. There are two types of borstal institutions.

a. Close Institution: it is converted prison building and security is provided when necessary, but the gates remain open and large parts of the activities are carried outside the walls.

b. Open Institutions: It is a camp or building in open with no surround wall. The training is different for boys and girls such as mixed farming, building and cooking and home use work for the latter. The term of borstal is 2-3 years.

Borstal schools are in Chennai, West Bengal, Mumbai and Karnataka state at present.

It may be concluded that the development of a sound public policy regarding all aspects of delinquency prevention and control requires both planning and evaluation by rigorous research methods. This requires coordination between the government agencies, universities, police, judiciary and social workers.

