

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights the psychosocial cognitive traits and as well as the family structure and functioning of the victims which turn them in to the offensive activities. It is hypothesized that offender is initially a victim of the vulnerable social circumstances. It doesn't excuse the offender by explaining the responsible psychosocial and cognitive determinants but it is an accent on the prevention of crime with its psychological consequences on victims. It is behavioral analyses of victim turning in to offender. It also intrigues the effecting threads of development and psychosocial theory in this context. It advocates the effective preventive measures with humanitarian approach which can bring considerable change in the society. At the end it recommends reformatory suggestion for both victims and offenders for their social and occupational rehabilitation.

Keywords: *Psychosocial cognitive traits, victims, Preventive measures*

The peeping into the world of offender will compel us to analyze and reveal the relation between childhood experiences and their psychosocial traits. The psychosocial traits are the dispositions which look at individuals in the context of the combined influence that psychological factors and the surrounding social environment have on their physical and mental wellness and their ability to function. A person incurs into offence due to vulnerable circumstance and not by the biological traits. The role of their psychosocial, cognitive traits plays an important role in turning them in offensive nature. Faulty learning and misleading role model lead them in the activities where they are trapped easily for offensive prey. The hypothesis behind this clause is to believe that offenders are the dupes of certain social conditions which disrupt their behaviour patterns emanating from an individual's power to attune his or her brain and body to social demands within a broken environment.

Here the cognitive and psychosocial perspective focuses on how thoughts and information processing can get distorted and leads to maladaptive emotions and behaviour in the influence of certain social context. The bitter childhood experiences play a significant role in developing

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Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

cognitive dissonance (condition of tension existing when several of one's beliefs and attitudes are inconsistent with one another) and where social pathology (abnormal pattern of social organisation, attitudes, or behaviors, undesirable social conditions that tend to produce individual pathology) aggravates the state of affairs of the adolescent.

For instance any type of maltreatment happened in childhood will trigger victim's psychological traits which lead to burst out in offensive action. As previous studies stated that Child abuse is also associated with delinquent and criminal behaviour when the victim grows up. According to Maxfield and Widom 1996, Luntz & Widom ,1994, Read, 1997) in a follow up study of 908 people who were maltreated as children found that their arrest rate for non-traffic offences was significantly higher than a control sample of non-abused kids. Abused children also tend to show other more self-destructive behaviour than non-abused children and physically abused children may be more likely to mistreat their own kids when they become parents. (Malinosky-Rummel & Hansen, 1993). Childhood victimization was also set up to be significantly linked to the number of lifetime symptoms of antisocial personality disorder and predictive of a diagnosis of an antisocial disorder in a study by and psychosis cited in Carson, Butcher, Mineka, 2005, pp599).

Offensive acts are associated with psychotic behaviour often involve a pattern of prolonged emotional hurt and turmoil, culminating, after long frustration, in an outburst of violent behaviour. More often the offensive act is not only a byproduct of severe personality maladjustment rather it is a reflection of antisocial attitudes.

Sandra Walklate (2009) in her book, *The Basic Criminology*, explains the impact of crime by highlighting four important distinctions in understanding the impact of crime on individuals. Primary victimization refers to the direct impact that a crime has on the victim. It may vary according to the severity of the crime. This victimization becomes worse when it is associated with post traumatic syndrome and later when such victimization is connected with the unsympathetic response from the criminal justice organization, called secondary victimization. Indirect victimization is where the relatives of victims and offenders suffer from the effects of the crimes. However, the extent to which they suffer depends on their personal or structural vulnerability.

The aim of our study is to analyse the role of psycho social cognitive traits and family functioning of the victim turn into offender. It is hypothesized that offenders, generally remain victims of the social vulnerable conditions which turn them into the offensive activities as a consequence of the outburst of suppressed impulses towards exploiters.

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

The Psychosocial, Cognitive Traits of the Victim Turns Offender

The psychosocial traits are the integrated dispositions of the victim, which look at individuals in the context of the mixed influence of psychological factors and the surrounding social environment have on their physical and mental health and their ability to function.

For the purpose of this study the personal traits were reviewed and only those who were mentioned in the official records of the juvenile delinquent were taken into consideration. The family structure and functioning, peer association and influence, bullying, childhood abuse details was also been taken account.

METHODOLOGY

Primary data was collected from Jodhpur District, Rajasthan to study the developmental social context of the delinquents. This analysis has two phase one is to study the long- term consequences of childhood maltreatment or abuse. The data were taken from the analysis of official records from June 2016 to December 2016, and the information given by officials related to the criminal consequences of being abused. In the second phase the unstructured interviews were conducted to understand the relation of psycho-social cognitive aspects of children in conflict with the law (presently living in observation home) which were responsible for their accused status.

After rapport establishment with juveniles open questions were asked about their childhood experience, school, peer group and their feeling towards their family, whom they like and dislike most and why. This interaction was to assure whether they were abused or not and to explore the triggering point where they turn from the victim into the status of an accused.

Demographic Profile of 95 Offenders based on Secondary data collected from Jodhpur District Rajasthan (June 2016 to December, 2016)

Socio-economic Background	Charges (with Types) Against The Delinquents from Correction Home	Frequency of offences	Potential Vulnerable conditions
Living with Parents (74 delinquents)	10 cases of IPC Section 341 (wrongful restraint), 307 (attempt to murder), 302 (murder), 376 (rape)	First Offenders (79%)	58% offenders were trapped while accompanying the adult offender in the crime anticipating petty returns
Orphans (5)	One case of Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO)	Repeaters (29%)	Fathers were also indulged in crime and under his influence the child dared to commit the crime. (faulty role modeling)
Single Parents (16)	58% cases belonged to IPC Section 379.380 (Theft)		Most of them were addicted to substance use

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

Socio-economic Background	Charges (with Types) Against The Delinquents from Correction Home	Frequency of offences	Potential Vulnerable conditions
Poor Economic Background (90%)	14 belongs to IPC Section 312,394,397 (robbery with intention to cause hurt)		Peer evocation
15-18 age group (70%)	7 cases were from substance abuse, 6 were charged for other matters		Personal disposition like poor adjustment ability, aggressiveness and unclear self-concept

Data on demographic profile of the delinquents were collected from the Superintendent and the care taker of the correctional home. There were total 95 cases registered in the Correctional home. Among them, 74 delinquents were living with their parents, 5 were orphans and the rest 16 delinquents were having single parent. 90% delinquents come from a poor economic background. Study on the delinquencies done by Tyagi (2016) by using quantitative analysis of panel data also supports the fact that a large proportion of the offenders belongs to the poorest quintile of the society. As a result their vulnerable and strained family atmosphere makes them easy prey to crimes.

70% belongs to 15-18 age-group and remaining 30% falls below the age range of 15 yrs. Most of them were either drop outs or have completed only their primary education. However, majority of the juvenile offenders who have recently arrived to the home discontinued their studies after the completion of primary level (Tyagi, 2016).

There were 10 cases of IPC Section 341,307,302,376 and one was charged with Protection Of Children From Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO). 58% cases belonged to IPC Section 379, 380 (theft) whereas 14 belongs to IPC Section 312,394,397 (loot). 7 cases were from substance abuse and 6 were charged for other matters.

75 delinquents were registered for cases they have committed for the first time. 20 juveniles were arrested for recidivism. 18 out of 20 cases of delinquents who were serving time in the juvenile were caught mainly for theft and loot. The main reason behind such distorted behavior were explained due to poor family environment and complexity of causes like extra marital relation, parental abuse, absence of control, substance abuse and so on.

During the study it was found that one child was in need of care at home. However, despite of several efforts to contact the child's mother she did not turn up to take the custody of the child. This also explains the fact that lack of parental care and affection could lead to delinquent behaviour.

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

According to the Superintendent, 58% offenders were those who got trapped while accompanying the adult offender in the crime hoping that they will get some petty returns like good food and clothes etc. This finding falls in line with the study of Tyagi (2016) in her article Analysis of Juvenile Crime, effect of state apparatus, where she states that it is rare for juveniles to commit crime without an adult accomplice. She established this fact by taking adult arrested not convicted as an explanatory variable because disposal of adult cases is much slower than for juveniles, so the demonstration effect of adult punishment is captured well enough by the arrest.

Our study also found that, mostly children were addicted to substance use and for gratifying this need they use to drag themselves in the offences. In this context the peer association and peer evoking plays very vital role. With the help and under the influence of peer gang such offences were executed. Repeated offenders were those who have the addiction of smack and as a result they generally dragged themselves in bike theft and chain snatching for accomplishing their need of addiction. Their personal dispositions are markedly influenced by certain characteristics like poor adjustment ability, unclear self-concept, short tempered, low self-esteem, insensitive towards responsibility; some has high self-esteem with aggressiveness.

Some cases were found where father was also indulged in crime and under his influence the child dared to commit the crime.

Observation on the Basis of Interaction with Children in Conflict with Law

There were total 4 children in conflict with law. Researcher interacted with them personally. Initially the juveniles hesitated to participate in the interview but after building the rapport each of them came forward with their stories. Among them one was accused with POCSO and remaining was for dacoit and loot.

Family Background

Out of 4, three were from poor economic background. The last one was from a middle class family and his father was suffering from long-term chronic illness. While interacting with them researcher could sense the wretched and reluctant feelings they have toward their family.

Educational Background

All the four participants were drop outs who have not even completed their primary level of education.

Findings Based on Second Phase

1. There were four children in conflict with law, all were dropouts and from poor economic background except one.
2. The peer influence seems to play a very strong force where the child learns to do negative actions either to get acceptance or to exhibit powerfulness in the group.

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

3. Also in one of the case it was found that child in conflict with law comes from an affluent class with good family background. In spite of that he committed the crime of robbery with intention to hurt others because he was under peer pressure. He was supposed to throw a grand party that involves big money and as a child he doesn't have access to the resource.
4. This occurrence negate our hypothesis that adverse familial environment such as broken families, single parent families, separated families, frequent parents fight, lack of trust and confidence among the parents, criminal parents or psychological problems in parents can be the most important reason behind juvenile delinquency.

Conditions Responsible for Victim Turning into Offender

Three out of four respondents have poor family background and have not completed their primary education. During the interviews we found that one of the victims who participated was accused with POCSO. He was a 17 and half years old and was also a school dropout. He said that while trying to elope with a girl from his locality he got caught and was handed over to the police by the local people. Interviews with the Rajasthan Police officials in this context revealed that this elopement was recorded as POCSO case since they believe the elopement was done with a minor girl. The boy had no knowledge about POCSO when asked as whether he was aware about the severity of the charges. External factors like improper socialization, lack of education, lack of socio-cultural and socio-emotional factors in the family inculcate delinquent behaviour in the child. It appears that the boy became the circumstantial victim and was not aware about the post consequences of the act. This happens due to lack of legal knowledge and education that deters their foresightedness of an action. Further, surveillances from police administration need to be conducted on more humanitarian ground keeping in mind the educational and social background of the accused. Proper discussion and understanding of the intentions behind an action can help to prevent serious accusations that are charged on the juveniles which they may have not committed consciously.

Other three child respondents in conflict with law were accused with dacoit. It was found that they were being accompanied by the adults for the accomplishment of the crime. And to do so they were being invoked by their peer group. Here, the peer influence seems to play a very strong force where the child learns to do negative actions either to get acceptance or to exhibit powerfulness in the group. Also in one of the case it was found that child in conflict with law comes from an affluent class with good family background. In spite of that he committed the crime of robbery because he was under peer pressure. He was supposed to throw a grand party that involves big money and as a child he doesn't have access to the resource. This occurrence negate our hypothesis that adverse familial environment such as broken families, single parent families, separated families, frequent parents fight, lack of trust and confidence among the parents, criminal parents or psychological problems in parents can be the most important reason behind juvenile delinquency. Therefore, it can be said that abusive behavior is the first step towards committing crimes. And this occurs when teens become part of a clique that is abusive

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

and that does not know how to behave. Sometimes youth do not get acceptance in any group as they do not have a strong personality and due to peer group rejection they commit crimes. This is the most vulnerable age where peer group become most important for the social acceptance.

Bright Side of the System

During the interaction, researcher observed beautiful paintings in the compound walls of the correctional home. It was done by the child in conflict with law and he was also encouraged by the staff for such creative activity. Identification of latent talent and sublimation in occupational rehabilitation is really appreciable.

In the same manner other children also showed their interest in driving. Their interest can be developed by providing them opportunity for vocational rehabilitation.

Suggestion

It is suggested that if system identify the latent talent among children in conflict with law and remunerate them for their creative activities modestly specially in the status of pendency. This will inspire them and create confidence in their self which provide them a purpose to live meaning full life.

Personal Disposition and Theoretical Explanation

Fewer researches have focused on the personal traits of victim who turns into offender. Most are related with sexual offenders who have disturbed family threads and low self-esteem. The tendency of suppression of emotions can be seen in their nature. Victim to offender cycle is not properly explored; it should be dealt with root causes. Delinquency is a learned process. It can be explained by Dynamic approaches which emphasize on –going interactions among motives, impulses, and psychological processes. According to Freud, 1939a person reliving of a pathogenic past relationship in a sense re-creates the neurosis in real life and therefore this experiences are called as transference neurosis.

Sullivan (1953) interpersonal perspective says that we are social being and much of what we are a product of our relationship with others like parents and later with peer interaction. Sullivan also emphasized the role of early childhood relationship in shaping the self-concept. It is logical to expect that that much of psychopathology reflects this fact (Carson et al., 2002. Theorist Erich Fromm (1900-1980) and Karen Horney (1885-1952) has emphasized on the orientation or disposition (exploitative or helplessness) people adopted in their interaction with others.

There are two important influential components in the life span of an individual. Personal disposition and societal influence which includes the interaction of the person with parent, family, neighbor, peer group and school environment. First can be explained on the basis of dynamic approach and later has the theoretical analysis of learning and behavioral cognitive

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

approaches, which emphasize the ways habits are acquired through basic conditioning or learning process.

Albert Bandura (1925) placed considerable emphasis on the cognitive aspect of learning. Bandura stressed that human beings regulate their behavior by their thoughts. Aaron Beck (1921), Adapted the Concept of Schema. It is an underlying representation of knowledge that guides the current processing of information and often leads to distortion in attention memory and comprehensions. According to Beck(1976) and Beck and Freeman(1990pp 119 , Carson ,butcher, mineka, different forms of psychopathology are characterized by different maladaptive schemas that have developed as a function of adverse early learning experiences and that lead to the distortions in thinking pattern which leads to certain disorder such as anxiety , depression and personality disorders.

The psychosocial and cognitive behavior of victim turning offender can be analyzed in the light of parental deprivation. The consequences of parental deprivation may result in fixation in the oral stage of psychosexual developmental stages of the Freud, it may develop basic mistrust (Erik Erikson), it might stunt the development of the child capacity for relative anxiety (Sullivan), it might retard the attainment of needed skill due to lack of available reinforcement (Skinner, 1990) it might result in the child acquiring dysfunctional schemas (Beck, 1976).

Outright parental abuse (physical and sexual) of children has also been associated with many others negative effects on the development of its victims. Abused children often have a tendency to be overly aggressive (both verbally and physically) and some even respond with anger and aggression to peers Cicchetti & Toth (2005) (PP125, Carson, Mineka, Butcher)

Mukhrjee and Mukherjee (2014) studied the relationship between personality traits of juvenile delinquency among delinquents and non-delinquent juveniles taking Tripura as a model state. In their paper on “Personality Disposition of Juvenile Delinquents”, they explained delinquents as those who violate the law, habitually disobedient and truant. But delinquents shouldn't be treated as criminals but as maturing persons who need utmost guidance, love and support while they find their way towards life. She also states that everyone has logical mind to justify their deeds. She further added that criminal's behavior is influenced by various personal traits. Their finding revealed that juvenile delinquents differed with their normal counterparts in regard to all the dimensions of personality. They were more extroverts, possess high self-concept, more dependent in nature, short tempered, have poor adjustment capacity and are less anxious than those of their normal counterparts.

Donnellan et al, (2005) explored the controversial link between global self-esteem and externalizing problems such as aggression, antisocial behavior, and delinquency. They found a strong relation between low self-esteem and externalizing problems which is explained based on

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

self-report, teachers' ratings, and parents' ratings, and for participants from different nationalities and age groups (adolescents and college students).

Psycho-Social Aspects of Juvenile Delinquency

Rao and Sen (1979) in their study on 10 delinquent boys ranging from 13–16 age groups from a remand home in Delhi found that they come from poor familial background such as defective parental discipline, parental rejection, poverty, and large family size. Personal and social maladjustment, insecurity, excessive use of repression, introversion, aggression, and high need for achievement were common personality traits. All these features were present in over 70% of the cases. According to Sharma and Marimuthu (2014) youth indulge themselves in various aggressive behaviors leading to significant psychosocial dysfunctions. They administered Anger Data sheet, Resilience Scale and Buss-Perry Aggression Scale on 5476 participants using survey design. Comparative analysis was carried out by using Pearson correlation coefficient and Chi-square. About 17.7% of the youth has high mean aggression score on Buss-Perry Aggression Scale. Males have high mean score on aggression than females. Males experienced more verbal aggression, physical aggression and anger than females. Younger age group (16-19 years) experienced more aggression than older age group (20-26 years). The risk factors of the youth aggressions were identified as physical abuse in childhood, substance abuse such as alcohol and tobacco, negative peer influence, family violence, academic disturbance, psychological problems attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, suspicious, loneliness, mood disturbance, negative childhood experience and TV and media.

Pathogenic Family Functioning as a Cause of Turning Victims into Offenders

In evaluating the patterns of family functioning; the parental absence or family conflict may be considered as the key element in turning the child victim of parental disharmony into an offender as a result of outburst of suppressed emotions. Parental rejection and faulty rearing method can be associated with aggression, lying, stealing, running away from home, and wide range of other emotional and social difficulties. The physically punishment method of rearing will turn the child in hostile, defiant, inadequately socialized person who lacked normal self controls and prone to act out their aggressive energy in antisocial behavior (cited in Carson, Mineka, Butcher, 2005, pp603)

Anti-social parental model –Alcoholism, brutality, antisocial attitude, failure to provide, frequent unnecessary absence of home, made the parents as unaccepted model and it turns in them as the parents of delinquents (Bandura, 1973).

In the review of literature done by Hunter, Jain, Sadowski, & Sanhueza (2000) , previous studies (cited in Banerjee, 1979; Bhattacharyya, 1979, 1983; Gupta, 1977; Jabbi, 1986; Mehta et al,1979) have stated that, although the vulnerability of children to offensive ways is identified in the rural India, most researches so far has focused on children's survival needs and societal

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

abuses, such as malnutrition, child labor, child beggary, child marriage, and child prostitution. Some clinical studies of child injuries recommended that ill treatment of children may be the outcome of strict control from family members (Bhattacharyya, 1983; Dave et al, 1982). In the same way, Poffenberger (1981) expressed observations on parental control and rearing practices in his report of child rearing in rural India. In this study, parents perceived physical punishment was the norm and find it essential for their socialization. However, Prevalence of difference in acceptability and unacceptability regarding the harshness of the punishment among the villager were found and threat of death were also comely studied.

Delinquency can be classified in two categories

Overt and covert delinquency (Loeber, 1996) overt delinquency relate to violent offences such as attacking, threatening, murder, and rape. Covert delinquency relates to non-aggressive acts such as shop lifting; pick pocketing, arson, vandalism. Overt aggressive and more serious offences are commonly prevalent in early-onset delinquents. These delinquents are stamped by problems in their childhood such as poor family functioning (Moffitt and Caspi, 2001). Covert delinquency is relatively more often found in non-persistent adolescent-onset delinquents, who have relatively healthy backgrounds (Moffitt and Caspi, 2001). It can be concluded that there is a strong links between poor parenting and overt delinquency compared to covert delinquency.

Moylanet al. (2010) in their study on the effects of child abuse and domestic violence exposure in childhood on adolescent internalizing and externalizing behaviors revealed that child abuse, domestic violence, and both in combination (i.e., dual exposure) increase a child's risk for internalizing and externalizing outcomes in adolescence.

Lobbestael et al. (2010) in their study investigated the relationship between five forms of childhood maltreatment (sexual, physical and emotional abuse, emotional and physical neglect) and 10 personality disorders (PDs). Results indicated that sexual abuse was associated with symptoms of paranoid, schizoid, borderline, and avoidant PD; physical abuse with antisocial PD; emotional abuse with paranoid, schizotypal, borderline, and cluster C PD; and emotional neglect with histrionic and borderline PD. No independent relationships between physical neglect and PDs were found. The findings provide clear, albeit retrospective, evidence that different forms of childhood maltreatment have differential effects on PD pathology.

Bullying and Gang Association

Several studies in the past have well documented the maltreatment in childhood and its impact on adult mental health. For instance, study done by Malhi et al., (2014) on the adult mental health consequences of childhood maltreatment shows that maltreatment by peers, bullying has long-term adverse effects on mental health. They aimed to determine whether these effects are just due to being exposed to both maltreatment and bullying or whether bullying itself has a unique effect.

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

Being bullied by peers in childhood had generally worse long-term adverse effects on young adults' mental health. These effects were not explained by poly-victimization. The findings have important implications for public health planning and service development for dealing with peer bullying.

Malhi et al. (2014), did a study on the prevalence of school bullying where they investigated the behavioral, emotional, socio-economic and demographic correlation of bullying behaviors among Indian school going adolescents. Their findings revealed that bullying and victimization was widespread among the Indian school going youth. Further they suggested that given the concurrent psychosocial adjustment problems associated with bullying, there is an urgent need for developing intervention programs and sensitizing the school personnel.

Recommendations

Preventive measures with humanistic approach should committedly follow (section 109, criminal procedure code)

Children in vulnerable circumstances, children in need and care and in contact with law should effectively protect and nurtured.

Whistle blowers should be encouraged by assuring their anonymity and protection.

Parental and marital counseling centers should be established at District level so that healthy family environment can play a positive role in boosting the child s psychological wellbeing.

Chapter 8 of CRPC (1898), provides a complete system for prevention of crimes, however in view of large population of India, it may not be practical for Government agencies to check the development and movement of each and every Juvenile. But Government should, on priority basis establish special cell of police department to closely monitor the nefarious design of organized criminal gangs who allure and employ them in commission of serious offences. Such gangs are well aware of the provision of J. J. Act. To deal with this requires integrated practical approach of policy as well as an effective implication from the collaborative effort of civil society and concerned Government Departments.

CONCLUSION

The psychosocial and cognitive traits of an individual play important role in turning victim in to an offender especially when it is associated with vulnerable conditions. Any type of child abuse or exploitation has risk to drag juvenile turning in to offender. Although there are many other determinants which affects them subjectively but healthy family functioning and societal support positively prevent victims turning in to offenders. Preventive measures taken by the system and family will definitely bring the change in society .Preventive measures and policies must directly address children, their caregivers and the conditions in which they live in order to prevent

Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

possible abuse. It requires holistic approach integrating health professionals, police system, and social support system.

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Behavioral Portrayal of Victim Turning into Offender

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