

Physical, Psychological, and Sexual Traumas Leading to The Development of Criminal Tendency

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ABSTRACT

As we know, our mindset plays a great part in developing our personalities and also has a high influence on the decisions we make in life. Experiences we come across in our lives develop our sense of decision-making and have a high impact on our way of thinking. May the experiences be sweet or bitter, they shape our mentality and our perspective towards other things in life, ultimately shaping us as a person.

Keywords: *Physical, Psychological, Sexual Traumas, Criminal Tendency*

Crime is as old as humans themselves. Behind every crime, certain factors or circumstances are responsible. There are an estimated 1500 known serial killers in history who are blamed for being very inhuman and notorious.

Our every decision in life is based on our mindset, and our mindset is primarily based on the experiences we have come across throughout our lives. So, if we need to understand one's thought process, it is very important to know one's mindset. If we study the criminals minds, it will be easy to understand the root cause of their criminal tendencies, which leads to their cruel or uncivil behavior.

Most of the time, notorious criminals had faced psychological, physical, or sexual traumas in the past that had a significant impact on their minds, which made them emotionally numb and mentally disturbed, which led to horrifying crimes committed by them. One of the most common mental illnesses found in criminals are schizophrenia, antisocial personality disorder, and borderline personality disorder.

Not all abused children become criminals, and not all criminals have a past of abuse and childhood trauma. But again, there are an estimated 1500 known serial killers in history, and according to research and interviews, more than half of those were victims of abuse in childhood or early teens. This makes past traumas a strong factor in their destructive personalities.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

The method used in the study is a retrospective study of people who committed criminal acts in the past.

A retrospective study uses existing data from the past that has been recorded for other purposes.

A retrospective study of 10 cases of different criminals has been done. The different traumas from which these criminals suffered are:

- **Physical trauma:** causing a non-accidental physical injury.
- **Sexual Trauma:** Any sexual activity without consent that is unhealthy and meets the criminal definition
- **Psychological trauma:** acts causing emotional conflict or being psychologically damaging.
- **Neglect:** failing or refusing to provide adequate food, clothing, healthcare, shelter, and emotional nurture by parents or guardians.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of the 10 cases are studied in the form of table:

| SR. No. | Subject | Country | No. of Victims / offense done | Trauma in Childhood | Detailed Explanation about trauma suffered. | Crime/ Offense (detailed) | Fate |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1. | Mary Flora Bell | England | 2 murders | •Physical Abuse •Neglect | •Physical Abuse: Her mother attempted to kill her multiple times and often used to beat her inhumanly. •Neglect: <i>Bell's mother, Betty, was a prostitute who was often absent from the family home, travelling to Glasgow to work. Hence Mary was very much neglected. She was an unwanted child.</i> | •Murdered 2 children Martin Brown and Brian Howe by Strangulation. | She spent 8 years in young offenders institute but escaped later then transferred to Moore court from where she was released with new identity in 1980. |
| 2. | John Wayne Gacy "the killer clown" | United States | 33 murders and various sex offences | •Physical abuse •Mental abuse | •Physical abuse: <i>Gacy's father used to beat him for without any reason at all, his father was physically and verbally abusive throughout his childhood.</i> | •"During police search it was discovered that <i>he had the dead bodies of over two dozen young men rotting in his home.</i> " | John Wayne Gacy was executed on 1994. |

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| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mental abuse: his father usually used to verbally abuse him in childhood. Gacy left home at 18 years of age to live in las vegas but came back after experiencing disturbing incidents as mortuary attendant. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •He kidnapped countless teenage kids and possibly sexually offended them and murdered approximately 33 different victims. | |
| 3 | Edward Gein | United States | 2 + murders 9 necrophilia victims | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical abuse •Mental abuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical abuse: Augusta Gein his mother was very strict and used to abuse and beat him. •Mental abuse: Augusta his mother was rarely pleased with him and she often verbally abused him in childhood, believing that he is also destined to become failures like his father. Eddie was very strongly attached to his mother and her death shook him to core. | Some of his known victims are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Hogan 54 year old woman shot dead by Ed, later her skull cap was found on Ed's property. • Bernice Worden 58 year old hardware store owner died of gun shot and later found mutilated. | Sentenced to life imprisonment in 1968 later was transferred to mental hospital due to reason of insanity where he died in 1984. |
| 4. | Amarjeet Sada aka "World's youngest serial killer" | India | 3 Murders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical abuse •Neglect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical abuse: Amarjeet belonged to poor family struggling with poverty and used to get physically abused by his parents. • Neglect: Due to poverty it was very | His all three victims were infants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His first victim was his six months old cousin to whom he strangled to death. • His second victim was his own sister_He strangled her to death later kept baby's | After third murder he was sent to juvenile home from where he got released when he turned 18 in 2016 with new identity. |

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| | | | | | <i>struggling for his family to survive which become reason for neglect on him.</i> | body back on bed. • His final victim was six month old baby <i>Khushboo</i> he reportedly killed her by <i>strangling her then hitting her by brick</i> . | |
| 5. | Beth Thomas | United States | Aggressive behaviour, physically and Sexually assaulted her brother. Inappropriate sexual behaviour. | •Physical abuse •Sexual abuse •Mental abuse | •Physical abuse: Beth was <i>oftenly physically assaulted by her biological father</i> until she was 19 months old. •Sexual abuse: Beth's <i>biological dad used to sexually abuse her by touching her private parts until she bled.</i> •Mental abuse: Beth's <i>dad used to verbally abuse her when she was young</i> which was disturbing. | Beth used to <i>pinch squeeze</i> her brother <i>Jonathan's private parts</i> . She also used to <i>stick pins into him and push him down the stairs</i> , smashing his head upon the floor. She tried <i>multiple times to kill her brother Jonathan</i> . Also <i>planned to kill her adopted parents</i> . | Her adopted parents sought professional help of clinical psychologist who diagnosed her with RAD. Through therapy, she was able to develop compassion and empathy and she got recovered. |
| 6. | Aileen Wuornos | United States | Committed Atleast 7 murders. Armed robbery. | •Sexual abuse •Neglect | •Sexual abuse: She <i>used to trade sex</i> for a pack of cigarettes in elementary school at age of 11. After death of her grandmother, <i>grandfather frequently used to beat and rape her</i> for several years. •Neglect: Her father committed suicide in prison cell when she was 13 year old and soon her mother also abandoned her to paternal | She frequently used to get arrested for armed robbery and theft but soon started killing rampage. Some of her victims were • <i>David Spears</i> was a 43 year old construction worker who had been shot six times in the torso found in nude state. • <i>Charles Carskaddon</i> aged 40 was part time rodeo worker found dead with shots in chest and stomach. | Executed on June 6 2002. |

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| | | | | | grandparents who were careless. | | |
| 7. | Carl Panzram | United States | 21 murders. Committed sodomy on more than 1000 boys and men. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical abuse •Sexual abuse •Mental abuse | <p>•Physical abuse: He was <i>physically tortured by staff members of Minnesota State training school</i> repeatedly.</p> <p>•Sexual abuse: At 14 year old age he was <i>gang raped by four men and staff members of training school</i> repeatedly.</p> <p>•Mental abuse: As a <i>victim of gangrape he was continuously humiliated</i> later in life.</p> | <p>Few of his heinous crimes are-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Carl Panzram used to <i>lure sailors to his yacht, raped them kill them by gun shot.</i> He killed 10 sailors. •<i>Raped and killed a minor boy</i> in Portuguese. •<i>Raped and killed 2 small boys</i> in US. •<i>Killed laundry man with iron rod</i> in <i>Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary</i> where he was imprisoned. | Carl Panzram was hanged to death on September 5, 1930. Even on his death day, he was least apologetic. |
| 8. | Tsutomu Miyazaki aka "Otaku Murderer" or "Rat man". | Japan | Sexually assaulted, murdered and later consumed body parts of 4 minor girls. Cannibalism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mental abuse •Neglect | <p>•Mental abuse: He was <i>oftenly bullied by his classmates for a birth defect</i> which resulted in fusion of his hand joints. His parents <i>were also emotionally abusive toward him.</i></p> <p>•Neglect: His <i>parents had no time for family life.</i></p> | <i>Murdered and mutilated bodied of 4 minor girls aged between 4 to 7. He also sexually assaulted their dead bodies and even consumed their body parts and drank their blood. Kept their mutilated hands and feet as trophies.</i> | Tsutomu Miyazaki was executed by hanging on June 17, 2008. |
| 9. | Donald Gaskins | South Carolina | 10 murders Involved in Robbery, Sodomizer, Rapist. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical abuse •Sexual abuse | <p>•Physical abuse: His <i>stepfather used to beat him ridiculously.</i></p> <p>•Sexual abuse: When <i>in reform school he was attacked and raped by inmates</i> in the name of protection.</p> | His crimes- At age of 11 while working in car garage he <i>met his partners in crimes Danny and Marsh, they together used to burglarize and also raped small boys.</i> He <i>raped and tortured</i> | Gaskins was placed in the electric chair and got electrocuted in September 6 1991. |

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| | | | | | | <i>numerous minor girls and killed them afterwards.</i> | |
| 10 | Richard Ramirez | United States | 13 murders 11 sexual assaults | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical abuse •Mental abuse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical abuse: He <i>grew up in a violent family, his father was physically violent towards him.</i> •Mental abuse: He was <i>very much influenced by misdeeds of his cousin and also witnessed him killing his wife over argument which was very much disturbing for him.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few of his killings- •His first murder was in 1984, he killed 79 year old Jennie Vincow by <i>stabbing in her own home_ She was also sexually assaulted by him.</i> •He <i>raped and stabbed 9 year old Mie Leung to death</i> in the basement of San Francisco hotel where he was living. •Ramirez <i>attacked 22 year old Maria Hernandez outside her home by shooting her in the face.</i> | Ramirez died in 2013 of complications from B-cell lymphoma while awaiting execution. |

CONCLUSION

It is clear that past incidents or traumas have had a significant impact and impression on your way of thinking and life. Every criminal mentioned above has gone through some type of traumatic situation in their past that has had a great impact on them throughout their lives. A trigger is a short event in the life of a criminal that activates the underlying killer instinct and leads to the first murder. A person with a tendency to commit serial killing can sometimes abstain from it if he does not find the right trigger to push him over the edge. The traumatic incidents act like a trigger for the criminals.

Awful events happen in everyone's life; in fact, they're a part of life, but if we seek help at the right time, it will save the lives of patients as well as others. In the case of Beth Thomas, her parents sought the help of clinical psychologist Connell Watkins, who diagnosed her with RAD (reactive attachment disorder). She managed to recover from her past and is now leading a very normal, happy, and successful life as a nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit. She didn't end up dying on execution orders like other criminals.

This is all just like a cyclical mechanism in which "someone abused or traumatized the criminal in the past who is right now traumatizing or abusing victims, possibly forming the potential offenders". But if they get help at the right time, the scenario can be changed.

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According to all this, “THE CRIMINAL WAS ONCE A VICTIM WHO DID NOT GOT HELPED.”

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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