

“A Sociological Study of Relationship between Deviance and Transition of Age (From Childhood to Adulthood)”

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ABSTRACT: *Adolescence is the developmental stage between childhood and adulthood, the period of development from the onset of puberty to the attainment of adulthood. At this stage a person undergoes a variety of biological changes and involves a dramatic transition in the physical, social, sexual, moral and intellectual spheres. Adolescence is also a period of considerable risk as so many factors influence upon teens. Among them bad companion, poverty, film and pornographic literature, broken home etc are main. At this stage without knowingly teens commit certain action to fulfill his or her inquisitiveness which are regarded as deviant activities, for example early sexual intercourse. Therefore, this paper is an attempt to understand the relationship between deviance and transition of age (from childhood to adulthood).*

KEYWORD:

*DEVIANCE: Action or behaviour that violets formal as well as informal social norms.

INTRODUCTION:

Adolescence is the period of developmental transition between childhood and adulthood, involving multiple physical, intellectual, moral, emotional, spiritual, sexual, personality, and social developmental changes. WHO identifies adolescence as a critical transitional period in human growth and development that occurs after childhood and before adulthood, from ages 10 to 19. It represents one of the critical transitions in the life span and is characterized by a tremendous pace in growth and change that is second only that of infancy. The process of adolescence is a period of preparation for adulthood during which time several key developmental experiences occurs. G. Stanley Hall in his book *Adolescence* written in 1904 describes the age of adolescence as the time period of "storm and stress" because he viewed adolescence as a period of inevitable turmoil that takes place during the transition from childhood to adulthood. Turmoil in the sense that the age of adolescence is a time for idealism, ambitiousness, rebellion, passion, suffering as well as expressing feelings. Besides physical and sexual maturation, these experiences include movement toward social and economic independence, and development of identity, the acquisition of skills needed to carry out adult relationships and roles, and the capacity for abstract reasoning. While adolescence is a time of tremendous growth and potential, it is also a time of considerable risk during which social contexts exert powerful influences. Therefore, there is a strong relation we can notice between deviance and transition of age i.e from childhood to adulthood. At this stage, different factors influence upon both boys and girls. Among them influence of peer is comparatively high than any other factors. Some children surrender themselves upon pressure of peers and they do certain things what others do by ignoring his or her own judgment. They never think that these types of action are within social norms or against the social norms. As a result without knowing they involve in such types of anti social activities which are regarded as deviant activities. Sometime teens commit certain action to fulfill his or her inquisitiveness which are regarded as deviant activities for example, early sexual intercourse. Relationships with peers, family and society go through distinct changes during this time. Adolescents begin to assert more autonomous control over their decisions, emotions and actions, and start to disengage from parental control. They start to give more importance on their peer's advice then their parents. Their friends are become more faithful to share their secrets then their parents. As a result at some time they take wrong decision and involve in such kinds of activities which are against the societal norms or in other words what we called as deviance. For example, gambling, stealing, lying, cheating, unfairness, dishonesty, betraying, corruptions, alcohol use, cigarette smoking, marijuana use, other illicit drug use, risky driving, precocious sexual intercourse etc.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Various studies have been carried out in relation with adolescent's deviance in different parts of our country as well as abroad. A brief review of such related literature has been described below.

Best J. & Luckenbill, D. (1980) in their paper "The Social Organization of Deviants" presents social organization of deviants- the patterns of relationships between deviant actors. The authors in this paper discusses about the five forms of deviant organization. Those are loners, colleagues, peers, mobs and formal organizations. The authors with the help of four variables defined these organizational forms: i) whether the deviants associate with one another ii) whether they participate in deviance together iii) whether their deviance requires an elaborate division of labour and iv) whether their organization's activities extend over time and space.

Bagot, J.,(1941) in "Juvenile Delinquency" studied 539 delinquent boys and girls of Liverpool city (U.K.) and identified that poor economic condition, poor educational achievement and weak mental capacity is associated with delinquency.

Bynum, J. and Thompson, W's (1992) book "Juvenile Delinquency: A Sociological Approach" provides a basic foundation for the study of deviant behaviour and juvenile delinquency. In this book the concepts of conformity and deviance, its positive and negative aspects are introduced and explained. This book also highlights the basic causes of juvenile delinquency and the influence of family and peers on juvenile behaviour.

Clinard, M. (1965) in his book "Sociology of Deviance Behaviour" describes, various theories of deviance behaviour, which stressing poverty and the psychiatric and psychoanalytical explanations of deviant behaviour. This book describes in details the forms of deviant behaviour and also proposed solutions for deviant behaviour.

Lavania S. (1993) carried out a research in India in general and Rajasthan in particular on the respective topic "Juvenile Delinquency" for assessing the socio-economic and psychological factors causing juvenile delinquency in society. This study presents information about the socialization patterns of the delinquent children. According to Lavania, the meaning of 'juvenile delinquency' can be explained in terms of deviant behaviour of a child, statutorily defined to belong to certain age range, in violation of the legal norms and in contravention with the socially and culturally defined behaviour patterns in society.

Neumeyer, M.,(1949) in his book "Juvenile Delinquency in Modern Society" describes the factors like biological, economic, psychological, home and family conditions, companionship etc are mainly responsible for deviant activities.

Ravichandan, A & Padmanabhan (1989) conducted a study on "Delinquency in Children" and found that broken home was the reason for emotional stress which motivates to commit anti-social activities. This study focuses on the role of mother in a family, if a mother divorces her husband or dies, the growth of the child will be affected. As a result, these types of children may have more chances of committing deviant activities.

Shukla, K., (1970) conducted a study entitled "Adolescent – Thieves: A Crimino-Sociological Study of 200 Offenders in Gwalior and Indore." He studied adolescence thieves: family structure through the light of "Differential Association Theory" of crime and deviance and attempts to analyse on role of family in the formation of personality.

Singh, S., (2010) published a work entitled "An Outline of Juvenile Delinquency". This study suggests that the breakdown of family discipline, changing school pattern, and the general increase in crime could be the major factor for the increase in juvenile crime. Further the study shows that a large percentage of crime comes from the slums and other undesirable living and educational backward conditions. According to this study, the crime rate is higher among low intelligence, the dropouts, and truants.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY: To find out the relationship between deviance and transition of age (from childhood to adulthood).

METHODOLOGY:

Selection of the field:

This study is mainly carried out in twenty one (21) co educational colleges and HS Schools of Sivasagar and Dibrugarh district of Assam, India. The names of the colleges of Sivasagar District are Hahchara H.S. School, Lakwa Tantia H.S School, Chakimukh H.S School, juktoli H.S School, Mazenga H.S School, Nazira H.S. & M.P. School, Betbari H.S School, Thanuram Memorial H.S. School, Bezboruah H.S School, Sivasagar Govt H.S School and Siukapha Academy Junior College. The first six (6) colleges are located in rural area and the rest five (5) colleges are located in urban area. Again the name of the colleges located in Dibrugarh District are Khowang H.S. School, Khowang College, Tingkhong H.S School, Rajgarh Junior College, Bhadoi Junior College, B.V.F.C. H.S School, Namrup College, Naharkatia H.S. School, Prateeti Junior Colege, and Rameswar H.S School. Here the first five (5) colleges are located in rural area and the rest five (5) colleges are located in urban area.

Selection of respondents:

For this present study, the researcher has given the responsibility of selecting the deviant students upon the class teachers as they know their students better than others. On the basis of the opinion of class teachers the researcher had selected 200 deviant students from Sivasagar district and 200 deviant students from Dibrugarh district total 400 deviant students from twenty one (21) co educational colleges and schools, where eleven (11) colleges from Sivasagar District and ten (10) colleges from Dibrugarh district of Assam, India. Among these 400 respondents, 310 were male and the rest 90 were female. The procedure of selection of respondents was accidental purposive sampling method.

Methods, Tools & Techniques:

The study was carried out for six months and the researcher had adopted both quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection in a sequential manner. An interview schedule was also prepared for collecting data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The distinguishing dimensions of development of adolescence period are:

Physical development:

Adolescence is first of all a period of physical changes and development. The most important changes occur in this period is the glandular system which has great influence not only on the physical development but also in the behaviour and personality development of the adolescents. Due to bio-chemical changes in the body increase in height, weight, changes in voice muscular growth, appearance of public hair, growth of hair on the face, arms, legs etc. The most striking physical change in this growth period is attainment of puberty which leads to development of reproductive organs and the brain develop, especially the frontal lobe, which is the area for impulse control, judgment and the ability to plan. An underdeveloped frontal lobe helps explain impulsiveness, risky behaviours and moodiness among adolescents. It is also a time for developing independence. Teens are much more independent and mobile than they were as children therefore their behaviour is also determined by their own moral and behavioural code. While field visit it was asked to the respondents how they exercise their independence. 240 (60%) out of total 400 respondents replied that they exercise their independence by questioning and another 160 (40%) replied that they exercise their independence by breaking rules. That means this 40% respondents involve in deviant activities. Again it was asked to the respondents what types of rules they break. Out of total 400 respondents 30(7.5%) male respondents and same number 30(7.5%) female respondents replied that they engage in frequent argument, fighting with parents, teachers and classmates. Another 22(5.5%) male respondents and 8(2%) female respondents spend idly beyond time at street or market places without permission. Further 20(5%) male respondents and 10(2.5%) female respondents come late to school and home. It is also observable that

20(5%) male respondents found destroy public and private property and another 15(3.75%) male respondents found smoking, drinking, truancy, theft etc. It is clear from the respondent's response that maximum numbers of male respondents compared to female respondents engage in breaking rules.

At this stage the changing body structure of teens creates curiosity among them and to fulfill those curiosities children without knowingly involves in such kinds of activities which are against social expectations or which we called as deviant behaviour. For example- early sexual intercourse, allow to touch in private area etc. Today's teens are growing up immersed in digital media. They are exposed to media in all forms, including TV, computers, smart phones and other screens. Because media can influence how teens feel, learn, think and behave, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) encourages parents to help their children form and practice healthy media use habits. As the smart phone is a strong agency for sharing nude videos, pictures, vulgar messages or live-chatting etc. During field visit it was asked to the respondents that do they have smart phones. Out of total 400 deviants 268(67%) respondents replied that they have smart phone. Again it was asked to the respondents do they know use of face book, whatsApp, instgram, YouTube, Google etc. All the 268(67%) respondents replied that they can use these apps. Again it was asked to the respondents do they ever share or receive nude videos, pictures or vulgar messages. Out of total 268 respondents 150 respondents i.e. 55.97% replied that they receive nude videos, pictures or vulgar messages.

At this stage school constitutes a large part of an adolescent's existence. The school context involves an intense socialization process during which adolescents become increasingly aware of the perspectives of classmates, teachers and other societal influences. Therefore during field visit it has been asked to the respondents that do they like to go school. 200(50%) respondents out of total 400 respondents replied that they do not like to go school. While asking the reason for dislike of going school they replied different reasons. Out of total 400 respondents 50(12.5%) male respondents and 30 (7.5%) female respondents dislike of going school because of their poor academic performance and these respondents have tendency of repeated truancy. Another 22 (5.5%) male respondents and 18 (4.5%) female respondents cause of dislike of school was some events like practical classes, remedial teaching classes, morning assemble speech etc. Again it was found that 20(5%) male respondents and 10(2.5%) female respondents out of total 400 respondents have fear to a particular person like a teacher or another student for dislike of school. During field visit there were another 20(5%) male respondents found who dislike of going school because of engage in high risk behaviour or we can called it as deviant activities such as use of tobacco, alcohol, bad comments remarks on girls etc. Therefore proper guidance services need to be available at school which can provide educational and vocational guidance to their students. They may also suggest means and methods of achieving success.

Social development:

The period of adolescence is preeminently a period of social development and adjustment. The adolescent boys and girls become self conscious about their place in society and they gradually enlarge their spheres of social activities and conducts. At this stage adolescents begin to assert more autonomous control over their decisions, emotions, and actions. The adolescent's tries to act an independent manner but the parents often refuse to treat them like grownups which may lead to difficulties. During field visit it was found by the researcher that out of total 400 respondents 267 respondents i.e 66.75% replied that they want to take any kind of decisions related with their life by themselves. Therefore helping teens to take right decision may prevent or reduce deviant activities. Parents must try to understand and respect their decisions.

The most important social development during this period is the increase influence of the peer group. The type of peer group shapes the behaviour of adolescents to a great extent. His interests, attitudes and values are influenced by his peers. It is observe that the children use to follow the style of others fashion of dresses by deviating their original habit of living. At the time of field visit it was asked to the respondents that whom they imitate most- their friends or their parents. 80% replied that they imitate their friends rather than their parents. It has been found that out of total 400 respondents maximum respondents i.e. 334(83.5%) imitate their friends dress up, hair style, ornaments etc. Again another 260 respondents 65% out of total 400 respondents replied that they imitate their friend's favorite songs, T.V shows etc. Another 200(50%) respondents use the words of their friends and imitate their talking style. There were another 65(16.25%) respondents found during field visit who use alcohol, drugs, tobacco etc. The rest other respondents 40(10%) found dating and committing sexual activities by imitating their friends. These data proves that while going imitate their friends there is a chance of negative effect on adolescent by peer group.

During field visit it was also asked to the respondents that do they think that their friends instigate them to do something wrong. Out of total 400 respondents 160 respondents i.e. 40% replied that their friends instigate them to do wrong. The researcher also wanted to know what types of wrong deeds they commit due to the pressure of peers. It was observed that out of total 400 respondents 40(10%) found quarrel with other and again same numbers of respondents i.e. 40(10%) found smokes, drink, steal etc by the suggestion of their friends. Another 30(7.5%) respondents found use vulgar language. The rest other respondents commits wrong deeds like destroy school property 10(2.5%); ridicule other 20(5%) due to the suggestion of peers.

Emotional Development:

Psychologists have regarded adolescence as a period of heightened emotionality. Continuous physical changes mainly give rise to emotional uncertainty and instability. Emotions of anger, fear, jealousy, same, disgust give rise to variation in modes, nervousness, sensitiveness, stubbornness, disobedience, feeling of insecurity, low self-esteem etc. These types of emotional disturbances mainly give birth to deviant activities. Modern life style, modern nuclear family, broken home, divorce, separation, lack of time for own children are also some causes of these emotional disturbances among adolescents. Therefore during field visit it was asked to the respondents that have they ever felt that they are deprived of parental affection and security in childhood. Out of total 400 respondents 342(85.5%) replied that they never feel it and the rest 58 (14.5%) replied that they feel it. It was found by the researcher that maximum respondents 30(7.5%) out of total 400 respondents deprived of parental affection & security in childhood because of their mother or father expired/ divorced / separated. On the other hand another 8(2%) respondents have step mother/step father who does not loves them. Again another 6(1.5%) respondents mentioned about more preference of boy (Gender bias) in their family. The rest other respondents 5(1.25%) out of total 400 respondents replied that they are deprived of parental affection & security in childhood because of their parents gives more important to their differently able sibling and the same number of respondents i.e 5(1.25%) told that their parents gives more important to their step sister/ step brother. Therefore

parents as well as teachers should not discriminate among the adolescent boys and girls and they should try to understand and to solve their emotional problems.

Beside these, adolescent's need for independence gives rise to emotional conflicts. Their ideas and views often appear contradictory with that of their parents, teachers and other members of the society. At many times, therefore, the adolescents suffer from emotional detachment from their parents and other members of the society. So they are very prone to emotional maladjustment. Therefore during field visit to draw an idea about emotional maladjustment among adolescents it was asked to the respondents that do they feel heisted to discuss their emotional problems with their parents, teachers or any other elder member of society. Out of total 400 respondents 280(70%) respondents replied that they hesitated and the rest 120(30%) respondents replied that they do not hesitated to discuss or share their emotional problems with their parents, teachers and other elder members of the society. Again these 70% respondents were asked about the reason for their hesitation. It was found that maximum respondents 70(17.5%) out of total 400 respondents feel that it is better to share their problems with their peer mates than parents or anyone else. Again another 67(16.75%) respondents hesitated to share their problem with parents, teacher and with elders because they think that they will be in shame. Another 55(13.75%) respondents feel that their problem will be contradictory if they discuss about it with parents or anyone else. On the other hand 45(11.25%) respondents out of total 400 respondents hesitated to discuss their problem because they think that the solution given by parents, teacher or any elder would not be suitable for them. The rest other respondents 33(8.25%) hesitated to share their problems with parents or teachers because they think that they will scold or ignore the matter if they try to discuss about it with them. Therefore parents, teachers or any other elder members of society must try to develop maturity of thinking within the child, they must create a healthy environment around them that their adolescent boy or girl can without hesitation share or discuss their emotional problems directly with them so that they keep away from deviant activities or any misguide.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION: The major findings of the study are as follows:

1. During field visit it was found that out of total 400 respondents 240(60%) exercise their independence by questioning and rest 160(40%) exercise their independence by breaking rules. That means, these 40% respondents may have more chances of involvement in deviant activities.
2. There is an attempt has been made by the researcher to know the types of rules respondents break. It was found that maximum number of respondents out of total 400 respondents 30(7.5%) male respondents and same number 30(7.5%) female respondents engage in frequent argument, fighting with parents, teachers and classmates. Another 22(5.5%) male respondents and 8(2%) female respondents spend idly beyond time at street or market places without permission. 20 (5%) male respondents and 10(2.5%) female respondents come late to school and home. The rest other male respondents found destroy public and private property, smoking, drinking, truancy, theft etc. It is quite understand that maximum numbers of male respondents compared to female respondents engage in breaking rules. It is also clear that the types of deviance that committed by female are different from that of male.
3. Through the field visit we come to know that out of total 400 deviants 268 respondents 67% have smart phone. Further we found that out of total 268 respondents 150 respondents i.e. 55.97% receive nude videos, pictures or vulgar messages. Therefore parents and teachers need to control and limit use of smart phone of their teens to keep them away from spoil.
4. At the time of field visit it was found that 200(50%) respondents out of total 400 do not like to go school.
5. There are different reasons found behind dislike of going school. Out of total 400 respondents 50(12.5%) male respondents and 30(7.5%) female respondent's dislike of going school because of their poor academic performance and these respondents have tendency of repeated truancy. Another 22(5.5%) male respondents and 18(4.5%) female respondents cause of dislike of school was some events like practical classes, remedial teaching classes, morning assemble speech etc. Again another 20(5%) male respondents and 10(2.5%) female respondents have fear to a particular person like a teacher or another student for dislike of school. The rest other respondents found dislike of going school because of engage in high risk behaviour or we can called it as deviant activities such as use of tobacco, alcohol, bad comments remarks on girls etc. Therefore parents and teachers must provide proper educational and vocational guidance to their students. They may suggest means and methods of achieving success. This will restore the self-confidence of the adolescents.
6. Regarding decision making out of total 400 respondents 267 respondents i.e 66.75 % replied that they want to take any kind of decisions related with their life by themselves.
7. During field visit it was also found that 80% respondents out of total 400 respondents imitate their friends rather than their parents. Out of total 400 respondents maximum respondents i.e. 334(83.5%) imitate their friends dress up, hair style, ornaments etc. Again another 260 respondents 65% replied that they imitate their friend's favorite songs, T.V shows etc. Another 200(50%) respondents use the common words of their friends and imitate their talking style. There were another 65(16.25%) respondents found during field visit who use alcohol, drugs, tobacco etc. At the time of personal interview they replied that they use such types of health injury things while peer get together in street, rail road, park, club etc. These data proves that while going imitate their friends there is a chance of negative effect on adolescent by peer group. Therefore freedom with proper guidance must be provided to young adolescents by parents to make friendship with good friends.
8. During field visit it was found that out of total 400 respondents 160 respondents i.e. 40% replied that their friends instigate them to do wrong. Among them 40(10%) respondents found quarrel with other and again same numbers of respondents i.e. 40(10%) found smokes, drink, steal etc by the suggestion of their friends. Another 30(7.5%) respondents found use vulgar language. The rest other respondents commits wrong deeds like destroy school property; ridicule other due to the

suggestion of peers. Therefore parents and teachers must help their teens to choose friends who must have qualities of honesty, open, caring and trusting.

9. Emotional disturbances also give birth to deviant activities during adolescent period. It was found by the researcher that out of total 400 respondents 58(14.5%) feel deprived of parental affection and security in childhood. Among them maximum respondents 30(7.5%) deprived of parental affection & security in childhood because of their mother or father expired/divorced/separated. Another 8(2%) respondents deprived of parental affection and security during childhood because their step mother/step father does not love them and they give more importance to their step sister/ step brother. 6(1.5%) mentioned about more preference of boy (Gender bias) in their family. The rest other respondents 5(1.25%) replied that their parents gives more important to their differently able sibling. Therefore parents and teachers must allow their adolescent boys and girls to discuss their emotional problems with them and they should try to solve their problems personally.

10. It was found that out of total 400 respondents 120(30%) respondents do not hesitated and the rest 280(70%) respondents feel hesitated to discuss or share their emotional problems with their parents, teachers and other elder members of the society. Among them maximum respondents 70(17.5%) out of total 400 respondents feel that it is better to share their problems with their peer mates than parents or anyone else. Another 67(16.75%) respondents hesitated to share their problem with parents, teachers and with elders because they think that they will be in shame. Another 55(13.75%) respondents feel that their problem will be contradictory if they discuss about it. They rest other respondents hesitated to share their problem because they will scold or ignore the matter or the solution given by parents, teacher or any elder would not be suitable for them. Therefore parents and teachers must be able to redirect the emotions of the adolescents in a proper manner. They must help their adolescents to repress those emotions which are not socially acceptable.

From the above discussion it can be said that adolescence is a critical time for individuals as it provides the path way from childhood to adulthood and issues of independence, identity, sexuality and relationship defined this developmental stage. This period between childhood and adulthood is characterized by physical and psychological changes. It is the period to learn new things. It is also a period of anxieties and worries. It is the period of ambitions as well as of conflicts and complexities. A number of social, economic, and individual factors concern parents and communities alike. Helping teens balance these different areas may prevent or reduce deviant activities. As friends and appearance become more importance, family and community groups become less important at this stage. In the process of seeking autonomy the children's may indulge in deviant activities and take serious risks. During field visit it was found by the researcher that out of total 400 respondents 267 respondents i.e. 66.75% replied that they want to take any kind of decision related with their life by themselves. Therefore helping teens by communicating openly, modeling responsible behaviour can reduce deviant activities. It was also found in the field visit that 80% respondents imitate their friends dress up, hair style, talking style, use the common words of their friends etc. Therefore parents must guide their children for positive imitation which can keep them away from bad influences. They must nurture children's self-esteem so that they can understand reasonable restrictions that all can accept.

Adolescence is a time for developing independence. It was found during field visit that 240(60%) out of total 400 respondents exercise their independence by Questioning and rest 160(40%) exercise their independence by breaking rules. It was observed that maximum numbers of respondents break rules by destroying school property, smoking, drinking, fighting, running away from school and home etc. It was found that out of total 400 respondents 20(5%) respondents engage in high risk behaviour or we can called it as deviant activities such as use of tobacco, alcohol, bad comments remarks on girls etc. Another 50(12.5%) male respondents and 30(7.5%) female respondents cause of dislike of school was poor academic achievements and these respondents have tendency of repeated truancy. Therefore parents need direct discussion with their teens rather than directly control their actions. Adolescents who feel warmth and support from their parents are less likely to engage in risky behaviours.

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