

Encountering the Origin and Development of Criminal Behaviour of a Young Offender

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Abstract

This paper is particularly concerned with discovering the causes for young people within the context of becoming possible offenders. It is a great concern of everyone and particularly of prison social worker, who can play a major role in the life of a young offender. There are several factors which cause young people to become offenders around the globe. There is a considerable debate about how the young as creative, vibrant, realistic, and potential they are, become offenders due to diverted behavior. However there is some uncertainty about the accurate cause for their offending behavior. It is highly important to note that cause of an offence by young offender differs from individual to individual. One becomes an offender due to certain factor and the same factor does not affect another individual to become an offender. There is a great disagreement amongst researchers that offensive behavior raises with age, it is more common after puberty and increases over the course of adolescence. It is rather difficult to know how often young people involve in an offending act. There is also a widely accepted hypothesis that young people who commit an offence rarely have certain reason but act as friendship sake. According to the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) crime by young women has remained stable while crime by young men has rapidly doubled in the past few years. Hence this paper is an attempt to discover the underlying causes for young offenders and also to trace out the other factors that constitutes the same.

1.0 Introduction

Since the dawn of human uncivilized society to this day man has been confronted with social crimes and conflicts of diverse nature irrespective of caste, creed, age, sex and social stratification and hence the young offender (adolescent offender) is not an exception to this phenomenon around the globe. The young offender (borstal school inmate who is above 18) and juvenile delinquent (who is below 18) have been a widely prevalent phenomenon of the modern society in relation to the episode of crime. According to the prison officials and people involved in the correctional administration of young offenders reveals the reality that the cause of criminal behaviour in the young mind is due to abuse, neglect, mental depression, parental discord, dysfunction and also depending on their exposure to multiple chronic stress and these factors would emerge when they become adult. Despite of the unprecedented new enactment of laws for the welfare of the young offenders, the crime rate has not reduced in India. It is affirmed that often the young offenders lack

the mental maturity to take responsibility for their crimes and because their character is not fully developed, they still have the possibility of being rehabilitated.

1.1 Concept Clarification (Juvenile offender is totally different from adolescent offender)

a) Juvenile Offenders

The juvenile offenders are covered under the juvenile justice (care and protection of children) act 2000 which was amended thrice in 2006, 2011 and 2015 to address the gap in its implementation and make law more child-friendly. The increase of crime committed by children in the age group of 16-18 years in the recent years makes it evident that the current provisions and system under the juvenile justice (care and protection of children) Act 2000 does not provide adequate system and thus to re-enact the same for a better rehabilitation and social re-integration of such children. Thus the newly amended JJAct 2015 gives a considerable importance for the welfare of children and at the same time it modifies the present law with regard to children in conflict with law.

b) Adolescent Offender (Borstal School Inmate)

In the same way the borstal school inmates who are known as the adolescent offenders are covered under the Tamilnadu Borstal School Act 1925 which underwent six amendments subsequently. The object of the act was to make provision for the detention, industrial training and other instruction subject to such disciplinary and moral influences which will be conducive for the reformation of adolescent offenders who are below 21 years. The adolescent offender means a person who has been convicted of any punishable with imprisonment or who having been ordered to give security under section 117 of the code of criminal procedure 1973 has failed to do so and who at the time of conviction or failure to give security is not less than 16 in the case of a boy and not less than 18 in the case of a girl, but not more than 21 years of age in either case. For the whole of India, only ten states have the borstal schools and they are namely, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and TamilNadu. (*This is taken from Prison Statistics India 2007*)

c) Recidivism among Young Offenders

Recidivism in criminal behaviour of young offender is also a great, serious concern and a big challenge to the correctional institutions. The term 'recidivism' refers to the human tendency to relapse into a previous condition or the mode of behaviour that existed earlier in an individual. It is the repetition of an undesirable behaviour after experiencing negative consequences of that behaviour. The rate of recidivism among the released prisoners around the world is a matter of grave anxiety and it gains a greater significance with regard to young offenders.

2.0 The Objective of the Study

The research study is based on the following objectives.

The first objective is to understand the behaviour of young offenders. The second objective is to find out the exact cause of crime caused by young people. The third objective is to discover the direct and indirect factors of youngsters becoming offender.

Table 1

POPULATION OF INMATES IN BORSTAL SCHOOLS AT THE END OF 2007

SL. NO.	STATE/UT	NUMBER OF BORSTAL SCHOOLS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL MALE FEMALE
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	1	13	0	13
2	HARYANA	1	57	119	176
3	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1	13	0	13
4	HARKHAND	1	32	0	32
5	KARNATAKA	1	0	0	0
6	KERALA	1	0	0	0
7	MAHARASHTRA	1	35	0	35
8	PUNJAB	1	315	0	315
9	RAJASTHAN	1	13	0	13
10	TAMIL NADU	1	140	0	140
Total		10	618	119	737

Source: From Prison Statistics India 2007

Table 2

Capacity and Population of inmates in Borstal Schools at the end of 2013

STATE/UT	No of Borstal School India	Total Capacity of Inmates			Total Population of Inmates		
		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
ANDHRA PRADESH	1	93	0	93	3	0	3
HARYANA	1	160	195	355	188	85	273
HIMACHAL PRADESH	1	15	15	30	7	0	7
JHARKHAND	1	100	0	100	61	0	61
KARNATAKA	1	200	0	200	0	0	0
KERALA	1	78	12	90	19	9	28
MAHARASHT RA	1	105	-	105	29	-	29
PUNJAB	1	500	-	500	314	-	314
RAJASTHAN	1	312	-	312	8	-	8
TAMIL NADU	12	653	-	653	501	-	501
Total	21	2216	222	2438	1130	94	1224

Source: From prison statistics India 2013

Table 3

State/UT wise distribution of different types of jails in the Country at the end of 2013

States UT	Central Jail	District Jail	Sub Jail	Women Jail	Borstal School	Open Jail	Special Jail	Others	Total
States	120	314	769	18	21 (12 in TN alone)	53	35	4	1364
UT	10	2	11	1	0	0	3	0	27

Source: From prison statistics India 2013

Table 4

STATE/UT-WISE AND SEX-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRISON INMATES IN BORSTAL SCHOOLS AT THE END OF 2007

Sl.N O	STATE/UT	CONVICTS			UNDERTRIALS		
		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	13	0	13	-	-	-
2	HARYANA	9	68	77	48	51	99
3	HIMACHAL PRADESH	13	0	13	-	-	-
4	JHARKHAND	2	0	2	30	0	30
5	KARNATAKA	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	KERALA	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	MAHARASHTRA	-	-	-	35	-	35
8	PUNJAB	85	0	85	230	0	230
9	RAJASTHAN	13	0	13	0	0	0
10	TAMIL NADU	7	0	7	131	0	131
	Total	142	68	210	439	51	490

Source: From Prison Statistics India 2007.

3.0 The Urgent Need to Arrest the Cause of Crime among the Young Offenders

As per the reports of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) the percentage of crimes committed by the young offenders as compared to total crimes has significantly increased. According to the NCRB statistics, India is not in the throes of a general crime wave by juvenile. However, the NCRB statistics relating to violent crimes by youthful offender against women are very troubling especially in the northern states of India. It also reveals the veracity that number of rape committed by the young has more than doubled over the past decade from 399 rapes in 2001 to 858 rapes in 2010. The youthful offender falls prey to conflict and crimes due to neglect, poverty, abuse and mainly circumstances. There are no innate human propensities that transform the cherubic youth into unregenerated criminals beyond redemption. The whole object of borstal act enacted in all the states of India is to preserve the scope for rehabilitation and prevent recidivism.

The past few years have seen startling trend of crucial and brutal crimes committed by the young offenders. The most recent and probably the one that must concern us all the most is the shocking occurrence of crimes committed by the juvenile. While the correctional administration is on the process of making remarkable amendment in the juvenile laws towards rehabilitation, it should also pay keen attention on the prevention of crimes committed by the youth. There is also an extensive research to prove that transferring children to the adult justice system does not reduce the occurrence of crime and in fact increases recidivism as it exposes these young offenders to hardened

criminals. Experts also believe that the human brain is not completely developed till one's mid-20s and the young adult are actually more susceptible to peer pressure and relatively unstable in emotionally charged situations.

It is highly debated and argued that city culture is one of the main factor that make the virgin youngsters to become criminal offenders and it is very much true of the most horrible and indigestible Nirbhaya gang-rape case in Delhi in the year 2012 that the accused juvenile by name Raju 'was a good boy and Delhi made him a monster' uttered by his village headman. Today as we are living in an information era and knowledge explosion we should not ignore the fact that emotionally disturbed and modern young persons are becoming cyber crime offenders. The vulnerability of youth and children in India towards crimes needs a considerable attention from government and NGOs. There is a little mystery about the burden of crimes such as murder and rape by the young people in India and we have numerous reports from NCRB and other investigation agencies which confirm us that criminal behaviour among young offender is immense which at times leads the young to commit suicides. A convincing body of research has shown that crimes by young people are escalating in the most developed states of India at the same time it does not deny the fact that there is no reduction of crime in the underdeveloped states. It must be asserted that criminal offence or behaviour that are found in the young persons, has always a chain link which affects the other factors. We must also be convinced that every young offender has different story behind his criminal attempts and has a unique factor which totally differs from one youthful offender to another.

Lombroso, the father of modern criminology, was of the opinion that the criminal tendency that is found in a child or young person is inborn and is primarily a biological phenomenon. He said that the criminal has definite physical stigmata. The view of Lombroso was disproved by Charles Gorin, who proved that the criminals in no way differ from the non criminals in physical characteristics. Henry H. Goddard, an American psychologist, asserted that crime is due primarily to mental deficiency, especially feeble-mindedness. But his assertion was soon negated by various researches. Some sociologists point out that emotional imbalance or glandular disturbance is to be considered the primary cause of criminal behaviour. But their declaration also has been disproved by many criminologists. The Dutch criminologist held the view that crime is a result mainly of the abuses or presence of the capitalist system. However, his view finds few adherents today. Montesquieu pointed out that the causes of crime are the geographical factors like climate, weather etc., but Cohen has rejected this view and asserted that the conception of geographical school is more imaginative than factual.

It is alarming to note that in an hour around 240 cognizable crimes under the Indian Penal Code and 553 crimes under local and special laws are committed in India. The sociologists and criminologist are concerned with the real core of crime and tackling them with criminal justice system. It is also stated that crime rate is highest 51 percentage in the age group of 18 -30 years. It is important to acknowledge the difference between the juvenile delinquent and a young offender. The

criminologist often classify the young offender or juvenile delinquents into five groups according to the type of offences like minor violations (disorderly conduct and minor traffic violations), thefts, property violations, homicide and rape and other sociologists classify them as accidental, unassociated, aggressive, occasional, professional and gang organized.

The delinquency rates are much higher among boys than among girls. The delinquency rates tend to be highest during early adolescence. Juvenile delinquency is more on urban than a rural phenomenon. The metropolitan cities produce more juvenile delinquents than small cities and towns. About 64 percentage of the offender are found living with their parents, 23 % are living with their guardians, 13 % are living homeless and a small percentage are belonging to other kinds. More than fifty percentages of the young offenders are first time offenders and there is a small percentage of habitual offenders who are recidivists. (*This is taken form "Reformative Explorations"; Vol.4. Nov – 2007*)

It is noted that there are many types of offences like individual delinquency, group- supported delinquency, organized delinquency and situational offenders. The crimes are committed in companionship with others and the cause is located not in the personality of the individual or in the delinquent's family but in the culture of the individual's home and neighbored. The impact of the neighbourhood on the young person is more in urban areas than in rural areas. The neighbourhood can contribute to delinquency by blocking basic personality needs, engineering culture conflicts and fostering anti-social values and encourages the formation of felonious gangs.

Therefore it is an undeniable fact that the varied social factors such as family dispute, matrimonial dispute ending in divorce, neglect, poverty, urbanization, industrialization, lack of parental control and leading to parental conflict, cultural conflict, abuses, child labour, circumstances, personality disorganization, social disorganization, social deviance the psychological factors like mental depression and immaturity, self-control, deviant behaviour, the biological factors and other related factors also play such a significant task in comprehending the cause of criminal behaviour in a youthful offender. Thus the above factors confirm the hypothesis that the diversity of social factors is the base for the young ones to become a criminal offenders or lawbreakers.

4.0 Major Finding

4.1 Family the source of violent and criminal behaviour of young offender

Among the varied factors that make a vivacious young person a criminal, the family factor occupies a substantial importance. It is significant to consider the family influences, their role and relationship, especially while dealing with young offender and treating them. Many of the cases that were studied on issues in the family and its influences particularly on children and young people who had a crime profile, had experienced a restrained relationship with their parents. If the family provides a negative environment correspondingly the members specially the children and youngsters develop negative attitudes to life and society. Dealing with deviant and antisocial members of society

calls for consideration of the different aspects of the family from where they come. Most of them could not relate to their parents either due to the separation of the parents or the death of one of the parents or due to frequent fight in the family between parents.

The parental influence and relationship with their siblings will depend on various factors that constitute life in the family such as the size, nature, economic stability, education, occupation, social interactions and religious. This constituent factor also influences the violent behaviour and criminal tendencies found among the youngsters. This would confirm above hypothesis. The related studies made on the same reveal the fact that family has affected the youth to produce deviant behaviour and criminal tendencies. Parents' relations and parental approaches between parents and children, affect the growth of the children and the image of the family. Issues such as fights, lack of affection, care and attention to children are said to be the constitutive elements of delinquent and criminal behaviour.

The parental disputes and constant aggression especially between the father and mother provoked juvenile to take the chopper and strike his father. We often come across incident of similar nature in our locality too. The family's role is an unalterable and non-surrogate in the formation of children and young people. Since the family is the first school of children's behaviour and formation of attitudes and values, anything that occurs in it either positively or negatively affects the youth depending on the nature of the events that occur. It is therefore important to examine the educational status of the families of young offenders. The economic status of the family, either rich or poor affect the youth if they are not properly directed, controlled and helped. Finally family is an undisputed and irrevocable unit in the growth of individual member and more so of the children and young people. One important discovery was that over 90 % of the delinquents compared to 13 % of their non-delinquent siblings had unhappy home lives and felt discontented with their life circumstances (*this is taken from "Reformative Explorations"; Vol.4. Nov – 2007*) Delinquent boys could not internalize moral values because of the absence of good role model in their fathers.

Many sociologists consider family as the most significant factor in the development of juvenile delinquency. Class status, power group relations and class mobility are also related to the family environment. Early childhood experience emotional deprivation and child rearing processes influences the formation of the personality and the development of the attitudes, values and life style. The abnormal expression of behaviour in an anti social form is the result of these factors. The factors in the social system and the functioning of the institutions such as broken home, family tension, parental rejection, parental control and family economics affect delinquency.

The broken family fails to provide affection and control to the youngsters. Family tension results from hostility and hatred. The younger does not feel secure and content in the tension filled family environment. Long-term tension reduces family cohesiveness affects the parent's ability to provide a conducive atmosphere to satisfactory. The rejected or neglected youngsters will often resort

to groups of a deviant nature outside the family. The young offenders are the recipients of less parental love both in quantity and in quality. Methods of parental control or forms of discipline also can play a part in the development of criminal behaviour of young person. An authoritarian approach to discipline affects the child in his peer group relationship. Family economics is also an important contributing variable. The economic conditions of the family can be one of many contributing factors in a multi-problem family.

4.2. The Psycho-Social factors

4.2.1 **Social control from without: self-control from within.** Social control differs from self-control in as much as the latter is from within while the former is from without. It is the individual's own attempt to guide his own behaviour in accord with some previously developed ideal, goal or purpose. When one may fail to exercise self-control either for one's own gain or for others' gain, he enters into conflict with law and thus found guilty of crimes.

4.2.2 **Deviant behaviour disturbs the social equilibrium.** Some of them fail to conform to these norms. Failure to conform to the customary norms of society is deviant behaviour or deviance. It is contravention of the social norms. It is a departure from the usual modes of behaviour. It consists of disapproved activities by young offenders like cheating, unfairness, malingering, delinquency, immortality, dishonesty, betrayal, corruption and wickedness etc.

4.2.3 **Societies are undergoing continual change.** Along with social change the social norms also change. What is considered as intolerable at one time becomes a norm at another time. Thus what was once considered deviant behaviour has now become the accepted standard of behaviour. Thus non-conformity to norms is always relative to the society. Two strategies have been developed to decide who is deviant it may also be noted that deviant behaviour is usually related to specific situations. A young person may be deviant in certain ways but may be conformist in others. A completely deviant young person would find it difficult to stay alive in society. And nearly all normal people are occasionally deviant. Most people have been guilty of deviant behaviour at one time or the other. When the deviant behaviour of a young person is leading to criminal activity and that deviation is condemned.

4.2.4 **Delinquent sub-culture:** The sub-culture usually develops whenever a relatively large number of individuals share a common crisis of adjustment to conventional society and find difficulty in solving that problem within the conventional framework. In such areas delinquent behaviour is as normal as law-abiding behaviour. It is the group not the individual that is deviant from the conventional norms of society. A scandalous gang has a deviant sub-culture. The members of such a gang are confirmative within the deviant sub-group but at the same time they are alienated from the main institutional structure. The deviant persons usually tend to join with similar other persons into deviant groups or they force others to their line. The bad boys in the college tend to form

a clique. Individual hippies, drug addicts or homo sexual tend to drift together into groups of deviants. Thus the deviant youth can easily become prey to unlawful and ultravires activities.

4.3. The Social Deviant factors

Deviant behaviour may be based on the inability or failure to conform. The inability to conform may be the consequence of mental or physical defect. It needs to be explained with supporting theories of deviation. These are: The first theory is called the physical hypothesis. It seeks to relate deviant behaviour with body. They are of the view that our human physic has a vital relation towards deviant behaviour. The second one is called as psychoanalytic factors which attribute deviant behaviour to the conflicts in human personality. It was of the view which was upheld by Freud that deviant behaviour is the result of conflicts between the 'id and the ego'. The third one is named as failure in socialization. Both the above types of theories fail to explain deviant behaviour adequately. Everyone affected with physical or mental illness does not become a deviant. The social scientists are of the opinion that some persons are deviant because the socialization process has failed in some way to integrate the cultural norms into the individual's personality. This nature is very predominant with young offenders. The fourth one is the cultural conflict. The society is an extremely heterogeneous society. There are many sets of norms and values which compete with one another. The young people are exposed to obscene literature, access to all kinds of pornography, inhuman and unhealthy practices in the name of modern technology and development. Thus the young offenders are forced to encounter cultural conflicts which are a unique feature of the modern complex and changing society. They are found virtually in all societies. The fifth one is called the law free society or normless society. By normlessness we do not imply that modern societies have no norms, instead it means lack of consistency. Hence the young people do not know what is wrong or what is right, their impulses are excessive and in the process of satisfying their impulse they tend to enter into a illegal commotion. The final factor is called the social location.

The location of people in the social structure also originates deviant behaviour. The position a person occupies in the stratification system, his position in the age and sex structure of the society make a difference in how he behaves. The people who live in slum are more induced to certain forms of deviant and criminal behaviour. All these factors do not hold absolute certainty in their claim but still hold some truth with regard to criminal behaviour among the young people. The mind of young people is not always static and looks for change every time. But deviant behaviour is sometimes socially useful. No two men are alike in their attitudes, ideas, interests and habits. Even the children of the same parents do not have the same attitudes, habits and interests. During this transitional period the young offender need to pay clear attention towards social control which is very necessary lest they may become a deviant and later a hardcore criminal.

4.4. Personality Disorganizational Factor

Personality disorganization is also a prime cause of the youth offender. Often the young individual fails to meet the requirements of the society in which he survives. As a result, he develops personality problems and becomes disorganized and later become a slave to criminal activities. Personality disorganization may acquire the milder or serious forms of mental disorder and social abnormality which may lead a young mind to be alcoholics and criminals. The failure of a young person to adjust himself to society may be due to the factors inherent in the individual or in the society in which he exists.

Our society is very complex, competitive and contradictory. It makes excessive demands upon the individual. Secondly, in the modern world young man's desires have amplified manifold. The advertising has stimulated more his desires and wants than his needs which remain unsatisfied and thus culminates in aggravation. This frustration leads him into criminal activity. Thirdly, the rapid transformation in society creates new ideas, set up new standards and new demands. All these leaves the young individual bewildered and helpless in coping with the new situation in which he finds himself. Under these circumstances the young person may become a victim of mental disorder, commit suicide or become a criminal. In short, the complexity of modern humanity and its accompanying struggles are the major causes of personality disorganization which ultimately results in criminal action by the young persons

4.5. Social disorganization Factor

Social disorganization is also a predominant factor in cultivating the criminal tendency in the mind of young people. If one unfolds the pages of human civilization, one will be convinced of the maxim that life is a process of continuous adjustment and readjustment. When the human society is properly adjusted, we have a well organized human society, but when they fail to adjust themselves to the changing conditions, the outcome is social disequilibrium or disorganization leading to social crimes such as theft, rape, murder, eve teasing, attempted robbery and attempted murder etc. This social disorganization refers to serious mal-adjustments rather than unadjustments in society so that they fail to satisfy the needs of the young individuals satisfactorily. Society, as we know, is the web of social relationships. When the relations become tangled or disintegrated there is social disorganization. Under the force of individualism every young person acts upon all the important matters of life from his individual viewpoint. The young men and women want to take decision on such important matters as marriage, occupation, recreation and morality in accordance with their individual prejudices, interests and attitudes. This trend has set in a dangerous process of social disorganization. Social disorganization may be known by its symptoms. Among the symptoms of personal disorganization they included juvenile delinquency, various types of crime, insanity, drunkenness, suicide and prostitution. Social disorganization has a vital role in the phenomenon of

youthful offender which must be treated promptly and effectively before it becomes chronic and destroys the social organism of young people.

4.6. Other factors

It is important to consider the other factors. Heredity is another factor determining human personality and behaviour and to some extent heredity play an essential role in the criminal activity of the young offender. It is observed that often the young people commit an offence when young take overdoses of drugs, when they are over stressed and find an easy solution for their problem. When they are in a violent mood they easily commit an offence without even thinking the consequences. Between 30% of adolescents who are referred to prisons and especially borstal school attempted an offence when they have taken overdoses.

Statistics on young offenders reveals the facts a vast majority of young offenders are situational offender. According to Carl Raner, the famous theologian of the Catholic Church 'no one in the world is born criminal but only the situations that make one to become better another worse'. It also exposes the truth that considerable young offenders are only first time offender and they are not habitual offenders. Often the first time offender is under the influence of the friends who made him an offender. There are as many reasons behind offensive behavior of the young people. However, there are a number of circumstances that contribute to making young people especially vulnerable to crimes and offence. A recent loss or break-up of a close relationship, an unhappy change in circumstance, in work, education and some degree of dependency on alcohol or drugs may easily affect the children and young people. A young person may feel ashamed, guilty or confused by their problems. To hide one fact he does another act which is an offending act. There are many reasons why a young person may find it very difficult to talk to a parent or teacher about their problems. If this is the case the parent or teacher should support the young person in identifying someone else who may be able to help.

It is unfair to ignore the influence of mass media which portrays, violence, inhuman acts, immorality, smoking, drinking, brutality and all kinds of negative impacts on the young minds and leave a strong impression on the young minds of the children and the adolescents. They teach the techniques of crimes. Media also inculcates attitudes conducive to antisocial behaviour by arousing desires for easy money suggesting questionable methods for their achievement. The consumption of alcohol is a factor that makes the young to commit a criminal deed. A good number of young offenders arrested for crimes like rape, burglary, murder and theft, eve teasing, attempt murder, are those who committed them while under the influences of alcohol. Alcohol is a major factor in highway accidental crimes. Even family violence, family unrest and divorce are caused by them.

5.0. Suggestion

The sociological explanation asserts that criminal behaviour is learned in a process of communication with other persons principally in small and intimate groups. Hence we need to pay a great attention towards the communication process of young people. The cause for the criminal behaviour of a young offender can be broadly explained under these four factors such as individual's rational motivation, individuals' physical abnormalities which also explains the crime on the basis of hereditary factors using the statistical treatment of facts, occasional criminals and criminals by passion. The family atmosphere is also an essential element which we have to become conscious and work accordingly. There are others who hold the view of sociogenic theory which seems to argue that criminal tendency is learned and it is conditioned by the social environment. The criminal is a product of the economic environment which provides his ideals and goals. It is also said that the geographical environment also become the basis for criminal behaviour. The above views have been widely discussed and debated. We cannot ignore any view as it is so significant in the case each individual. The cause differs from individual to individuals and hence we pay a considerable importance towards each person who is under this phenomenon.

6.0. Conclusion

The commonly accepted view is that today there is no single cause of crime committed by young people and they become criminals for different reasons. Though some common factors may be present in all the cases yet in almost every instance the combination of factors is unique. A situation or circumstance may cause one person to turn to criminality but may not affect another similarly. The criminal behaviour is due to a number of interrelated factors involving environment and personality. Young people's mental health is basically about their well being - emotional, social and educational. An effective method of prison administration should be evolved and it should positively promote the mental health and well being of young offenders. Criminal conducts do not offer single or simple explanation for their occurrence. Sometimes one problem is so interweaved with other problems that it cannot be resolved without addressing the other issues. For instance the problems of crime among the young offender or juvenile cannot be treated without solving the problem of poverty, family dispute, matrimonial dispute, neglect, poverty, urbanization, and industrialization, lack of parental control, cultural conflict, abuses, and child labour. As we are conscious of the crucial need towards our distorted young generation, our government has been enacting borstal acts in different states for the treatment and protection of young offenders. The Madras Borstal school act was enacted in the year 1925 and subsequently underwent several amendments which will vehemently concentrate on the cause of young offender who will turn towards a responsible, rejuvenated and integrated human personality soon.

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