



“Different types of Crimes committed by Teenagers and their Criminal Behaviour”

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Abstract: Adolescence is a period of significant transition, marked by physical, social, and emotional changes. And adolescent criminal behaviour or teenage delinquency, is a term encompassing criminal behaviour by minors, is a complex social phenomenon with far-reaching consequences. is a multifaceted phenomenon with significant societal implications. This study article digs into the many types of crimes committed by teenagers and investigates the underlying elements that influence their criminal behaviour. This paper seeks to provide a complete knowledge of the difficulties surrounding adolescent delinquency by examining several theoretical frameworks and empirical research. Furthermore, it emphasizes the significance of early intervention tactics and tailored treatments in addressing the underlying causes of juvenile criminality.

Keywords: Adolescence, Teenagers, Delinquency, Crime, Criminal Behaviour.

I. INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a critical stage of development characterized by numerous biological, psychological, and social changes. During this period, individuals are particularly susceptible to engaging in risky behaviours, including criminal activities. While not all teens participate in illegal behaviour, but a considerable number do. Understanding the types of crimes people commit and the reasons that influence their decisions is critical for designing successful preventive and intervention plans. It's crucial to realize that statistics only provide a portion of the story. Numerous elements influence a teenager's path. Some may experiment with minor infractions but never progress to serious crimes. Understanding the many sorts of teenage crime and the reasons for them enables us to devise effective solutions. This could include improving family support systems, increasing access to mental health resources, and introducing educational programs that address peer pressure and the repercussions of criminal activity. Furthermore, focusing on after-school activities and developing a sense of belonging in youngsters might keep them away from unwanted influences. Teenage crime is a complex issue with no easy solutions. It is a societal concern, and addressing it requires a multi-pronged approach. However, by understanding the many sorts of offenses and the motivations behind them, as well as implementing effective preventive and intervention measures, and support we can help youngsters make good decisions and become responsible future citizens. This extends beyond simply punishing individuals for their misdeeds. It is about building a society that encourages healthy development and provides direction and assistance at a vital point in their life.

II. TEENAGE CRIMES: A SUDDEN BREAKDOWN

Adolescents and individuals in their teenage years have the capacity to partake in various forms of criminal behaviour, spanning a broad spectrum of illegal actions. Some of the most common include:

a. **Substance abuse offenses:** Experimentation with alcohol and drugs is concerning and a substantial risk factor for adolescent criminality.

- i. **Underage drinking:** Experimentation with alcohol is widespread, but it can lead to unsafe behaviour like drunk driving or vandalism.
- ii. **Drug possession and distribution:** i. Peer pressure, emotional distress, and gang involvement can all lead to drug usage and dealing.
- b. **Sex crimes:** Sexual assault and harassment pose serious and distressing issues that can have profound effects on victims, leaving lasting scars on their physical and emotional well-being. It is unfortunate that these crimes are frequently underreported, leading to a lack of justice for survivors and allowing perpetrators to evade accountability.
- i. **Sexual assault:** This is a serious crime with severe implications for victims. It is frequently underreported, and motivations may include a sense of entitlement, a misunderstanding of consent, or the use of force/coercion.
- ii. **Harassment:** Inappropriate sexual comments, unwelcome advances, and sexting can all be considered harassment.
- c. **Cybercrime:** The digital age has brought us a new sort of delinquent behaviour: cybercrime. The anonymity provided by the internet can encourage teens to engage in risky behaviour that they would not dare to demonstrate in the real world. This includes:
- i. **Cyberbullying:** It occurs when someone uses electronic methods to bully or harass another individual. It can happen on social media, via text messages, emails, online gaming, or any other digital medium. It includes derogatory comments, creating rumours, releasing embarrassing images or videos, or threatening someone.
- ii. **Identity theft:** It is a crime in which someone steals your personal information, such as your name, Social Security number, credit card number, or bank account number, and uses it to conduct fraud. They can use your information to create new accounts, make transactions, and receive benefits in your name.
- iii. **Hacking:** It is the illegal access to a computer system or network. Hackers may steal data, implant software, or disrupt operations. They use a variety of hacking techniques, including as exploiting software flaws or persuading victims into disclosing passwords.
- d. **Property crimes:** Teenagers frequently steal for rapid pleasure, wanting material goods or money to impress their peers or meet basic requirements.
- i. **Theft:** The most common infraction involves shoplifting or stealing from classmates. Peer pressure, a desire for material items, or economic hardship are all potential motivators.
- ii. **Vandalism:** Teenagers may use graffiti to express dissatisfaction, seek attention, or engage in disruptive behaviour.
- iii. **Burglary:** Breaking into buildings might be motivated by a desire for valuables or a thrill-seeking mindset.
- e. **Violent crimes:** While less common than property crimes, violent actions committed by minors can be very upsetting. These include assault, battery, and homicide. Gang affiliation, exposure to violence in the household or society, and impulsiveness or feeling the need to defend oneself can all lead to such behaviour.
- i. **Assault:** This involves physical attacks that range from shoving to serious injury. It might arise from anger issues, gang connection, or feeling the need to defend yourself or others.
- ii. **Robbery:** The motivation for stealing through force or fear of force might be financial or power-driven.
- iii. **Homicide:** While less prevalent, juvenile homicide can be linked to gang violence, drug trafficking, or unrestrained wrath.

III. UNVEILING THE WHY: MOTIVATION BEHIND TEEN CRIME

There's no single answer to this question. Teens commit crimes for a complex mix of reasons, influenced by individual choices and the situations around them. Here's a breakdown of some key factors:

- a) **Individual Factors:** Mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, and untreated diseases can lead to a lack of impulse control can increase the risk of criminal behaviour.

- i. **Mental health issues:** Depression, anxiety, and undiagnosed conditions can lead to risky behaviour or aggression.
 - ii. **Substance abuse:** Drugs and alcohol impair judgment and increase impulsivity.
 - iii. **Exposure to violence:** Witnessing or growing up with violence at home or in the community can lead to the perception that it is usual.
- b) **Family Factors:** Dysfunctional family environments, characterized by abuse, neglect, or lack of supervision, can significantly contribute to delinquency.
- i. **Parental neglect or abuse:** Parental neglect or abuse: A lack of supervision or appropriate role models might make teenagers vulnerable.
 - ii. **Dysfunctional homes:** Teens who are experiencing conflict, instability, or a lack of emotional support may turn to bad behaviours.
- c) **Community Factors:** Poverty, lack of opportunity, and broken homes can all raise the risk of delinquency.
- i. **Poverty and a lack of opportunity:** Feeling gloomy about the future might encourage youth to consider crime as a way to advance.
 - ii. **Peer pressure:** The desire to fit in with a certain group or impress friends (a negative crowd) can be a strong influence.
 - iii. **Social isolation:** Feeling cut off from good peers and activities might raise susceptibility.

It's important to remember that these factors often interact. A teen with a difficult home life might be more susceptible to peer pressure, for instance.

IV. Beyond the Peak: Age and the Nuances of Teenage Crime

Teenagers and criminality have become inextricably linked in our public imagination. But beneath the surface of this stereotype is a more complex reality. While it is true that crime rates typically follow a "age-crime curve," peaking in the late teens and then dropping, this does not convey the entire story. Let's dig deeper into the relationship between age and adolescent criminality, examining its complexities. Adolescents and young adults are most likely to commit crimes. This phenomenon is explained by a variety of variables, including greater risk-taking behaviour, peer pressure, and a lack of fully developed impulse control. Teenagers are also more likely to commit petty theft and vandalism than adults. However, the age-crime curve is not consistent across all types of crime. For example, violent crimes typically peak significantly earlier than property crimes. Drug-related offenses may even follow a different pattern entirely, with some research indicating a late peak in the early 30s. This emphasizes the need of taking into account the individual crime type when evaluating age-related patterns. However, the age-crime curve is not consistent across all types of crime. For example, violent crimes typically peak significantly earlier than property crimes. This emphasizes the need of taking into account the individual crime type when evaluating age-related patterns.

It's important to remember that adolescence is a time of rapid development - physically, mentally and emotionally. The teenage brain is still developing neutrally, which might affect decision-making and impulse control. This understanding should guide our approach to youthful crime, emphasizing rehabilitation and restorative justice above punishment. Understanding the complexity of youthful criminality is critical for developing successful remedies. We must address the underlying causes of crime, such as poverty and a lack of opportunity. Investing in education, social services, and community engagement projects can have a major impact. Furthermore, juvenile justice systems should emphasize rehabilitation and reintegration above punitive measures.

Teenage crime is a multifaceted issue. By identifying the intricacies of age, crime type, and social environment, we may overcome prejudices and build successful measures to promote positive juvenile development and create safer neighbourhoods.

V. Curbing Crime: Intervention and Prevention Strategies for Teenagers

Teenage crime is a complicated topic with far-reaching implications. It has an impact not only on community safety, but also on young people's futures. Fortunately, there are successful ways for both preventing delinquency and assisting with youth who have already taken the wrong path.

a. Early Intervention: Building a Strong Foundation

The strongest defence against adolescent criminality is a robust offense that begins early. Here's how we can promote positive youth development.

- i. **Supportive Families:** Strong family relationships are vital. Parents who provide direction, encourage positive activities, and maintain open communication can greatly lower the incidence of delinquency.
- ii. **Community Programs:** After-school programs, mentorship projects, and social activities provide teens with structure, positive role models, and a sense of belonging, helping them avoid bad influences.
- iii. **Educational Opportunities:** Addressing learning problems and guaranteeing access to quality education provide youth with the tools and confidence to succeed in a good manner.

b. Intervention Strategies: Guiding Teens Back on Track

For youth who have already committed crimes, intervention programs give a chance at rehabilitation:

- i. **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT):** Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) can help youth identify and change unfavourable thought patterns that lead to criminal behaviour.
- ii. **Anger Management:** Equipping youth with effective coping methods for anger can help prevent violence.
- iii. **Restorative Justice Programs:** These programs aim to remediate the harm caused by crime and promote accountability and empathy among young offenders.

c. Prevention: The Importance of Collaboration:

A successful approach requires collaboration between various stakeholders:

- i. **Schools:** Educators can identify and connect at-risk youth to relevant resources.
- ii. **Law Enforcement:** Police officers may develop excellent relationships with teenagers, enhancing trust and community safety.
- iii. **Mental Health Professionals:** Addressing mental health disorders can greatly lower the chance of criminal behaviour.
- iv. **Social-emotional learning (SEL):** These programs help youth develop abilities such as self-awareness, decision-making, and relationship management.

VI. EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

According to studies, the most common crimes among minors include stealing, vandalism, and shoplifting. These actions are frequently motivated by peer pressure, a desire for excitement, or the acquisition of material goods. Delinquency rates tend to peak in the mid-teens before declining as teenagers grow. However, violent crimes, while less common, remain a developing problem. Gang involvement, bad home circumstances, and even mental health issues can all contribute to more serious charges. Furthermore, there is an increase in sex crimes committed by teenagers, emphasizing the need for better education and awareness programs. It's crucial to note that not all teens who commit crimes develop into hardened criminals. Juvenile justice frequently promotes rehabilitation, with the goal of addressing the underlying causes of their conduct and assisting them in becoming useful members of society.

VII. FURTHER RESEARCH

This paper provides an overview of teenage delinquency. Future study can go deeper into specific types of crimes, compare the efficacy of various intervention programs, and investigate the effects of developing technologies on adolescent criminal behaviour.

NOTE: This study is designed to serve as a starting point for further research. Citations from academic journals, government publications, and other reliable sources would be appropriate for a more in-depth examination. You can also go into greater detail about specific topics, such as risk factors, intervention programs, or the psychological components of adolescent criminal conduct.

VIII. CONCLUSION

While property crimes are prevalent among teenagers, typically motivated by peer pressure or a desire for money gain, the situation is more complicated. Violent and sex crimes, while less common, are a developing concern linked to gangs, troubled neighbourhoods, and mental health. Importantly, juvenile justice emphasizes rehabilitation, recognizing that teenage delinquency frequently decreases with maturity and attempting to prevent future criminal activity. This emphasis on rehabilitation highlights the significance of early intervention and support programs in addressing underlying issues that may contribute to criminal behaviour in the first place. By providing resources and guidance, we can assist teenagers in navigating adolescent difficulties such as poverty, academic struggles, and substance misuse. Furthermore, developing strong familial relationships and positive peer groups might serve as a protective factor, directing kids away from criminality. It's important to realize that youth criminal behaviour isn't uniform. Understanding the motivations for these behaviours, as well as successful intervention measures, is critical to encouraging positive youth development and making communities safer for everyone.

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