UNRESTRAINED MEDIA AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATION

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the increasing incidences of juvenile delinquency in India, in the recent years. It explores the issues contributing to the gradual surge in juvenile delinquency in India due to the impact of unrestrained and explicit media content gifted by technological advancement. It is not only an area to be discussed in legal scenario, but is a social concern, which has not found a convincing answer in spite of several attempts of research by social scientists, psychologists and other media experts. However, the numbers of researches have been conducted within a limited framework, but the need of the hour is to explore it in an interdisciplinary environment to determine the extent and nature of the impact of unrestrained and explicit media content on juvenile delinquency.

KEYWORDS: Juvenile Delinquency, Behaviour, Unrestrained Media, Psychopathy

INTRODUCTION

A child is born with a lot of innocence, introvert and fearful nature. But, due to the impact of audio-visual communication or we may call it an entertainment stereotype, the 'angry hero' of our Indian cinema is a product of the victimization of innocence at this gentle age. However, it's the offensive tyrannical and unfair treatment meted out to him by the brutal world at the tender age, which makes him the 'angry young man' in later stages of life. This may be an extrapolated 'poetic justice' given to the cinematic narrative, so much so that people often accept such interpretations. But, some psychological studies reveal that aggressive delinquent behaviour in most cases develop during childhood itself and not at later stages as much. Anderson, Berkowitz et al. (2003) observe that as per research a significant percent of aggressive children are 'likely to grow up to be aggressive adults, and that seriously violent adolescents and adults have often been highly aggressive and even violent as children.' In a way, the aggressive behaviour in the adulthood is also a natural extension of the same in the childhood which may have been caused due to variety of factors. Hence, from the psychological perspective, Juvenile Delinquency is defined as a rebellious act when the person behaves in an aggressive manner with the aim of destroying, infringement and change in the surroundings. This aggression is against the societal conditions that refuse the individual his fundamental rights and the contentment associated with fundamental rights. The criminals are not born as criminals, but they become so due to societal conditions and fulfilling individual deficiency.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The concept of juvenile delinquency as defined earlier has misrepresented over a period of time and reflects the social conditions of a particular era. In the United States, from the colonial era, the perception about juvenile delinquency was profoundly influenced by the religious beliefs. At that point of time, juvenile delinquency was analyzed as not only a legal abuse, but also ethical abuse. Delinquent acts were viewed as offenders to divinity and Nature's law, and as such,

offenders were treated in very strenuous and revengeful manner. The American colonial culture was also unsympathetic towards children and their destructive behavior. However, there was a common perception that delinquents were mainly vulnerable to immoral and ethical violations.

There are various researches that show, while investigating the relationship between adolescent disarray and violent behavior among adolescents assures to boost the understanding facts about the development of violent behavior among adolescents. The increasing occurrence of violent acts and their association might trigger the advancement of hard labour to avoid the occurrence of extreme acts of violence among adolescents. But on the other hand, some previous researches in the past related to adolescents have focused typically on the connection between delinquent behaviour and violent or criminal activities. Instead of a lot of researches indicate that behavior disorders are linked with inflated intimidation to aggressive and violent behavior among youth, but there is still some uncertainty existing about the correlation between changes noticed during adolescent behaviour and, aggressive and violent behavior during the teenage years and prematurity among youths. The correlation between behavioral disorder and aggressive acts is of particular importance because personality disorders are likely to be distinguished by complexity in social relationships, including internal conflicts which plays a major role in the expansion of aggressive behavior during adolescence.

Over a period of time, there was a lot of criticism while defining the sententious approach to defining, correcting and punishing juvenile delinquents. These unsympathetic and cruel forms of juvenile justice have not failed to control juvenile delinquency, yet have also portrayed as ancient and evil. In 1825, progressive social movements identified as the Child Savers came into force in response to juvenile delinquency and came up with a correctional Legislation. Juvenile Delinquency was viewed as an issue of morality; recognized with a lot of environmental factors, such as poor living conditions, colonization, underprivileged society and varying urban infrastructure.

The Child Savers concept was based on the idea of placing children in reformatories, particularly juvenile paupers. The objective of eradicating children from intense poverty was excellent, but consequently resulted in changing children into individuals without legal rights. Children were placed in factories, poorhouses and charitable organizations orphanages where they were usually treated badly and no attention was given to their individual requirements.

As per the historical news goes that in 1850 in New York, approximately 250,000 children were deserted and kept in the orphan trains and moved to different locations in the West where they were later adopted by Christian farmers. The process of finding new homes for the children was haphazard. At town meetings across the country, farming families took their pick of the orphan train riders. Children who were not sent back to their homes and continued to stay in their new homes. The children, who were selected and had adopted one year to decide whether they would stay together or want to change their place of living.

In July 1899, the juvenile justice was strongly controlled and supervised by the Chicago Juvenile Court Act and this supervision was confined to the child's own community and not the institutions. In the juvenile courts, the procedure were civil and not the criminal which could lead the court movement.

The Chicago Juvenile Court Act, in July 1899, through the course of the juvenile justice court tried to closely administer children and supervised them surrounded by the child's own house and society not in the organization. In the juvenile court, the measures were civil as contrasting to criminal because social workers organized the court movement.

Accordingly, they thought that children had to be treated (reformed), not punished and the judge was to be a sort of wise and kind parent. The new court segregated juvenile from adult offenders at all procedural stages.

In the year 1945, there were aggressive movements all over in the United States to act in response to the issues related to juvenile delinquency. This resulted in the number of proceedings perceived to be excellent and justice could be done for fulfilling the requirements of the youth. On the other hand, this casual approach also provoked different conduct of offenders. The other correlated point was that the juvenile court required to act in a more formalized to ensure due process rights of delinquents that were comparable to the due process rights of adults in the criminal courts. These rights were established in a series of landmark cases during the 1960s and early 1970s.

In 1974, another significant landmark in the history of juvenile delinquency happened with the help of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act. This act was the most comprehensive transformation in juvenile justice court. There were five major areas of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (Prevention) Act. Firstly, it authorized the decriminalization of status offenders with the intention that they were not considered to be criminal. Second, it approved the release of institutionalized individuals from institutional care (as in a psychiatric hospital) to care in the community with the intention that only the most brutal juvenile delinquents would be entitled for imprisonment. Additionally, the act gave authorization to the fact that that the ranked offenders should not be kept in proper establishments as part of an official organization and that adolescents and adult prisoners should be divided by outlook and noise from the adult prisoner's. Third, it expanded the use of recreation as a substitute to an official dispensation in juvenile courts. Fourth, it sustained the request of outstanding procedure, constitutional human rights of juveniles. Fifth, it formed the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) that sponsored research assessing juvenile justice programs and dispersed research conclusions on the juvenile justice system.

Later, due to the passage of time, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was modified in 1977, 1980, 1984, 1988, 2002, 2006, 2010 and as recently as 2015. For instance, in 1980 the act specified the jail and lockup elimination requisite that means that juveniles could not be apprehended or restricted in adult jails or lockups. Adult facilities had a 6-hour grace period to ascertain the age of the offender or transport the youth to a juvenile facility. (Rural jails had up to 48 hours.) In 1988, the act specified the disproportionate minority confinement requirement, which required juvenile corrections to gather data on the racial composition of their population compared to the racial composition of the state. In 2002, this was changed to disproportionate minority contact, whereby racial data were mandated for all aspects of the juvenile justice system. Correctional systems must comply with OJJDP guidelines to remain eligible for federal allocations for the Formula Grants Program. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 come into power and repealed the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

From the commencement in the 1960s until the early to mid-1990s, the United States noticed a remarkable increase in the most severe forms of juvenile delinquency for instance, murder and gradually more noticeable juvenile gang wars in major cities of the American continent. Consequently, states enacted more legislation that assaulted youths involved in the majority of serious types of delinquent acts. During the 1990s, 45 states made it easier to shift juvenile offenders to adult criminal courts. There were thirty-one states that expanded the punishment alternatives to merge sentencing and allowed juvenile courts to merge juvenile and adult offender's that is modified keeping in mind the needs of the individual offenders. For example, juvenile courts can unite a juvenile sentence with a criminal is suspended.

But on the other hand, if the delinquent conform to the juvenile disposition, then the criminal sentence is never enforced. If not so, then the youth is eligible to receive the adult sentence.

Generally, the adolescents account for about 1% of original court assurance to adult state prisons. This indicates that more than 4,000 adolescents in adult prisons have been found guilty of the most severe type of criminal behavior, which comprises of offenses such as equipped burglary, physical attack, robbery, assassination and sexual assault. More corrective procedures such as waivers are necessary based on the severe sadism and persistent delinquencies of the most serious criminals. However, some of these necessities hold unintentional penalties. For instance, researchers suggest that adolescents who are ignored in unlawful court and accept adult punishments eventually have advanced recidivism stage than adolescents that accept the juvenile court outlook.

Comparatively, more the past 20 years ago, American society has also put great effort to know the position of capital punishment as an approach to penalize the most brutal juvenile delinquents. Article 21 of the Constitution of India says that, "according to the procedure established by law, no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty" Capital punishments have always been on top of disagreement in the Judicial set up, not only in India, but also in the majority of developed countries. The power of the State's is both a matter of discussion and conventional after the implementation of a capital punishment. India has made its position apparent on this issue in December 2007, when it refused UN's plea for a universal suspension on capital punishment which was further discussed at a length.

In spite of India's stand on capital punishments, the judiciary sets aside it for severe infringement of law. In the past 10 years, the Indian Judiciary has sentenced 1,303 people to death, but only four have been hung till death in this entire decade. The most landmark cases include:

- Dhananjoy Chatterjee: Date of execution: August 14, 2004 (Alipore Central Jail, Kolkata)

- Mohammad Ajmal Amir Kasab: Date of execution: November 21, 2012 (Yerwada Jail, Pune)

- Afzal Guru: Date of execution: February 9, 2013 (Tihar Jail, Delhi)

- Yakub Memon: Date of execution: July 30, 2015 (Central Jail, Nagpur)

It is conformist awareness within the criminological field to mourn the escalating roughness or penal stand that society takes toward juvenile delinquents, mainly throughout the procedure of relocating to the criminal court. But, it is a well known fact that over the last 40 years of juvenile justice, crime and prevention that replicates a reflective assurance to due process and the authorized or legal rights of adolescents, the eradication of the juvenile death penalty and a liberal policy stand towards position and down-level delinquents. In fact, the juvenile justice system and mainly juvenile corrections have distinguished the multiplicity of the juvenile delinquent population and have focused capitals unreasonably towards the most somber adolescents.

Theoretical Association about Juvenile Delinquency

Any notion about the origin, extent and association of juvenile delinquency is essentially an assumption such as connecting juvenile delinquency with crime and breaching the laws created by divinity. It has been observed that for more than two centuries, scholars and criminologists from the field have developed a host of theories to enlighten the subject of juvenile delinquency in a more advanced manner. The most important differentiation among them communicates to the scholastic discipline, in which, the theory was taught. The various social science disciplines for instance, psychology and

sociology have contradictory suppositions about humans and human behaviour and this effect in different conceptions about what is the origin of juvenile delinquency.

This division general studies theories of juvenile delinquency from psychological perspective with the most common theoretical approach—sociology.

Initially, several theories of juvenile delinquency were fiscal in their position. These theories were called as classical theories. They usually state that juveniles are normal intellectuals having the freedom and the ability to make their own choices. Juveniles estimate the expenditure and remuneration of their behavior before acting. Delinquency is the consequence of juveniles visualizing greater achievements coming from infringement of the law than from obeying it. In the same manner, the children and the adolescents that miss the school quite often are bound to getting caught against the expected fun they will have. In the same way, juveniles who commit severe offense evaluate the contentment they had visualized that they will accept against likely being detained, prosecuted, found guilty and sent to prison. Given that behavior is a cognizant alternative that adolescents make so that they may be apprehended for their selection and their penalty.

Cesare Beccaria (1764-1963), who is one of the creators in classical theory, stated his ideas about crime control during the 18th century, when the criminal justice systems throughout Europe were brutal, merciless and exercised a callous indifference towards human rights. Citizens were penalized for crimes against belief such as agnosticism and witchcraft and for offenses against the state, such as condemning influential leaders. But no one was exempted and anybody was sent to judicial custody without any reason. Affluent persons were usually secure because of the most torturous and humiliating penalty, which were kept aside for common citizens who from time to time were set ablaze, whipped, mutilated and renowned.

Beccaria, in his article titled "On Crimes and Punishments," laid the foundation of a new system of justice that underlined the humankind, uniformity and judiciousness. According to Beccaria, the organization would follow these moral values:

- Societal actions should be based on the practical approach

- Crime is like an accusation to society and the only balanced measure of crime is the amount of the damage.

- Prevention of crime is always better than punishment so that inhabitant must understand the laws and support them.

- In criminal procedure, undisclosed charges and the agony must be eradicated. The nature of the trails should be speedy and the accused should have every right to present substantiate proofs in their protection.

- The basic idea of punishment is to stop crime that could come only when the punishment is speedy and brutal.

- Punishment must be absolutely based on the social harm on the grounds of the crime. Capital punishment should be eradicated.

- Life imprisonment is a better prevention rather than capital punishment as it is irretrievable and makes no stipulation for an error.

- Imprisonment should be extensively in use, on the other, than hand, prison environment should be enhanced

through better physical lodgings and by unscrambling and classifying inmates as per age, sex and criminal records

Jeremy Bentham another classical theorist stated that people physically search for enjoyment and evade pain is that the "greatest" punishment that would generate more pain than whatever enjoyment the criminal would receive, while committing the crime. On the other hand, punishment must be suitable for committing the crime and no sole punishment was always on the top.

Another, classical theory, identified as Rational Choice Theory asserts that people are balanced and make planned selection concerning what they are going to perform before they proceed. Juvenile delinquents quickly gather, develop and assess information about the crime and make a decision. In short, Juvenile delinquents represent a carefully planned decision and decide where to commit the crime, whom or what to target and how to execute it.

Regarding the psychological theories are concerned, they enlighten juvenile delinquency with individual-level constructs that survive inside of all people that interrelate with the social world. For example, behavioral theory suggests that behavior reflects people's communications with others throughout their lifetime. A well known Psychologist B. F. Skinner (1953) theorized that children learn conventionality and deviant behaviour from the punishment and the support they receive in response to their unlawful activities. It is thought that the surroundings shapes behavior and that children distinguish those individuality of their environment they find pleasant and which ones are hurt for their survival; their activities are the result of the consequences it produces. He concluded that children and adolescents replicate rewarded behavior and stop punishing behavior.

In contrast, Albert Bandura (1977) completely disagrees that learning, knowledge and experience couple with principles and expectations to decide human behavior. Further, Bandura, in Social Learning Theory proposes that the adolescents learn by replicating and imitating others. For instance, the aggression is being learnt through observation from the life experiences and aggression in different ways — for instance, by seeing parents argue, by watching their friends clash within the group, watching violence on television and in movies and by listening to violent music content, videos. But aggression is sometimes acceptable and can generate the desired outcome. Later, this idea of Skinner and Bandura was implemented by many sociologists and the researchers.

Psychodynamic Theory states that unconscious mental processes develop in early childhood that controls the personality and the mental processes influence delinquent behavior. Sigmund Freud (1925) states that the personality comprises of three parts: the *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego*. The *Id*, which is there right from the birth, consists of sightless, unreasoning, instinctual requirements and motivation. The *Id* comprises of basic biological and psychological forces and does not distinguish between fantasy and reality. The *Id* is also an antisocial element and knows no rules, boundaries, or limitations. If the I*d* is left unrestricted, it will completely devastate the person. The *Ego* develops from the I*d* and characterizes the analytical element of the personality. It deals with reality, distinguishes it from desire and trains children to delay gratification because acting on desires will get them into a dilemma. The *Superego* broadens from the E*go* and is the ethical rule, norms and values the adolescent has attained. The *Superego* is accountable for feelings of guilt and humiliation and is more closely associated with the moral ethics. With physically strong children, including the adolescents, all the three parts of the personality work together. When the three parts are in conflict with each other, children may become maladjusted and prepared for delinquent acts. The importance of Freud and psychodynamic theory is evident in the way that early childhood experiences and mental processes have figured prominently in the studies of human behavior.

The psychological theory that describes the thinking and personality patterns, also called as Psychopathy is connected with the unequivocal match of the individual, with his or her subsequent involvement in juvenile delinquency. Psychopathy is a clinical assembling connected with the personality disorder, distinct by a set of interpersonal, affective, lifestyle and behavioral characteristics that is noticeable in extensible unsociable behaviors. The distinctiveness of psychopathy is like an outline for the juvenile delinquent act. Psychopathic persons are defined as impetuous, pretentious, psychologically cold blooded, manipulative, unsympathetic, egotistical dominant, negligent, short-tempered individuals who are inclined to disobey social norms and victimize others without any remorse or apprehension

The theory related to Psychopathy is a controversial one, and there is a lot of divergence centered on whether the theory should be applicable towards children and adolescent/ delinquents. There is a complete lack of emotions of others in psychopathy confirmed by callous-unemotional characters, remorselessness and the absence of sympathy. Psychopathic persons do not practice the thoughts that naturally hinder the performance of the aggressive desires and their emotional insufficiency is closely related to general under-arousal and the need for sensation seeking. Psychopathic persons are distinct from other offender groups because of the incapability to ethically connect to other people. The researches on the callous and unemotional traits in Psychopathy show that these indicators are present during childhood and are mostly inherited in origin to the other. Thus, psychopathy does not just engross the personality and character of a person, but also his or her genes too.

The Sociological theories of juvenile delinquency identify the societal factors and social processes that consecutively affect human behavior. Likewise, sociology enlightens people's behavior using uniqueness ahead of the personality. Mostly, sociological theories emphasize that certain negative characteristics of neighborhoods and the society in general serve as structural encouragement for young people to resort to juvenile delinquency. In this approach, sociological theories tend to overlook or reject the individual-level psychological differentiation that might partly elucidate who engages in delinquency and the criminal activities.

One of the most important sociological theories is the Social Disorganization Theory, developed by Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay (1942) that recommends that juvenile delinquency was originated from the vicinity or the neighborhood in which a person lived. As an alternative to focusing on the individual traits, there is the impact of different kinds of places, such as locality that shaped the favorable conditions for delinquent acts. They revealed that delinquency rates decline further as the person moved from one place to another.

We have been noticing a number of reasons associated with the cause of the abrupt surge in juvenile delinquency for instance urbanization, expansion of cities due to industrialization, increasing populations and isolation is forcing new immigrants. These immigrants are not aware of the city's topography or traditions that come out with multi - lingual work experiences and they instantly feature new and overwhelming problems including poverty, lack of wealth and misunderstanding.

Additionally, social disorganization promotes cultural variance. In the less delinquent parts, there is a classical agreement among parents on which ethics and thoughts were the "correct" measures with emphasis on the consensus and the significance of education, products and practical leisure time and other child-rearing concerns. Local organizations, for instance, churches and neighborhood centers, reinforced these conformist ethics. There was no such consistency that prevailed in the high-delinquency areas. The norms of a variety of cultures exist side by side, creating a state of normative ambiguity, or cultural conflict. This condition is provoked by the existence of individuals, who encouraged an

unconventional lifestyle and defined behaviors such as robbery as an adequate way to attain wealth. This value system could add upon the support of criminal groups, rackets and semi-legitimate industries.

Lastly, delinquency is flourished by cultural conflicts in the adolescents that are raised in low-socioeconomic backgrounds, high-delinquency areas; open to both conforming and immoral value systems. They observe criminal activities and organizations in the process on an everyday basis. Successful criminals acknowledge their knowledge to younger residents who are also trained in the same manner as younger children do. Delinquency has become a belief in certain areas through the process of cultural communication, where immoral ethics are transferred from one generation to the other. In addition to it, if allowed to flourish, delinquency has now become a full-time career for some delinquents. Children originally experiment in insignificant forms of juvenile delinquency, but their actions become progressively more severe and prone to gang on delinquency.

In 1947, Edwin Sutherland developed a Differential Association Theory that is one of the well accepted and everlasting theories of juvenile delinquency. The theory consists of nine principles:

- First, delinquent activities are learned from the surroundings and not inherited by the adolescent. For the cause of delinquency, Biological and hereditary factors are completely rejected as explained by Sutherland. There are only sociological factors that explain why youth commit delinquent acts.

- Second, delinquent acts are learned being in contact with others, such as in peer groups by way of communicating through messages. This interaction or communication between and within the group can be either verbal or nonverbal.

- Third, learning happens in close groups such as tiny, face-to-face association that adolescents be taught to commit delinquent acts.

- Fourth, in little and close groups, the adolescents learn different techniques for committing crime, in addition to the suitable purpose, outlook and rationalizations. The training and learning procedure involves exposure not only in terms of techniques of committing offenses, but also to the attitudes or rationalizations that justify those acts.

- Fifth, the specific direction of intention and obligation is learned from an explanation of the legal code as being constructive or adverse.

- Sixth, a juvenile becomes delinquent because of the excessive definitions beneficial to the infringement of the law.

- Seventh, the inclination towards delinquency will be exaggerated by the frequency, extent, precedence and passion for training and learning experiences. The longer, more powerful and habitual adolescents are being exposed to attitudes about delinquency, the more likely they will be inclined towards performing the delinquent acts.

- Eight, for learning the delinquent behavior, there are the same mechanisms involved, but the substance that is to be learned is different; however, the process of learning any behavior is the identical.

- Ninth, while defining the criminal behavior and noncriminal behavior, they are expressions of the similar desires and ethics. In other words, the objective of delinquents and non delinquents are similar. The only difference is the resources they use to follow their goals.

There are a number of researches that support the general arguments related to Differential Association and what is mostly referred to as Social Learning Theory. If an adolescent has so many peers, it indicates that he is inclined towards delinquent acts. However, adolescents that are short of delinquent peer associations have a tendency not to get involved in juvenile delinquent acts. In contrast, adolescents with several delinquent peers involved in delinquent gangs, are considerably more likely to commit rank and antisocial offenses.

The major Sociological theory associated with juvenile delinquency is, Social Control Theory that can be traced to 17th-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes. He believed that human beings are physically aggressive, argumentative, shy creatures that are looking for fame that they would naturally utilize violence to master others, their wives and their children. For that reason, they're primarily "bad" personality along with the temperament was needed to strike terror into their hearts and penalize them rigorously when they broke the rule. Later, many criminologists extended Hobbes's ideas and created Social Control Theory. They understood that without the power and full control, children would break the law. From this perception, juvenile delinquency was expected behavior. Rather than looking for causes that drive children into delinquency, the idea of Social Control theory is to recognize the factors that prevent, protect or check adolescents from participating in delinquent acts in the first place. In Social Control Theory, it is most frequently found that children obey the rules laid by the nature most of the time and it is taken for granted that children break the rules quite often.

Decades of criminological research have constantly stated that adolescents, who are strongly attached to their parents are less probable to become delinquents. Additionally, their positive feelings encourage the feelings of acceptance of their parents' ethics and values. These children evade juvenile delinquency because such behavior would expose their parents' affection. Faith in the ethical legality has also been found to create or reduce the possibility that a juvenile will commit a crime. There is one principle that focuses on the conventional values. From this perception, there are no subcultures that view robbery and stabbing as suitable and permissible claims of cultural deviance theories associated with the intellect.

The emphasis of social bond is laid on the achievement, realization and goals. Social bond theory recommends that objective or motivation to achieve keeps juveniles on the "straight and narrow" path because they know that indulging in any kind of trouble will harm their chances of achievement. In other words, children have a stake in conformity. The more time and energy they invest in building an education, a career, or a reputation, the less likely they will risk their accomplishments by performing delinquent acts. Research has proved that the importance of dedication has been reported that adolescents who have more seriously devoted in conventional activities are less likely to be delinquent.

The involvement of delinquents in conventional activities is an approach in preventing juvenile delinquency, as demonstrated by the popular phrase "Idle brain is the devil's workshop." The concept that people should be involved in societal setup and kept busy, has encouraged social scientists, planners to portray for more and better platform to keep adolescents off the immoral and antisocial activities. If such facilities are accessible, the adolescents will get less time to get engaged in delinquent behavior. Unfortunately, the association does not have as much impact on stopping delinquency as other components of the bond to society. This is for the reason that delinquency is not a permanent job as it necessitates little time that anyone, no matter how much involved he is in conventional activities, can get time for juvenile delinquency if he or she wants to so.

As far as theories of juvenile delinquency is concerned, there are many other theories stemming from the set of scholarly disciplines from the fields of economics, psychology and sociology as the most evident punitive preliminary position for understanding the concept why young people commit criminal acts.

Juvenile Delinquency in India

The recent incidences of violent and aggressive behaviour are just a minute part of the entire amount of problems in juvenile delinquency which is enthralling the Indian adolescent population at such a shocking proportion. Anil Galgali's RTI activist's data that is based on social media provided by the Mumbai Police to The Times of India, Mumbai (Feb. 14, 2014) informs about the alarming 100 percent increase in juvenile rape cases from 2012-2013. As per IPC, the number of juvenile crimes went up from 35,465 in 2012 to 42,566 in 2014 but it still produced only 1.2 per cent of the general crime rate over the last three years. In 2014 saw 33,981 murders of which only 841 (2.5%) were committed by juveniles. Similarly, of the 36,735 rapes in the year, only 1,989 (5.4%) were committed by juveniles. While the occurrence of juvenile rape was 11 in 2012, it rose to a shocking rate at 28 reported cases during the first 10 months of 2013. There was also a 100 percent raise in the molestation cases and sexual aggravation boost from 1 to 10 during the similar period. However, most cases of reported juvenile crime were of causing harm, severe damage and robbery. There were an overall 15% rise in registered juvenile crimes during 2012 and the first 10 months of 2013experienced in Mumbai alone. In 2012, there were 700 recorded cases against adolescents, except during January – October 2013, it increased from 802. The Nirbhaya gang rape case of Delhi in 2012 not only brought the intensifying heinous crime against women, including rape and murder to the public interest most overpoweringly, but also shook nation's receptiveness against dreadful crime by pressuring the involvement of an adolescent in the crime. Reprehensibly, the teenager was not only a collaborator on the dreadful crime, but also the brutal executor too.

In 2011, the overall number of cognizable crimes was 2325575 out of which 25125 or 1.1 percent were juvenile crime as per India's National Crime Bureau (NCRB) data. The chief juvenile crimes recorded (under various Sections of Indian Penal Code, IPC) included theft (4930), hurt (3800), burglary (2271), riot (1081), rape (858) and murder (679) in 2010. The proportion of crime committed by the children (men and women under 18 years of age) may not be as overwhelming as compared to those dedicated by the adults. But additionally, other than the normal increase in the number of juvenile crimes, it's the nature of offense which is a subject matter of grave anxiety. In 2011, what is even more shocking is that trivial crimes viz. Robbery, physical harm and housebreaking increased by 7.9 percent, 7.8 percent and 14.9 percent, respectively; it was the chief crimes, namely rape, murder and riot which increased by an alarming 33.9, 30.8 and 24.6 percent respectively. The horrifying incidences of rape against which there's such a massive anger building up in India has seen an exponential rise in terms of juvenile participation. In 2001, 399 of the juvenile's involvement in the cases of rape have increased to 1149 in 2011 which is virtually three times in a decade.

The overall rise in the worldwide crime and failing law and order state in general, are giving rise to the negative emotions against juvenile delinquents. Different countries have different penalizing requirements for juvenile delinquents that range from life incarceration to a maximum of 36 months judgment in remand homes, even for committing the act of murder (as in Nirbhaya's case 2012). The Indian Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 ensures that the juvenile gets an extraordinary behavior from the ordinary adult criminal. The justice system of juveniles guarantees that the perpetrators of crime up to the age of 18 is not imprisoned but is subjected to recommendation/warning, psychotherapy, service done within the community, imbursement of a fine etc. The highest penalty will amount to being sent to remand

home for three years. India is the participant of the UN Convention on the Right of Child 1989 is under compulsion to U.N. Standard Minimum Rules for Administration of Juvenile Justice (1985) (as per "Beijing Rules") and the U.N. Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (1990) has to take care of juvenile criminals differently from those committed by the adults. The legitimate validation behind this is the belief that adolescents are neither mentally nor psychologically matured enough to take responsibility of the crime they have committed. Because, their nature and character is yet to be fully developed as a substitute of cruel penalty, including imprisonment, rehabilitation is a better option.

UNICEF in the three Caribbean nations like Barbados, Dominica and St. Lucia suggests in one of its reports on juvenile offending in the three Caribbean nations that: 'juvenile justice, not only enfold the conduct of the adolescents in conflict with the law but should also include the hard work needed to address the root cause of offending behaviour and implementation procedures to avoid such behaviour. Additionally, there should be an aspiration to assimilate these adolescents into the mainstream society and allow them to participate in a productive position.

Media and Teenage Delinquency: An Interdisciplinary Enquiry

This research paper identifies some widespread and some confined aspects such as 'peer pressure, acquisitiveness, lack of parental control, less job opportunities, substance or drug abuse and the nonexistence of (optimistic) role models' as among the main motives which have given rise to the involvement of the adolescents in the most serious offences committed so far. It throughout charges peer pressure as the source for drug-related offences besides insurgence and aggression. For the cases of robbery and burglary, it holds the increasing materialistic approach accounts for the gradual surge. The research paper also discusses about the accountability of various organizations from government to family, private organizations, NGOs, both audio and video media in combating this increasing problem among adolescents. It's in this framework the role of media has also been underlined since the report also anticipates media to play a harmonizing role by presenting information in sequential order, teaching and amusement without sensationalizing them and making them engage in recreation in a more meaningful position. It discusses about media articles making practical associations with all of the other organizations so that there could be better facilitation of outreach hard work between other corresponding agencies and the adolescents generously giving them an opportunity to be observed as both present and future positions in society.

Factors Contributing to Delinquency

Extensively, a congregation of psychosomatic and sociological theories has tried to explain delinquency from different perception. As we know that a human being is both a biological creature and a social creature: a biological creature because it creates a society and lives within it. The divergence between the biological plan and social determinism is perpetual. As it is obvious from the researchers that human behavior, uniformly normal and delinquent are accustomed by the psychological and societal features including various methods of compensation and punishment. These techniques help in social control as well as in the intonation of actions. Emotions may be a part of the soul, but their demonstration occur in the social area. As evident, those abnormal and criminal behaviors turn out to be a subject matter of sociological and psychological analysis and explanation at the similar instance. It will be very significant to know the delinquent behavior in the hypothetical frameworks as well.

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Anomie and Strain Theory

In 1930s, many social theorists aim to clarify delinquency in the context of Durkheim's theory of anomie, which referred to a disintegration of social customs or the division of a human being from the customary structure of ethical arrangement and further to a situation beneficial to the advanced rates of suicide. On the other hand, the theoretical interpretation didn't remain restricted to the deviant behaviour of suicide alone. It was highly developed by consecutive theorists namely: Robert Merton, Richard Cloward, Lloyd Ohlin, and Albert Cohen in a wider perspective. They presented a positivist/Objectivist perception of delinquent acts and believe delinquent behavior as recognizable experience. Theorist Akers in 2009 simplifies that Anomie is the type that collective malintergration, that takes place when there is a dissociation between cherished civilizing ends and lawful societal resources to those ends. Cloward & Ohlin in1960; Cohen (1955) et al. Give the impression that delinquency is an outcome of either social class or family differences. Merton (1938) gave a complex explanation by saying that the Strain theory as underlined inappropriateness between the objectives society sets and the techniques approved to accomplish the goals. Metron, further believed that those who want to accomplish societal objectives but do not have the means to accomplish are under nervous damage that leads to delinquency or criminal behavior. The sociological theories embrace delinquent behavior as a product of societal communication rather than genetics or character confusion. Thus, anxiety that to recognize this experience, time, place, audience, and the nature of the behavior needs to be considered.

Social Bond Theory

Social Control Theory explains about deterrence as the central idea, or the social control theory does not inquire why people commit criminal act rather trying to comprehend why people try to follow conventional to conservative norms. The social bonds which generate a social and emotional attachment of an individual with his family, friends, society, community and other groups and institutions. Strong interpersonal attachment and involvement with each other work as deterrent to several crimes. In addition, dedication of person to traditional belief and practices and institutions such as belief, trust, etc. often supports the faith in conformist principles, principles and work as machinery of social control. On the other hand, slow deterioration of most of these organizations of informal social control can also be measured as the powerful reason for the balanced increase in delinquent activities in current days. Consequently, the growing occurrences of criminal delinquency among the Indian adolescents can also be assessed in the context of the deteriorating institutions of social control and other features viz. Urbanization, modern lifestyle, contention for individual space and liberty.

Cultural Transmission and Differential Association

According to Differential Association theory, deviance and conformity arise out of similar processes such as socialization. Thus, a child grown up in the company of deviants or criminals is expected to accept similar behavior/ actions by internalizing their customs. The Differential Association Theory created by Edwin Sutherland reiterates that adolescents learn both deviance and conformity from the peer groups or within the group they intercommunicate with (Sutherland and Cressey, 1978). The majority of authoritative learning comes from the closer grouping from the same age group. The closeness and regularity of friendship are other determinants of actions, behaviuor, both excellent and terrible. The function of media in cultural communication is most reflected in the era of digital insurgency. When we talk about the most influencing peers, the media is the one such constituent whose is directly associated with teenagers learning.

Digital technology has made broadcast of varied and remote culturally so easy. Although, the perspective of media remains controversial about the kind of 'cultural transmission' it assists.

Conflict Theory

As per Marx, law and other social organizations are instruments of repression of the marginalized or the most vulnerable groups and this perception was implemented by the conflict theorists. They pointed out the communal indifference associated with the laws are innately prejudicial to the awareness of the marginalized. They also thought that laws are not controlled reasonably and frequently favour the authoritative over the underprivileged populations. The reason why there're more deviant people from the marginalized class finds an explanation in this theory. To a certain extent, it is applicable to the Nirbhaya case of (Delhi) and several other overdue cases wherein the adolescent or the juvenile – the main executor of the criminal offense, belonged to the similar social category. On the other hand, not all from among the underprivileged sections of the society get involved in the criminal activities. Committing crime also involves a psychological training and grounding. Therefore, the psychological understanding also necessitates serious contemplation.

Psychological Theories

If delinquency, considered as an unusual personality disorder directly related to human behaviour, its close involvement with intellect cannot be ruled out. The early psychological theories consider disturbances of individuality, short emotional proportion, and deficiency of repentance and intelligence as some of the reasons of antisocial behaviour. These theoretical considerations did not even regulate the function of biological factors in forming intelligence. Therefore, then Freud's personality component *id, ego, superego* becomes important in this framework. *Id* considered as intuitive is not governed by causes. *Ego* as a human personality, manages I*d* while *the superego* assists in making rational conclusions. The principles and ethics of a human being are said to be directed by the *ego* and *superego, which* stay behind but remains in contact with the surroundings. *Id* changes with time. Therefore, from the Freudian perspective of deviance, it is the conclusion of uncontainable *id*, malfunctioning *ego*, or an undeveloped *superego* or their arrangement. As a result, criminal act may be measured a result of disturbances in character. The psychoanalytic technique suggested by Freud which talks about *introspection* and *retrospection* to discover the intellect remains an appropriate technique till the time. Alexander & Healy (1935) write that unlawful inclination cannot be understood by determining certain incriminating object, neither by numerical process, nor by creating presumptions from the consequences of individual techniques. They highlight the thoughtfulness of psychological procedure that work on the backdrop of human intellect.

From the Freudian theory created in mid-20th century, a paradigmatic shift was observed and the new theorists emerged looking at criminal behaviour as a learned and achieve behavior and that too in close proximity with the their peers. The new behaviour theorist Skinner recommended an exit from the Freudian introspection and retrospection technique to a more experienced one based on surveillance and behaviour measurement. Behaviorist Skinner observed social behaviour of a human being as a cluster of scholarly answers to unambiguous stimulus. He believed delinquent behaviours as assortment of human/ societal behaviour, attained in the identical manner as other social behaviours are. The Operant Conditioning by Skinner talks about a certain type of learning in which future behaviour is determined by the consequences of past behavior that offers a new approach to understand delinquent behaviour.

THE BIOLOGICAL THEORY

Born Criminal

The biological theory by Cesare Lombroso (1835-1090) of delinquency was originally based on the statement that criminality is inherited or has a genetic connection. He stated that the 'born criminal' theory is based on the belief that the criminals are throwback of primitive beings. There is a kind of imprint of Darwinian evolutionary theory (from lesser to higher creature) in Lombroso's assumption. Besides, phrenology (study of skull shape) and physiognomy (study of facial features) also figured prominently in his theory which tried to relate the acts and traits of delinquency to physical features. Nevertheless, the role of social factors later figured in his assumptions. His findings were based on more scientific and experiential basis of deviant behavior which even today is not entirely ruled out.

Unrestrained Media and Juvenile Delinquency

The increased loosening control over media content in the name of creative freedom, on the one hand, liberal media policy and the 24x7 format of dissemination have changed the socio-cultural landscape considerably. The unrestrained media content along with the absence of self-regulation having heavy doses of crime, violent behavior and sexual relationship are easily accessible to all including the adolescents. They are considered one of the major influences of delinquent behavior. Anderson et al. (2003) observe that: "extensive longitudinal studies provide substantiate linking frequent contact to violent media content in childhood with aggression afterwards in life, as well as physical attack and spouse abuse."Besides, they also propose that since tremendously aggressive, violent and criminal behaviours such as rape, aggravated assault and homicide are sporadic, there is a need to carry out fresh longitudinal studies with larger samples so that habitual childhood exposure to violent media content and its impact on their behaviour could be accurately estimated. The whole debate whether or not unrestrained and explicit media content is responsible for delinquent behaviour is fraught with contradictory arguments and findings. The social science and behavioural science present different perspectives of the same phenomenon as they try to look at it from different angles. For example, some studies concentrate on the impact of media violence on aggressive thinking. This includes besides other things the beliefs and attitudes considered responsible for aggressive behaviour. Besides, studies are also conducted to ascertain how media violence influences aggressive emotions visible in thought and emotions. However, delinquent behaviour – violent and of other kind are rarely influenced by a single factor. There're multiple socio-economic and psychological factors which often converge and contribute to such behavior. So the mass media defenders are disinclined to accept and own up the entire responsibility. To substantiate several arguments are put forth such as a teenager arguing that despite remaining obsessed with violent video games for years he has never killed anyone. On the other hand, in spite of being extremely true the dispute sounds like a middle aged person in conflict has not developed a major disease due to his drinking habit for years together. The two examples do not rule out the probable threat that both carry due to their exposure to risky behaviour.

Cyber Media and Delinquency

A major portion of media content today is generated by cyber media. A large variety of sexually explicit content is available online depicts from hidden camera, MMS to brutal acts of sex, incest video, pedophilia and so on. The increasing reach of internet in developing nations, including India, is making access to sexually explicit content much easier. McKinsey (2012) report on the Internet's Impact on India estimates India's internet user base to be 120 million, which is the third largest in the world. By 2015, it's going to be the second largest internet user nation with 370 million users. The downward trend in the cost of internet access and mobile devices is the prime factors behind the boom.

The report states "In a progression model unique to India, Internet users access it only through a mobile or tablet device that constitutes around 75 percent of new users and 55 percent of the aggregate user base in 2015."It means more and more teenage users will have easy access to high speed internet and websites including those having sexually explicit content. The harmful impact of web content has been engaging thinking minds world over often leading to regulation versus self-regulation debate. The easy access and wider reach of the internet makes an ideal situation for inappropriate exposure, especially to the young and teenage population. Pornography alone is a huge industry under cyber-media which is estimated to be an over $100 billion industry. The revenue generated are in excess of the total revenue earned by the top technology companies combined: Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple, Netflix and EarthLink2. According to Pendyala and Sinha (2010) there are 42 million pornographic websites which are 12% of the total websites. There are 420 million pornographic pages on the Internet out of which 89% have originated in the US. Besides, the daily pornographic search engine requests are 68 million, which constitutes 25% of search engine requests. And most interestingly 42.7% Internet users view pornography. Of course, a large chunk of this comprises of the teenagers. The fantasy the virtual world of cyber media creates can suck the audience into a kind of surrogate reality. Sharp and Earle (2003) observe that:

'The internet makes possible the existence of 'virtual communities' of deviants; cyber world characterized by sub- or countercultures, in which discreditable practices are accepted as the norm and are entirely without stigma, and in which one may participate without threat to one's 'normal identity'.

The question is not whether such explicit contents of sex and violence influence minds, and particularly, the impressionable minds. Because unless they influence why people watch such content? The real question is such exposures through media responsible for juvenile criminal behavior? If yes, to what extent? Media being the link between the content and the audience remains largely value neutral when it comes to communication. Besides, it's also argued that apart from sex and violence, media generates far more informative, entertaining and socially meaningful content too. Therefore, it's not to be entirely blamed for all the occurrences of crime. There's a genuine fear that regular dose or overdose of the images of violence, crime and sex at an inappropriate age enhance the risk of turning fantasy into reality. The empirical research by Seto et al. (2001) and Carter et al. (1987) to ascertain the impact of adult pornographic material have given contradictory results. Seto's result tends to discounts it while Carter's study confirms that in a particular case exposure of pornographic content had clearly influenced two groups of criminals –convicted rapists and child molesters. Of the two, the child molesters had exposed themselves to such content before and during committing the offense.

CONCLUSIONS

The Stan Cohen's seminal work of the 1970s, Folk Devils and Moral Panics, is considered to have initiated the debate "whether the mass media distort reality and create unjust stereotypes, whether the mass media engender moral panics and whether the pernicious overlap between 'real' crime and fictional crime affects viewers" (Soothill 1998). There's no doubt that depiction of all sorts of crime is often overrated and exaggerated. But, we do not have a reliable data to establish what extent and nature of aggression, offense or explicit content may cause the criminal or delinquent behavior. Theories of criminology are enormously framed in sociological perspective and rightly so. However, they subsume assumptions of human desires, developmental vulnerabilities, and social interpretations. However, Monhan and Splane (1980) argue that "sociological concepts and theories rest on models of human psychology, models that are often implicit and unexamined and sometimes obsolete." Crime and deviance may be a socially constructed category, but an effective inquiry may require intervention of psychological science as well, which essentially seeks to discover the devices

and processes which produce behavior so that they me explained as such generalized abstraction which may apply to everyone. Therefore, to study the media impact on delinquent behavior while it's important to understand the present state of the value systems, cultural tolerance and acceptability towards such exposures and depictions in the media; it's also important to observe how they influence behavior and induce the psychological impulse, which manifests in conflict with the established norms of social behavior. Media often has to face criticism, wrath and even sanctions in many places due to its apparent value neutrality. It'll be difficult to empirically prove to what extent its unrestrained and explicit contents of crime, sex and violence are responsible for delinquent behavior unless the inquiry is made through an interdisciplinary approach in which this sociological phenomena is analyzed from the psychological perspective. It may help shape the media policy in different nations including India.

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