

Influence of Family Factors on Juvenile Delinquency and Delinquency Inquency

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Abstract

This paper analyzes the definition of juvenile delinquency, the changes in modern family structure, and the influence of family environment on juvenile delinquency and healthy family. Juvenile delinquency is defined as criminal acts committed by juveniles who have reached the age of 14 and under 25, including children and young adults. It is proposed that the changes in the modern family structure include: family size miniaturization, family structure nuclearization, family algebra reduction, family structure diversification, and so on. On this basis, the author analyzes explicitly how family factors such as family breakdown, socialization, parenting style, and the father's role affect the development of adolescents, that is, illegal and criminal activities. Finally, it expounds on how to create a healthy and healthy family.

Keywords

Juvenile delinquency, Criminal activities, The father's role affect.

1. Introduction

Recently, I have been exposed to many cases of burglary by teenagers due to work. I also had the honor to chat with one of the teenagers involved in the crime. He talked about his experience:

When I was very young, my parents had to go out to work, so only my grandfather cared for my elder brother and me. When I was nine years old, I was involved in theft for the first time in my life... I was hanging out with my brother and his pig and dog friends all day...the people kept discussing how to steal something. Once, my brother found a "good place" where it was easy to get money... My brother has been in that place for a long time, and he has already figured out the way to get in and the location of the cash register.....We all went to the back door at that time, and my brother took some tools to open the window next to the back door, but the window was too small; they couldn't get in, so I had to crawl through it, and I was so scared that I was shaking ...then I climbed in and opened the bigger window inside so my brother and the others could come in...After that night, I felt like a "grown-up." After that, I Participated in their stealing activities...The police caught me, but I was released because I was too young...They call me "Batman" now.....

This reminds me of many reports in the past. I found many cases through news websites: On February 19, 2013, a 17-year-old boy Li Tianyi and three other people in a bar in Haidian District, Beijing, took the victim to a hotel gang rape inside. The following month, Li Tianyi and others were arrested according to the law on suspicion of gang rape. His father is reported as the famous tenor singer Li Shuangjiang, and his mother is a national first-class actor Menge. The family is old enough to have children, and they dote on Li Tianyi very much. Among the other three juvenile offenders, two cousins of Wei Moumou, from a wealthy family, were spoiled and spoiled since childhood.

On December 16, 2017, Chang Xiaofeng, a 15-year-old boy from Changzhou City, Jiangsu Province, raped a 7-year-old girl in the community and pushed her down from the 25th floor, causing her tragic death. Afterward, Chang Xiaofeng showed no remorse and went to the supermarket to buy snacks as usual. According to his confession later: he had a puppy love behavior, and his father never avoided it. At the same time, he often watched adult videos with Chang Xiaofeng on his mobile phone. Even more surprising is that when Chang Xiaofeng's father was asked about compensation by the court, his father believed that the child had nothing to do with him.

With the crimes committed by so many young people, one wonders: Why did those teenagers commit such horrific crimes? In addition, there is one outstanding feature of the cases mentioned above, which is the family environment of the group of young people. Therefore, let's talk today, what exactly is juvenile delinquency? What changes have occurred in modern families in our country? What impact do family environment factors have on juvenile delinquency? Finally, what kind of family will be talked about is healthy for teenagers?

2. What is Juvenile Delinquency Section Headings

We may be confused: what exactly is juvenile delinquency? What is the difference between it and juvenile delinquency?

In academia, there are two concepts, broad sense and narrow sense, about juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency, in a limited sense, refers to the behaviors committed by young people aged 14 – 25 that violate the criminal law and should be punished. Juvenile delinquency broadly refers to illegal acts committed by young people aged 10-25, not just violations of criminal law but also violations of public security management punishment rules and moral norms. In my country's judicial statistics, juvenile delinquency includes the delinquency of minors aged 14-18 and the delinquency of young people aged 18-25. After the above analysis, the author adopts this point of view; juvenile delinquency refers to criminal acts committed by juveniles who have reached the age of 14 and under the age of 25, including children and young adults.

It is inevitable to touch on family issues when it comes to teenagers. Of course, the family does not live in a vacuum, and it does not socialize and educate children in a vacuum. On the contrary, the family reflects and is connected with economic, political, educational, and religious aspects. To adapt to the social and cultural environment of trustworthiness, the social function of the family will change, and its structure and activities will also change accordingly, which will inevitably impact adolescents' socialization. Therefore, before understanding the influence of modern family factors on juvenile delinquency, we must know how the contemporary family structure has changed.

3. Changes in Modern Family Structure

After reviewing many documents, the author borrows Zhang Xuemin' s viewpoints from "Research on the Impact of Changes in Contemporary Chinese Family Structure on the Socialization of Adolescents" to highlight the characteristics of changes in Chinese family structure, which are mainly manifested in the following aspects:

a. Family-size miniaturization

For a long time, to meet their survival needs and under the influence of Confucian ethics, Chinese families have always advocated a large family with many children and grandchildren. Before the 1950s, the average size of a Chinese household was maintained at 5.3 people (data from the National Family Planning Commission). However, after the founding of New China, especially since the country implemented the family planning policy in the 1980s, the size of

Chinese households has been shrinking daily. According to the recent "Chinese Family Development Report" issued by the National Family Planning Commission, two-person and three-person families have become the main types of contemporary Chinese families. Among all households, the proportion of small households with 1-3 members in the total number of homes increased, while the ratios of medium-sized households with 4-6 members and large families with more than seven persons decreased.

b. Nucleation of family structure

According to the classification and statistics of family structure by Mr. Wang Yuesheng of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 2013, based on the 1982-2010 census data, the family structure can be divided into nuclear families (composed of two couples or couples (or one couple) family with unmarried children), immediate family (a couple (or parents, one parent) and a married child and grandchildren), compound family (a couple (or parents, one parent) and two or more married families with children), one-person households, disabled families (families with unmarried siblings) and others.

While our country's family size is becoming smaller, the family structure is also dominated by nuclear families. The survey shows that the proportion of nuclear families in all family structure types has declined from 1990 to 2014, but atomic families still account for one-third of all families. Second, only about 20

c. Family algebra reduction

The intergenerational family structure in my country has changed from mainly second-generation households and above-three-generation households to mainly second-generation and first-generation homes, and the number of family generations has decreased. Research shows that from 1930 to 2015, the proportion of households with more than three generations in my country has been downward. Although the second-generation families fluctuated wildly, the balance changed little, accounting for more than half of all households; Although it showed a downward direction to 24.5 percent in 2015, it was still higher than the proportion of households with three generations and above.

d. Diversified family structure

Although the family structure in our country is now dominated by nuclear families, with the development of society, the changes of the times and the changes in people's views on marriage and family, the types of family structures are showing a trend of diversification:

- (1) The proportion of single-parent families in all families is gradually increasing;
- (2) The proportion of remarried families continues to rise;
- (3) The proportion of migrant families and left-behind families in all families is constantly increasing;

Urbanization, population mobility, and the transfer of rural surplus labor have hugely impacted family structure. In the place of outflow, many left-behind families are formed by left-behind children, women, and older adults; in the area of inflow, many floating families are formed by migrant parents and children. The "China Family Development Report 2015" shows that floating and left-behind families have become the regular family pattern in my country. The proportion of floating families in all families is close to 20 percent.

- (4) The proportion of intergenerational families has increased

A skipping-generation family is a family consisting of grandparents and grandchildren. "China's adult mortality rate is low, and the chances of parents of unmarried children dying before their grandparents are minimal. Therefore, the main reason for generation-separated families is that parents go out to work. The proportion varies with the floating population (especially those with children) increase in number."

The changes mentioned above in family structure have a non-negligible impact on the socialization of adolescents. The adverse effects include: The core of the family structure can quickly form the tendency of adolescents to be self-centered; The small family size can easily cause obstacles to the social interaction ability of adolescents,

The reduction of family algebra can easily lead to the singleness of adolescents' social role learning, Improper family structure can easily lead to the lack of family socialization educators for adolescents, etc. These are closely related to young people embarking on illegal and criminal activities. So what is the direct impact of the family on juvenile delinquency?

4. Influence of Family Environment

On April 13, 2012, a 12-year-old boy in Hengyang City, Hunan Province, because he resisted his aunt's discipline, killed his cousin who was returning home from school. . It is reported that the criminal, Xiao, was a boarding student in the first grade of a middle school in Hengyang County. Nine years ago, he boarded at his aunt's house because of his parent's divorce, but he usually resisted his aunt's strict discipline.

Juvenile delinquency results from the interaction of various influencing factors, and family is one of the most critical factors. The family is the first social environment an individual faces and the starting point of socialization. It helps individuals form their initial self-awareness, and under the influence and teaching of their parents, they form their initial world outlook, outlook on life, and values. Good qualities are gradually learned through real life and experience, and this kind of practice, first and foremost, comes from the family. In the process of growing up, teenagers feel the sincere and wholehearted love of their parents. Surrounded by this warm love, they grow and respond to their parents' love. Adolescents develop healthy personalities and learn to give back to others as they grow up. In short, a good family can form a teenager's pleasing personality and character, reducing the chance of teenagers committing crimes. Based on the relevant literature, the author analyzes explicitly how family factors affect juvenile delinquency:

a. Family breakdown

Family breakdown, also known as family structure defect, refers to the destruction of the original natural family structure, such as divorce, the death of both parents or single death, step-relative families, and broken families, such as families with only grandparents and grandchildren.

Early studies based on official U.S. data showed that juvenile offenders were more likely to come from families with divorced or separated parents; in the 1970s, self-reported data showed that juvenile delinquency was more common in single-parent families (Eaton Polk, 1961; Glueck Glueck, 1950; Monahan, 1957; Rodman Grams, 1967).

In my country, in 2009, Haidian court statistics showed that 26.4 percent of juvenile offenders came from singleparent families, 6.3 percent came from step-parent families, and 25.2 percent came from families with unstable marriages, adding up to 57.9 percent.

While the above might suggest a strong relationship between family breakdown and delinquency, recent research shows that children from single-parent families far from conflicts are less likely to commit crimes than children from "integrated" families with constant battles (Flynn, 1983, p. 13). And if the single-parent family is a risk factor, it is also likely to be affected by other related factors. Hence, the author thinks that instead of focusing on the "structure" of the family, it is better to focus on the "interaction process" of family influence. In other words, while family composition needs to be considered, a stable, safe, and supportive home environment is a significant factor in preventing juvenile delinquency.

b. Socialization

Socialization is a process in which an individual learns and masters knowledge, skills, language, norms, values, and other social behavior patterns and personality characteristics in a specific social and cultural environment, adapts to society, actively plays a role in society, and creates a new culture. It is the result of the interaction between people and society. Through socialization, individuals learn society's standards, norms, values, and expected behaviors. The analysis of the socialization process of children within the family can help to understand the reasons why juvenile delinquency occurs. Factors related to children's socialization include parents' words and deeds, the degree and frequency of communication between parents and children, and how parents discipline children and their consistency. These factors affect children's self-control, respect for authority, responses to stressful events, responsibility, and awareness of the consequences of their actions.

Scholar Hirschi pointed out that dependence on parents is the core factor of discipline. "If the relationship between the child and the parents is alienated, then the child will not be able to learn a moral code, will not feel a moral code, and will not develop a full consciousness or superego." Another Hirschi study found that strong attachment to parents will hinder the occurrence of juvenile delinquency. From this, we can once again see the importance of the "interaction process" in the parent-child relationship. To keep teenagers from committing crimes, love is needed to nourish them.

c. Parenting style

Parenting Style refers to the relatively stable behavior tendency with fixed patterns and styles shown by parents under the guidance of their own educational concepts while raising children. Numerous studies have shown that parenting style plays a critical role in the development of adolescents. Based on the relevant literature, I analyzed the aspects of doting, corporal punishment, emotional injury, neglect, and severity of discipline:

(1) doting

The so-called spoiling means excessive pampering and responding to children's reasonable or unreasonable demands. At present, most of them are single-child families. Many parents and grandparents may spoil their children unprincipled. Another situation is that the father or mother of a single-parent family will also hurt their children to make up for the lack of one parent. Studies have shown that doting parents often give their children too much recognition and freedom and interfere too much with everything about their children, which can easily make the child feel controlled, which is not conducive to his independent development. This is related to children's internal psychological distress, such as anxiety and depression, and external problem behaviors, such as crime and addiction. In addition, there is a high correlation between the doting parenting style and the occurrence of children's aggressive behavior (Xu. et al., 2009).

For example, the rape case of Li Tianyi. According to reports, in 2011, 15-year-old Li Tianyi drove without a license and injured the owner of a residential area in Beijing for no reason; in February 2013, he was detained on suspicion of gang rape and was formally arrested in March. His father, Li Shuangjiang, also admitted in a talk show that he dotes on his children and does not criticize and educate them even if they make mistakes. From this point of view, this doting education method is an essential factor leading to juvenile delinquency and crime.

(2) corporal punishment

Studies have shown that children exposed to domestic violence who received physical punishment are more likely to commit violent acts. When children experience frustration and disappointment, they imitate this behavior. Straus (1991) believes that although severe corporal punishment can regulate children's behavior in the short term, it increases the possibility of children committing violent and criminal behaviors in the long run. Eron, L.D., and

colleagues showed that this violence and aggressive behavior pattern persists for at least three generations in aggressive families.

However, corporal punishment differs in three ways: the frequency of corporal punishment, the severity of corporal punishment, and the duration of the corporal sentence. Corporal punishment does not necessarily lead to illegal and criminal behavior in children. Scholar Straus believes that "the vast majority of children who have been beaten have not become juvenile delinquents. Perhaps for most children, mild punishment may be beneficial and harmless." Behaviors have different effects.

(3) Emotional hurt and neglect

Emotional harm includes frequent yelling at the child, calling the child insulting nicknames, excessive criticism, or constant neglect of the child. Negligence usually refers to a lack of proper supervision and physical care.

S.E. Brown (1984) pointed out that emotional harm and neglect have a more significant impact on delinquency than corporal punishment. In her research on child prostitution, Bracey found that family relationships full of emotional damage, lack of family love, or a lack of close relationships with the family were all strongly intrinsically linked to female prostitution. Most of the girls in prostitution come from broken or reorganized families, and some girls grow up in a family environment full of emotional conflicts, and their parents never take them seriously. It can be seen from these that the warmth between parents and children is so essential, citing Dishion's point of view: If parents' a lot of attention, emotional investment, and positive behavior management are integrated, it will cultivate social adaptation, mental health, and resistance to anti-social influences child.

(4) Severity of discipline

Studies have shown that the degree of parental discipline is related to juvenile delinquency. Wells and Rankin's research suggests that setting codes of conduct, monitoring young people's activities, and punishing them for inappropriate behavior are all measures of direct control over adolescent behavior. And this direct control is closely related to juvenile delinquency. However, they found in their research that too strong or too weak parental control can also lead to a higher frequency of illegal and criminal behaviors.

On December 1, 2017, Yuan Mou, a 13-year-old boy in Dazhu County, Sichuan Province, killed him with a knife because he resented his mother, Chen Mou, for being too strict in his discipline. It is reported that Yuan is a left-behind child. Since childhood, he has helped his grandparents carry water, feed chickens, and sometimes do farm work. He is very sensible. Although their academic performance is average, he has been awarded "excellent class cadres." Because of the parents' simple and rude education methods, criminals are often beaten and scolded by their parents, which eventually leads to tragedies.

The above cases also show that strict parental discipline has inferior control over children's behavior and even backfires.

d. The role of the father

I especially like to emphasize the role of the father. Domestically, the influence of the mother is more important. In film, television, or written media, "the deep love between mother and child" is often used as drama, but the father's role is not prominent. I want to quote the criminologist Davids to illustrate my point: "He believed that the close relationship between the father and the child is conducive to preventing juvenile delinquency. Better identify with his roles and values, and these roles and values are not only stable but also long-awaited by children." From this, it can be seen that fathers are essential to the development of adolescents. But the reader will have a question: how to make the father play a more effective role? Davids believes that fathers need to be clear about two points: first, fathers should better understand the social environment faced by modern urban teenagers; these environments include the middle school

environment, T.V. media, and peer groups. And how these influencing factors affect adolescents' self-identity and attitudes. Second, fathers need to be more aware of how the parent-child relationship develops, especially in later childhood and adolescence. The above two points suggest that as a father, you need to learn some basic knowledge of child and adolescent psychology. After understanding the role of family factors on juvenile delinquency and delinquency, a healthy and sound family environment plays an essential role in children's growth, so what is considered a healthy family?

5. Healthy Family

A healthy family is a well-functioning family. Foreign family therapist Jacqueline Cook once described some characteristics of a healthy family:

In a healthy family, the parents or authority figure must raise the child and provide a warm emotional environment for the child... Research on New Families shows that if there is mutual support and love between the parents, it can have a beneficial effect on the children . . . the needs of the parents are to be met as well as those of the children.

Healthy families have good communication...this lays the foundation for family success in all other areas...Parents take the lead and can set some ground rules...Parents should strive to provide authoritative but not authoritarian Discipline and leadership... A healthy family shares weal and woe.

Healthy families will have warm family time together. During this time, the atmosphere they create can promote the establishment of family friendship, the smooth progress of mutual communication, and even the proper resolution of some family problems.

In a healthy family, there is still time for playing and joking with each other.

Previously, the family was only concerned with the material aspects of its members. Now, they also need to provide emotional and social support.

Indeed, we can refer to it and build a happy family together. At the same time, we should mobilize all sectors of society, break away from traditional concepts, actively improve parents' quality, and strengthen the involvement of women's federations, medical care, lawyers, police, and other related organizations. Do your best to save those teenagers in a bad family environment.

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