

## **Bibliography details**

**Name of the Serial/Publication:** Veritas

**Volume No.:** 1

**Issue No.:** 1

**Month & Year of publication:** August 2021

**Page numbers:** Feature Articles (80-82)

**Title of Article:** Child Crimes

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# CHILD CRIMES

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## Abstract:

Infancy is regarded as one of the most crucial and significant stages in the development of a human. When a child lacks adequate attention and physical touch during this time they tend to suffer personality disorders in the future. We have come across different cases where a child below the age of 12-14 engages in criminal activities. In India, every year there are about 42,000 cases registered of children below the age of 18 for killing, raping and theft. About 613 crimes are booked under kids below the age of 12. Due to the emerging involvement of juveniles in crime, lawmakers are compelled to come forward with new and stricter laws for the juvenile system in the country. There have been many theories over the past years about how a person becomes a serial killer, and how having an unstable childhood affects a person. From Amarjeet Sada to Mary Bell, we have heard the stories of the depth of criminal behaviour in children. Apart from the socio-economic factors which affect the growth of kids which turn them into criminals at an early age, there is also some trauma that they face due to isolation and relationships.

## Introduction:

Child crimes are one of the crimes that are little addressed and are those which should be taken seriously to build a healthy society. India stands as one of the top countries which report child crime cases daily. We come across the news of different child criminals under theft, assault and rape cases. In the 2012 Delhi gang-rape case, the main accused was a juvenile. The other accused in the case got the death penalty but the minor was sent to remand home under the juvenile justice act. Similarly in the Shakthi mill case, the accused were four adults and a juvenile. Is the mental instability of juveniles caused by trauma, the reason that the juvenile justice act is not rightly implemented?



Childhood to adolescence is a beautiful period in a human's life where one undergoes most of their biological, emotional and psychological growth. When a child grows up in an abusive and violent environment they tend to show some traits of it. It is a common action that parents scold kids when they make mistakes. But scolding them for every wrong they do and showcasing abusive behaviour and rude attitude around them to make them behave good in society doesn't make any sense. Some children experience some isolation when they lack parental care and love.

A child when he/she is not given enough affection tries to seek new ways where they get happiness and satisfaction. For most child crime cases in India, psychologists say, "children find some pleasure when they do such crimes." Some get along with peer groups where they are provided with drugs and alcohol and they come out as bullies when they begin their own 'secret aggressive fantasies'. In other cases, they might be victims of sexual abuse. Studies reveal that 42% of convicted serial killers suffered from physical abuse as children and 74% suffered from psychological abuse. They consider themselves as the victims of the trauma they faced and make their mindset to let others suffer the way they had. Some develop psychopathic behaviour from the abuse they've gone through in their childhood. We might have seen some children addicted to crime movies and they try to act like the characters in it and behave abnormally. In 2012, the rate of juvenile crimes increased by over 28,000 which included cases like rape and murder.

### **Juvenile delinquency:**

The word JUVENILE comes from the Latin word "Juvenis" meaning young. Juvenile delinquents are minors between the age group of 10-18, who commit an act that violates the law. Crimes committed by juveniles are called 'delinquent acts' and not "crime" as they are not adults.

According to the Juvenile Justice Act of 1986, the maximum age of a juvenile delinquent is 16 years for boys and 18 years for girls. But the nature of offence has remained unchanged. In today's world, juvenile delinquency is treated as a disease in our society. It has turned out to be a serious problem. Juveniles who commit the crime will be taken to juvenile courts for their

case to be heard. Juvenile courts are a type of civil court with rules different from that of an adult criminal court. This is based on the legal principle DOLI INCAPAX; which means a child does not have the capacity to form a criminal mindset. A juvenile case is opened when a prosecutor files a civil petition, in which a juvenile is charged for violating the law. After a juvenile is convicted for a crime he/she will be taken to observation homes/detention centres that run under the government where they are provided with education and other activities

### **How can we prevent juvenile delinquents?**

Preventing it at an early stage is the best as it all starts from the family relationship. Family is the primary institution of socialization and it plays a very great role in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Children view their parents as role models. They learn from them and notice every single behaviour their parents possess in their public and private life.

1. Parents must be trained about family management and how the kids grow around and absorb the surroundings. They have to create a positive and friendly atmosphere for the children so that they are free to speak with their parents about their frustrations and problems.
2. The children must be provided with education programs, youth development and activities and given responsibility in dealing with juvenile delinquency.
3. Childcare, social and medical services should be provided to the socially disadvantaged families. Preventing juvenile delinquency not only helps the youth of the country but also the emerging criminal careers in the future.

### **References:**

- <http://www.secureteen.com/juvenile-delinquency/why-do-teens-commit-juvenile-crimes/>