

ECONOMIC PROFILING OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN LEGAL CONFLICTS

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ABSTRACT

Child in Conflict with Law is an enormous problem in India by which most of the youth spoil their lives. Because of children crime and related problems youth, their families, and the entire society suffer multiple problems and consequences. Not only does the problem affect the victims of the crime; it also affects the Child in Conflict with Law or children's family, their future, and society as a whole. The most obvious people affected by Child in Conflict with Law are the victims. There are various factors leading to Child in Conflict with Law in India. Psychological, social, political, and economic factors are the major factors leading to the consequences of Child in Conflict with Law in North Karnataka, India and the various countries in the world. In this paper, researchers have to discuss the main perspectives of the economic factors and their impact on Child in Conflict with Law in North Karnataka. Furthermore, researchers' going to discuss the determining economic factors leading to Child in Conflict with Law, various theories supporting economic factors,

Key Words: Children in Conflict with Law, Economic Conditions

INTRODUCTION

A child of today cannot develop to be a responsible and productive member of tomorrow 's unless an environment which is conducive to his social and physical health is assured to him. A humanist approach towards children is embedded in Indian culture.

In a developing country like India the problem of juvenile neglect and delinquency is considerably low but gradually increasing at good rate. Considering the magnitude of the problem and issues involved, analysis indicates that the number of factors for neglect and delinquency are mostly common and interrelated, based on socio-economic or The economic factors are the financial income of the father, mother or both and psychological reasons.

According to Articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), children in conflict with the law have the right to treatment that promotes their sense of dignity and worth, takes into account their age, and aims at their reintegration into society. Also, placing children in conflict with the law in a closed facility should be a measure of last resort, to be avoided whenever possible. The convention prohibits the imposition of the death penalty and sentences of life imprisonment for offenses committed by persons under the age of 18.

Conceptualization

Child: means a person who has not completed eighteen years of age.

Child in Conflict with Law: This means a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offense and who has not completed eighteen years of age on the date of commission of such offense.

Who is a Juvenile?

According to International Law, a 'Child' means every human being below the age of 18 years. Today this is a universally accepted definition of a child which comes from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Under the Indian Laws,

Section 2 (k) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 defines "juvenile" or "Child" as a person who has not completed eighteenth year of age.

Economical Contributing Factors

Poverty, broken homes, family tension, emotional abuse, rural urban migration, breakdown of social values, atrocities and abuse by parents or guardian, faulty education and such other conditions explain the phenomena of juvenile delinquency. The neglect of child by their parents, family, society create detrimental effect on their physical, mental growth and over all development.

Economic Determinism:

1. **Carl Marx** (1818-1883) stated that early exponents located crime in the conflicts of behavioral norms and saw crime as being rooted in poverty, misery and depravity.
2. **Aristotle**, the Greek Philosopher stated that poverty endangers revolution and crimes originate from poverty.
3. **Donald Taft** stated that crime is a mere phenomenon of prosperity rather than adversity
4. **Beccaria and Bentham** stated that crime rate rises when poverty increases in times of economic depression.

Theories of Economic Crimes:

A) Marxist Theory: Crimes emerge solely out of capitalist domination of society. Unfair division of labor and capital would eventually lead to a conflict between rich and poor. Communism would replace capitalism. The poorer sections of society remain oppressed through the coercion of the legal system and their discontentment generates crimes as stated by Richard Quinney who supported the Marxist ideology.

B) W.A. Bongers's Economic Theory: In his doctoral thesis, *Criminality and Economic conditions*, he established the relationship between poverty and delinquency. Influence of economic conditions on delinquency are due to the capitalistic economy which breeds disparity and unequal distribution of wealth.

Economic cycles of inflation and deflation are frequent by which inflation results in bankruptcy and insolvency which in turn makes the affected persons lead an anti-social life and leads to criminality. The employment of children and women furnish soothing ground for criminality despite effective legislative restrictions banning their improper utilization in industrial establishments.

C) Robert K. Merton Theory: In social strain theory, he stated that mismatch between cultural prescribed means and socially prescriptive goals lead to deviant behavior. The children who are in facilitated family background and economic background are in conformity with the society and no criminality is found in them.

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the economic conditions of children in conflict with law

Hypothesis

1. The economic conditions of children in conflict with law are very poor

Review of Literature

Asha Rani, (2017), has stated that, child criminals are increasing in India due to various reasons. Through the study author has focused on the concept of Children in conflict with laws, and various other causes of Children in conflict with law in India. through the study author has also pointed out that, problems in family, social environment, mental torcher, poor economic conditions, poor academic performance, etc. are some the factor which caused for Children in conflict with law.

A. Gupta, S. Biddala and M. Dwivedi, (2015), have assessed the sociodemographic causes and characteristics and aggression quotient of children in conflict with the law staying in observation homes situated in all over India. Through the study author have observed that, the selected Children in conflict with laws are belonged to the very poor socio-economic conditions, bad family background etc.

B. R. Sharma, (2009), has pointed out that, incidents in childhood and experiences are important in the development of crime. According to the author, it does not mean criminals expose their crime mind set early in life causes of child crime required to understand from sociological theories of Children in conflict with law. Author has also pointed that the many individual factors are cause for Children in conflict with law.

Haveripeth (2013) describes that causes of juvenile delinquency are broken homes, lack of love, lack of parental affection, gang subculture, poverty, negative influence of movie and media, urbanization, adolescent instability, lack of recreation, negative environment, low-socio economic, poor parental violence, availability of weapons, association with deviant peers, parental substance use, peer pressure, television violence, parental anti-social behaviour, poor academic performance, large family size, low educational attainment, drug or alcohol use of child, poor monitoring of children in school and criminal behaviour of siblings.

Kavita, (2012), has stated that, the term crime describes a person guilty of an offence against the customs. In the opinion of author, there are two major factors of Children in conflict with

law that is legal and the non-legal. Author has pointed out the root causes of child unlawful acts, that is economic causes, social environmental causes and family based causes, school environmental causes, bad company of friends etc.

Method of the Study

Descriptive research design is used to gather the data regarding the current economic conditions of children in conflict with law in North Karnataka. This paper ambitions to acquire perception into the economic conditions of respondents. The study covered eight observation homes situated in North Karnataka. They are 1. Ballari, 2. Belagavi, 3. Bidar, 4. Dharwad, 5. Kalaburagi, 6. Karwar (Uttara Kannada), 7. Raichur, and 8. Vijayapur.

The existing study considered both primary and secondary data or information for the present study. There are 359 inmates registered and undergoing trial in eight observation homes, among them 182 inmates have been decided on using the Systematic sampling approach in each observation home. The secondary statistics turned into accumulated from numerous books, journals, internet, unpublished facts from the branch of women and child development, and person case data, or case files (maintained by the personnel), preceding studies research, and so on.

Results and Discussion

Table No: 1 Occupation of the Parents of the Respondents

Occupation of the Parents	Number of Respondents	Percent
Daily wage worker	129	70.9
Farmer	35	19.2
Government servant	00	00
Domestic servant	18	9.9
Total	182	100.0

The table above explores the occupation or employment of the parents of the respondents, majority 70.9 percent of the respondent's parents are coolie or daily wage labour, 19.2 percent of the respondents' parents are farmers, and 9.9 percent of the respondents' parents are domestic servants. It is clear that the parents of the respondents do not have a fixed or regular occupation. It is certainly from such families where parents do not have a good job and also cannot wield his proper control over children to regulate their behavior. Accordingly, it can be inferred that majority of 70.9 percent of the respondents' parents are coolie or daily wage labour. It shows that their economic condition is not good, and may lead to offenses against society like theft, sale of ganja, and alcoholic materials to increment the family income.

Table No: 2 Annual Income of the Respondents' Parents

Annual Income	Number of Respondents	Percent
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Below Rs.50000	158	86.8
Rs.50000 to Rs.100000	20	11.0
Above Rs.100000	4	2.2
Total	182	100.0

It can be observed from the above table that 86.8 percent of the respondents' parent's annual income is less than Rs. 50000, 11.0 percent of the respondents' parents' income between Rs. 50000 to 100000, and 2.2 percent of the respondents' income is above Rs.100000. It clearly shows that majority of the respondents are of poor economic status. Systematic distribution of wealth and income is the only method to resolve the problem of crime and children in conflict with law permanently. Thus, it was found that the majority of 86.8 percent of the respondents' parents' annual income is less than Rs. 50000. The family's financial condition plays a critical role in the respondent's life. Respondents from the poor and lower middle class tend towards delinquent behaviour.

Table No. 3 Mode of Transportation to Reach School/College by the Respondents

Mobility / Logistics Factor	Number of Respondents	Percent
Walk	133	73.1
Bus	34	18.7
Auto	05	2.7
Family vehicle	08	4.4
Not applicable	02	1.1
Total	182	100.0

The above table presents the mode of transportation used to reach school by the respondents. 73.1 percent of the respondents used to walk to school and college, 18.7 percent of the respondents used the bus to reach the school and college, 4.4 percent of the respondents used the family vehicle 2.7 percent of the respondents used the auto to go to school and college, and 1.1 percent of the respondents' illiterate never went to school. As the majority of 73.1 percent of the respondents used to walk to school or college, it indicates that they belong to the weaker section of society or were socially and economically backward.

Table No. 4 Mode of Transport to Reach School and Family Income

Variables		Mode of Transport	Income
Mode of Transport	Pearson Correlation	1	.195**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.008
	N	182	182

Income	Pearson Correlation	.195**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.008	
	N	182	182
** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

The above table illustrates the correlation coefficient between getting to school and family income. Getting to school showed a positive relationship with family income ($r = .195^{**}$; $p = .008$). It means that getting to school is dependent on family income and is statistically significant between the mode of transport to reach school and family income.

Findings

1. The majority of i.e. 70.9 percent of the respondents' parents are coolie or daily wage labour as their livelihood, and 19.2 percent of the respondents' parents are farmers. It shows that their economic condition is not good, and may lead to offenses against society like theft, sale of ganja, and alcoholic materials to increment the family income.
2. The majority of i.e. 86.8 percent of the respondents' family has an annual income of less than Rs. 50000 and only 2.2 percent of the respondents' family have above Rs.100000 annual incomes. The family's financial condition plays a critical role in the respondent's life. Respondents from the poor and lower middle class tend towards delinquent behaviour.
3. The majority of i.e. 73.1 percent of the respondents walked to school or college. it indicates that they belong to the weaker section of society or were socially and economically backward.

Conclusion

Respondents' economic condition is not good, and may lead to offenses against society like theft, sale of ganja, and alcoholic materials to increment the family income. The family's financial condition plays a critical role in the respondent's life. Respondents from the poor and lower middle class tend towards delinquent behaviour. Respondents from the poor and lower middle class tend towards delinquent behaviour.

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