

PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROBLEMS AMONG CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAW: AN EXPLORATION AND SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION STUDY IN PUNE CITY

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Abstract

Child is the pride to parents as well as to the nation also. Biologically, child is defined as a human being between the stages of birth and puberty or between the developmental period of infancy and puberty. Juvenile in Conflict with Law is the term used for unlawful acts and other violations of law by children and young person below the age of adulthood. It is become the social problem across the globe Rapid industrialization and urbanization leads to this problem. Due to rapid growth of slums in the city area the problem of Children in Conflict With Law becomes most severe day by day. It was observed primarily in the Western countries after the Second World War. The present research paper will focus on the psycho social problems of Children in Conflict with Law. The main objective of this paper are; to study socio economic profile of Children in Conflict with Law; to understand the unlawful act done by Children in Conflict with Law; and to suggest the social work intervention strategies. For the present research paper the descriptive research design will be used to describe psycho social causes of Children in Conflict with Law and the simple random sampling method will be adopted, in which systematic random sampling method will be used for selection of sample.

Keywords: *Psycho Social Problems; Socio Economic Profile; Children in Conflict with Law; Social Work Intervention etc.*



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Introduction

Juvenile in Conflict with Law is the term used for unlawful acts and other violations of law by children and young people below the age of adulthood. It becomes a social problem across the globe. Rapid industrialization and urbanization lead to this problem. Due to the rapid growth of slums in the city area, the problem of Juveniles in Conflict with the Law
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becomes most severe day by day. It was observed primarily in the Western countries after the Second World War. It defined a juvenile as, a child who had not attained a certain age at which he, like an adult person under the law of the land, can be held liable for his criminal acts (Yadav, 2016)¹.

Objectives of the study

1. To study socio economic profile of Children in Conflict with Law;
2. To understand the psychosocial problems of Children in Conflict with Law; and
3. To suggest the social work intervention strategies for reintegration Children in Conflict with Law

Review of literature

Bala Tripti²(2011) conducted the research study with the main objectives to predict the level of emotional intelligence among adolescent delinquents and study the role of psychosocial variables such as aggression, self-concept, extraversion, neuroticism, home environment, social support, sex, and local place of living. The major findings of this study were the respondents who were having high aggression showed a low level of emotional intelligence; respondents who were having bright self-concept showed high emotional intelligence; the respondent who belonged to neurotic personality scored low emotional intelligence; the respondents which belonged to positive house environment and social support were scored high emotional intelligence; male respondents showed less emotional intelligence as compared to female respondents and urban adolescents scored high emotional intelligence than rural adolescents.

Swain Jharana³(2002) had conducted the research study with the main objective of the study was to identify the nature, scope, and extent of the problem of child abuse by focusing on the Juvenile Delinquents as well as physical, psychological, social, and emotional deprivation, their total impact on their growth and development. To explore the causes and the social factors adjacent to this problem, to understand the execution of the process of

¹Yadav Priyanka (2016), 'Juvenile Delinquency as a Behavioral Problem', The International Journal of Indian Psychology, India

²Bala Tripti (2011) 'Psycho-Social Predictors of Emotional Intelligence' Chhattisgarh, India.

³Swain Jharana (2002) 'Child Abuse in Orissa with special reference to Institutionalized Juvenile Delinquency' Orissa, India.

institutional care in Special Homes, Observation Homes, and Juvenile Homes, to study the approach of the police and the legal system were the other objectives.

Profile of study region

Pune is second largest metropolitan city next to Mumbai in Maharashtra State. It is fast changing city from 'Pensioner's city' to Educational, Administrative Centre and it is known as Industrial and IT hub nowadays.

Location Geographical: 18.5203° North latitude and 73.8567° East longitude.

Altitude: 560 meters above mean sea level.

Area: 243.8 sq. km.

- **Map of Pune City⁴:**



Inclusive criteria

The researcher has selected only Children in Conflict with Law for the study between the age group of 12 to 18 years.

Methodology

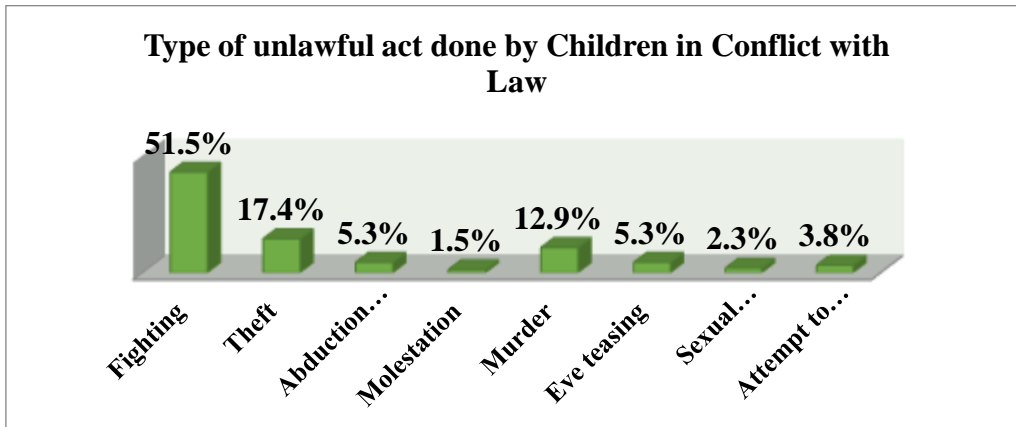
In the said study, the descriptive research design is used as the researcher is describing the educational status of Children in Conflict with Law of Pune city. The probability research method is used and for sample selection simple random sample is used. As primary data is concerned the researcher selected only Children in Conflict with Law and self-structured interview schedule has prepared as tool of data collection.

Inference

After collecting the data, the researcher used SPSS for interpreted the data. Following tables are showing the inferences of the study.

⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pune_City_taluka; <https://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/maharashtra/pune.htm>

Graph No. 1.1: Distribution of type of unlawful act done by Children



The above graph discusses the information regarding type of unlawful acts performed by the children. It is categorized in eight groups.

Graph No 1.2 shows that 68 (51.5%) children were engaged in fighting; 23 (17.4%) children were involved in the activity of theft; 17 (12.9%) children were involved in murder. The unlawful act of the abduction of a girl was committed by 7 (5.3%) Children in Conflict with law, similarly 7 (5.3%) children were involved in the act of eve-teasing. 5 (3.8%) children had attempted murder, whereas, 3 (2.3%) children were involved in sexual assault. It has also been observed that 2 (1.5%) children were engaged in molestation.

It interprets that a majority of the children were apprehended for fighting followed by theft. Very less percentage of children had committed offenses such as Molestation, sexual assault and eve-teasing.

It concludes that mostly violent behavior is a learnt behavior. A child learns the behavior by observing the environment around it. Lack of parental control; negative impact of the neighboring community; high level of exposure to violent role models and peer pressure may lead the child to act violently.

Table No. 1.1: Cross tabulation of the Association between Emotional maturity * Age of the children*Type of Unlawful Acts performed by Children

Emotional maturity	Age of children	Type of Unlawful Acts performed by the Children								Total
		Fighting	Theft	Abduction of girl	Molestation	Murder	Eve-teasing	Sexual Assault	Attempt to Murder	
83 to 132	14 years	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15 years	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3

	16 years	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	4
	17 years	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Up to 18 years	5	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	12
	Total	15	10	2	1	1	3	0	1	33
133 to 187	13 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	15 years	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	16 years	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
	17 years	13	5	2	0	9	0	1	0	30
	Up to 18 years	14	3	3	0	2	1	2	1	26
	Total	32	10	5	0	11	1	3	4	66
188 to 229	13 years	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15 years	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	16 years	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	17 years	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Up to 18 years	10	1	0	1	5	1	0	0	18
	Total	21	3	0	1	5	3	0	0	33
Total	13 years	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
	14 years	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15 years	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	7
	16 years	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	13
	17 years	29	10	2	0	9	0	1	0	51
	Up to 18 years	29	8	5	1	7	3	2	1	56
	Total	68	23	7	2	17	7	3	5	132

$$x^2 = 73.438 \quad df = 35 \quad p = 0.00 \quad C = 0.102$$

When Emotional Maturity was cross tabulated with the age of the children and the Type of Unlawful Acts, it has been found that a total of 33 (25%) children had the range of emotional maturity in between 83 to 132 which, means they were Emotionally Immature.

Among them, 02 children were fourteen years old and both have committed theft as an unlawful act.

Three children in all were fifteen years old and each 01 of them respectively carried out fighting; Molestation and Murder as an unlawful act.

Four children in total were sixteen years old, out of which, 02 children have carried out the unlawful act of eve-teasing; 01 respondent has carried out fighting and 01 respondent attempted murder.

There were 12 seventeen years old children in total out of which, 08 have engaged in fighting and other 04 children were apprehended for theft.

Total 12 children were eighteen years old, out of which, 05 have engaged in fighting; 04 children were apprehended for theft; 02 have engaged in the Abduction of a girl each and only 01 respondent has been apprehended for eve-teasing.

Thus, the table indicates that between the age of seventeen to eighteen years, total 33 children, were emotionally immature and were apprehended mostly for fighting and theft.

The table also shows that 66 (50%) children had their emotional maturity in the range of 133 to 187, which, is considered as Moderately Emotionally Immature, among those, 01 child was thirteen years old and had attempted murder.

Two children who were fifteen years old have conducted theft as an unlawful act. A total of 07 children were sixteen years old out of which, 05 children have carried out fighting and the rest of the 02 children attempted murder.

Thirty children in total were seventeen years old out of which, 13 children have committed fighting; 09 children have been apprehended for murder; 05 children have carried out theft, the abduction of a girl each had been carried out by 02 children, and 01 child has been apprehended for sexual assault.

Twenty-six children in total were eighteen years old out of which, 14 children had committed fighting; 03 children had carried out theft; the abduction of a girl each was carried out by 03 children; Murder had been committed by 02 children, 02 children were apprehended for sexual assault, 01 child was apprehended for eve-teasing and 01 child had attempted murder.

Thus, the table indicates that between the age of seventeen to eighteen years, total 66 children, were Moderately Emotionally Immature and they were apprehended mostly for heinous offenses such as abduction of girls, murder and sexual assault, etc.

It has also been observed through the table that 33 (25%) children had their emotional maturity in the range of 188 to 229 which, is considered as Extremely Emotionally Immature.

Among them, thirteen years old 02 children have carried out fighting as an unlawful act.

02 children were fifteen years old; out of which, 01 child had carried out fighting while 01 child was apprehended for theft.

Two, sixteen years old children had carried out the unlawful act of eve-teasing

Nine children in all were seventeen years old; out of which, 08 children have carried out fighting while 01 child was apprehended for theft.

A total of 18 children were about eighteen years old out of which, 10 children had committed fighting; 01 child had carried out theft; molestation had been carried out by 01 child; murder had been committed by 05 children, and 01 child was apprehended for eve-teasing.

Thus, the table indicates that between the age of seventeen to eighteen years, 33 (25%) children had emotional maturity in the range of 188 to 229, which, is considered as Extremely Emotionally Immature and they were apprehended mostly for heinous offenses such as molestation, murder, eve-teasing etc.

Hence, the table concludes that between the age of seventeen to eighteen years, heinous offenses such as molestation, murder, eve-teasing, abduction of girls, sexual assault were committed by the children who had the range of Moderately Emotionally Immature and Extremely Emotionally Immature.

To assess the association between these three variables, Chi-Square Test has been administered. The results show that the association between three variables, namely, Emotional maturity *Age of the children*Type of Unlawful Acts performed by the Children are statistically significant ($p=0.00$).

Table No. 1.2: Cross tabulation of the Association between *Self-esteem *Age of the children* Type of Unlawful Acts performed by the Children *

Self esteem	Age of children	Type of Unlawful Act by Children								Total
		Fighting	Theft	Abduction of girl	Molestation	Murder	Eve-teasing	Sexual Assault	Attempt to Murder	
9 to 12	15 years	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	16 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	17	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12

years										
	Up to 18 years	7	0	3	1	5	2	1	0	19
	Total	19	2	3	1	5	2	1	1	34
13 to 18	13 years	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	15 years	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
	16 years	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	9
	17 years	12	2	2	0	6	0	0	0	22
	Up to 18 years	18	4	2	0	2	0	1	1	28
	Total	37	8	4	1	8	2	1	4	65
19 to 43	13 years	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	14 years	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15 years	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	16 years	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
	17 years	6	7	0	0	3	0	1	0	17
	Up to 18 years	4	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	9
	Total	12	13	0	0	4	3	1	0	33
Total	13 years	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
	14 years	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	15 years	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	7
	16 years	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	13
	17 years	29	10	2	0	9	0	1	0	51
	Up to 18 years	29	8	5	1	7	3	2	1	56
	Total	68	23	7	2	17	7	3	5	132

$$x^2 = 73.438 \quad df = 35 \quad p = 0.00 \quad C = 0.102$$

When Self-esteem was cross tabulated with *Age of the Children and *Type of Unlawful Acts performed by the Children, it has been found that 34 (25.8%) children had their self-esteem in the range of 9 to 12 which, is considered as a low self-esteem.

Among them, 02 children were fifteen years old, out of which, 01 child was apprehended for the unlawful act of fighting and 01 child was engaged in theft.

One child attempted murder at the age of sixteen.

Twelve children in total were seventeen years old, out of which, 11 children were apprehended for fighting and 01 child had been engaged in theft.

Nineteen children in all were eighteen years old out of which, 07 children were apprehended for fighting; 05 children had carried out murders; 03 children conducted the abduction of a girl each; eve-teasing had been conducted by 02 children; 01 child had been engaged in molestation and 01 child had committed sexual assault as an unlawful act.

Thus, the table indicates that 34 children in total who were about eighteen years old; had a low self-esteem and were apprehended mostly for heinous offenses such as abduction of girls, murder, sexual assault, eve-teasing, etc.

It has been found that, 65(49.2%) children had their self-esteem in the range of 13 to 18 which, is considered as the normal range of self-esteem.

Two children in all were thirteen years old, out of which, 01 child had carried out fighting and 01 child had attempted murder.

Four children were fifteen years old, out of which, 02 children had been engaged in theft; 01 child was engaged in fighting and 01 child was engaged in Molestation.

A total of 09 children were sixteen years old, out of which, 05 children were apprehended for the unlawful act of fighting; eve-teasing had been conducted by 02 children and 02 children had attempted murder.

A total of 22 children were seventeen years old, out of which, 12 children were engaged in fighting; 06 children had been involved in murders; 02 children were engaged in theft and 02 children were engaged the abduction of a girl each.

Twenty-eight children in all were eighteen years old out of which, 18 children had been apprehended for fighting; 04 children were involved in theft; 02 children were involved in the abduction of a girl each; murder had been committed by 02 children; 01 child was engaged in sexual assault and 01 child had attempted Murder.

Thus, the table indicates that among the children who were about eighteen years of age, 65 (49.2%) children, fell in the normal range of self-esteem and they were apprehended mostly for heinous offenses such as abduction of girls, murder, sexual assault, eve-teasing, etc.

Thirty-three children in total had self-esteem between the range of 19 to 43 which, is considered as a high self-esteem.

Among them, 01 child who was thirteen years of age was involved in fighting.

Two children of fourteen years were engaged in theft.

Murder had been committed by 01 fifteen years old child.

Three children in all were sixteen years old, out of which, 02 children were engaged in eve-teasing and 01 child was involved in fighting.

A total of 17 children were seventeen years old, out of which, 06 children were involved in fighting; 07 children were engaged in theft; 03 children had committed murder; and 01 child had conducted sexual assault.

Nine children in all were about eighteen years old out of which, 04 children were involved in fighting; 04 children were engaged in theft and 01 child was involved in eve-teasing.

Thus, the table indicates that up to eighteen years of age, a total of 33 (26%) children, had a low self-esteem and were apprehended mostly for heinous offenses such as abduction of girls, murder, sexual assault, eve-teasing, etc.

Hence, the table interprets that between the age of seventeen- to eighteen-year heinous offenses such as molestation, murder, eve-teasing, abduction of girls, sexual assault had been conducted by the children a low self-esteem and the normal range of self-esteem. It has also been seen that between the age of seventeen to eighteen years mild offenses such as fighting and theft were committed by the children who had a high self-esteem.

To assess the association between these three variables, Chi-Square Test has been administered. The results show that the association between three variables, namely, Self - esteem * Age of the children *Type of Unlawful Acts are statistically significant (p=0.00).

Table No. 1.3: Cross tabulation of the type of Unlawful Acts performed by the children *

Company of bad friends * Neglected by their parents				
Neglected by their parents	Type of Unlawful Acts performed by the Children	Company of bad friends		Total
		Not having Company of bad friends	Having company of bad friends	
Not neglected by their parents	Fighting	12	12	24
	Theft	0	4	4
	Abduction of girl	6	0	6
	Molestation	0	1	1
	Murder	5	1	6
	Eve-teasing	5	1	6
	Sexual Assault	2	0	2

	Total	30	19	49
Neglected by their parents	Fighting	0	44	44
	Theft	0	19	19
	Abduction of girl	0	1	1
	Molestation	0	1	1
	Murder	0	11	11
	Eve-teasing	0	1	1
	Sexual Assault	0	1	1
	Attempt to Murder	0	5	5
	Total	0	83	83
Total	Fighting	12	56	68
	Theft	0	23	23
	Abduction of girl	6	1	7
	Molestation	0	2	2
	Murder	5	12	17
	Eve-teasing	5	2	7
	Sexual Assault	2	1	3
	Attempt to Murder	0	5	5
	Total	30	102	132

$$x^2 = 38.821 \text{ df} = 07 \quad p = 0.00 \quad C = 0.91$$

When the type of the Unlawful Acts performed by the Children was cross tabulated with Bad company of friends and were neglected by their parents, it was found that, 49 children were not neglected by parents.

Among those children, 24 children have carried out fighting as an unlawful act, out of which, 12 children were in the company of bad friends and remaining 12 children were not in the company of bad friends.

04 children in total have carried out theft as an unlawful act and all of them were in the company of bad friends.

6 children in all were engaged in the abduction of a girl each and all of them were not in the company of bad friends.

only 01 respondent apprehended for molestation was in the company of bad friends.

Murder was carried out by 06 children, out of which, 05 children were not in the company of bad friends whereas, only 01 child was in the company of bad friends.

Eve-teasing was carried out by a total of 06 children, out of which, 05 children were not in the company of bad friends whereas, only 01 child was in the company of bad friends.

02 children were apprehended for sexual assault and both were not in the company of bad friends.

Thus, the table showed that a total of 49 children were not neglected by their parents out of which, 19 were in the company of bad friends and 30 children were not in the company of bad friends.

The table also indicates that a total of 83 children were neglected by their parents and all children were in the company of bad friends. Among those 44 children were engaged in fighting; 19 children were engaged in theft; 11 children were engaged in murder; 05 children were having attempted murder; 01 child was apprehended for in molestation; 01 child committed sexual assault and 01 committed the abduction of a girl.

Hence, the table reveals that a total of 102 children were in the company of bad friends out of which, a majority of the children were neglected by their parents and those children were engaged mainly in fighting, theft and murder.

These findings validate the children who are neglected by their parents or fell into the company of bad friends. Because of the lack of parental love, affection, and care, children seek emotional support from friends outside. In the adolescent age children are likely to listen to their friends rather than anyone else and they are ready to do anything for their friendship. This may lead to deviant behavior.

To assess the association between these three variables, Chi-Square Test has been administered. The results show that the association between three variables, namely, the Type of Unlawful Acts performed by the children * Company of bad friends * Neglected by their parents are statistically significant ($p=0.00$).

Findings

- I. Age of the children: A majority of the children were about eighteen years old when they had committed Unlawful acts and a very few of them were thirteen years old.
- II. Income of the family: A majority of the families had a monthly income less than rupees twenty thousand as, majority of the parents were working in an unorganised sector.
- III. Most of children who were apprehended for attempting murder and committed murder were in the company of bad friends. When the nature of Unlawful acts committed by the children and the reason of the company of bad friends of the children was cross tabulated, it showed a statistically significant correlation ($p=0.000$).
- IV. It was also found that all the children who were apprehended for attempting murder, were neglected by their parents. When the nature of Unlawful acts committed by the

children and the reason of being neglected by their parents was cross tabulated it showed a statistically significant correlation ($p=0.02$).

- V. Approximately, fifty percent of the children were Moderately Emotionally Immature. Significantly, from the remaining fifty percent children, twenty five percent children were Emotionally Immature and twenty five percent children were Extremely Emotionally Immature.
- VI. Approximately, fifty percent of the children had a normal range of self-esteem. Significantly, from the remaining fifty percent children, twenty five percent children had a low self-esteem and twenty five percent children had a high self-esteem.

Social Work Intervention

I. Social Case Work

Social Case Work is one of the primary methods and is being used across the globe which empowers an individual for functioning better in the society. Following are a few important settings through which, the Children in Conflict with Law can be helped using this method:

1. Familial issues faced by the child:

- Intra-familial conflicts
- Poor Parental Supervision
- Addiction in the family
- Single parent families

2. Personal issues of the child:

- Aggression
- Hypertension
- Constant failure in subjects
- Exuberant sexual feelings
- Love and affection
- Alcoholism/Addiction of the child

II. Social Group Work

It is another method of social work which deals to help the people to solve their personal, group and community problems. Following are a few important settings wherein, the Children in Conflict with Law can be helped by using this method:

- Vocational Training Program
- Life skill development Program

- Recreational Program
- Legal Awareness
- Rehabilitation Program for the De- addicted Children in Conflict with Law; etc.

III. Community Organization

Community Organization includes community development and social action. Community problem solving is done with the help of community leaders and stakeholders in the community. Following are the areas of intervention through Community Organization:

- Community Awareness Program about legislations regarding Children:
- Sensitizing Program for Neighbouring Community;
- Legal Awareness Program in schools; etc.

IV. Social work Research

Social work research is defined as a systematic investigation of the problem in the fields of social work. I Following are the possible areas of social work research in the field of Children in Conflict with Law:

- Personal issues of the Children in Conflict with Law;
- Familial issues faced by the Children in Conflict with Law;
- Social work intervention research; etc.

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