

“Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Courts”

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Juvenile justice and juvenile courts are both correlated to each other. Juvenile justice is to provide rehabilitatory justice to persons not old enough and for children who are below the age of 18 years from criminal offences and it is from here that the juvenile courts play its role in providing justice to this age group. These courts also cater to public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency. It is necessary for every country to provide justice and rehabilitation to these children to make them understand the depth of their crime and to deter them from committing such offence in future.

The reason for these juveniles to commit a crime can be of varied reasons. The juvenile courts need to focus on understanding the bringing up and mental health of the delinquent. Though these courts focus on providing ways of rehabilitating them rather than punishing them. While looking upon the cases where a juvenile delinquency is attached the court should be more concerned with knowing the mens rea behind committing the crime.

As we know it is important to provide justice to an adult the same way it is important to provide justice to a juvenile too. Juvenile justice and juvenile courts don't only focus on the juvenile delinquency but also the children who are victims to abuse or ill treatment from their parents or family members or anyone.

Any juvenile who commits a crime did not commit it because he has been doing it since childhood but there can be varied reasons, he can be doing it because of the environment he was brought up in or his past or having a disturbed family. We can not always blame the child for the crime he has committed but it is equally important to focus on his mental and physical behavior. The juvenile courts need to focus on providing these juvenile delinquents with people who can make them comfortable and can counsel them and try to know the actual reason behind the crime committed.

Though we all know the crime committed can have varied reasons, many a times children get involved with adults who make them commit such crimes. India is a country where juvenile cases in comparison with the western world are much controlled.

There can be various reasons for India not being much consumed by juvenile delinquency as India is a country where joint family structure and basic parental nurture and family wisdom. In a country like India juvenile delinquency is more among the deprived class of people. As these children's' habitations are near the railway tracks or the slums being deprived from the basic necessities of life, commit heinous crimes.. Many of them are brought up by themselves because many living in such conditions, are orphans and face hunger which forces them to commit crimes as robbery or theft. These children are so vulnerable in nature that rather than punishing them it

is very important to understand them and provide them with good mental and health care. Due to lack of proper care and nutrition they commit such crimes. These children's needs to be given the justice that they deserve, though many commit crimes due to mental instability.

Juvenile courts always need to function properly with required amount of legal aid being provided to these children. It is very important for every state to have a juvenile court as it is very hard to provide justice to a juvenile delinquent if proper juvenile courts and their functioning is not looked upon.

The Act provides different sections for children with ages to differentiate their punishment by the age they are in. Various sections provide various ways to judge a child's offence. These Acts are very necessary as these acts provide for justice to the juvenile delinquent. For a juvenile court to work efficiently it's very important to take necessary steps to focus on bringing them to justice which is to be served.

Juvenile delinquency these days are high due to these such children being exposed to drug usage, access to internet and other source which have become common amongst such age group, with knowledge about the negative impacts of the internet, which could harm the growth of the teenager in life. In the present day all things are accessible to them which could impact their growth as a child.

Jealousy, love affairs, school competition or bullying are some such reasons for a child to commit a crime. These things can affect a child's mind diversely as this juvenile age is a tender age where a child goes through a transformation psychologically and sociologically, which brings in a confused state of mixed feelings that can affect them to commit crimes of different degrees.

During this age the parents needs to focus on their child's life, of being understanding and to nurture, with more communication. They need to be provided with a surrounding that helps them to be positive in life and grooming them to bring responsibility in adulthood.

If a child commits an offence and is involved in a crime he shouldn't be left alone or neglected by his/her parents but should be taken care and be of help to make him realize his offence. Leaving a child at a point like that would only make things difficult for him as it might make him more vulnerable and affect him in various ways which would not allow him to change to better human being.

In this day and age there is pressure on the juvenile justice system, as there has been heinous acts of rimes mostly committed by juveniles. If we support them in getting rehabilitation how can we neglect the fact that a juvenile can commit a heinous crime.

One such case is the very known Nirbhaya case of 2012 where a woman was gang raped and brutally murdered. Of the six accused one was a juvenile who was convicted for raping and

killing of the woman. He was considered a juvenile and was sent to the rehabilitation center by the juvenile justice board and later after three years released. It is a situation where we can't favor the juvenile as committing a crime so dreadful as it is impossible for a juvenile to commit a crime of such degree but not being young enough to be convicted. The juvenile was known to be the one who was the most brutal of all. We need to understand the gap between convicting a juvenile for the crime and for sending him for rehabilitation.

This case made us realize that even though the juvenile justice system exist but the degree of the crime committed cannot be ignored. There can be many such cases of juvenile delinquency and the prime factor is to deal it in a way of balancing the code of rehabilitation and the degree of the crime.

Recently in India cases of juvenile justice has been in rise and its mostly in populated cities, there are many cases where the crimes are committed by a juvenile and has been brutal enough but are convicted by the juvenile justice board with less punishment then they actually deserve.

In my view the genesis of juvenile crime is the socio-economic condition of youths in the deprived section of the society. The childhood growth of a juvenile tends to be comparative in its socio-economic condition he is born in compared to a child born in higher class of society. This inner conflict of deprivation leads to various psychological outburst of anger, forfeiture, deprivation, isolation, status and of being deprived of education which culminates to acts of violence and crime to equate himself such psychological conditions further leads to frustration and depression which makes him seek recourse to various addiction of drugs and alcohol in his growth to adolescents. Such state of recourses makes the juvenile commit crimes of various degrees.

In a child's growth environment is also a major concern as his growth takes place in an environment polluted with social crimes such as domestic violence and other such crimes which he witnesses at his tender age that remains throughout his growth. The most important growth factor of relationship is very less understood by the child being nurtured in such an environment. Hence, more so ever legislations such as juvenile acts, specific curative societal and economic legislations are of priority to bring a change in the outer environment that a juvenile is brought up in. These legislations would lessen the psychological impacts on the juvenile in his growth.

On analyzing juvenile criminology, it clearly brings one to realize that studies need to be undertaken to identify the highest rate of juvenile crimes through out the country in comparison with the degrees of the crime. On identifying such high rate and high degree juvenile crime areas solutions has to be worked out as per area specific requirement due to the diversified population of the country. On identification of these areas legislations needs to be drafted for improving the socio-economic conditions impacting juvenile crime. The policies need to be adapted more on the social factor with empowerment for creation of facilities which again needs to be area

specific to cater to the juvenile population with empowerment, livelihood, recreation and rehabilitation centers.

Towards this end besides the government non-governmental organization has a major role to play by working in these specific areas and implementing above stated schemes with periodic review and corrective action can reduce juvenile crime to great extent.

Only seeking the legal course wouldn't be sufficient such as the juvenile courts but the involvement of society and non -governmental organization with creation of sufficient space for involvement of society and non-governmental organization which would need to play a major role in diminishing the juvenile crime rate.

In conclusion I wish state that this subject of juvenile crime and the justice system needs a much subjective study in identifying the areas of priorities which would need to be addressed with required legislations on the socio and economic front with involvement of not only government but also non-governmental organization and society at large as the juvenile's percentage of the population is high and this would be the future segment of society. Therefore, this is an issue which needs deep thought-provoking responses as the future of the countries next generation is being focused upon.

Hence the subject of juvenile justice and juvenile courts should be the prime focus of the governments socio-economic developmental road map where a very high focus would be required to meet this difficult challenge with the transformation age of technology and society. Various studies would need to be carried out on sociology, economy and psychology to identify the root cause this major issue of juvenile justice and juvenile courts. These would help in the framework of the legislations and fulfill the needs on priority.

The legislations would also need to have a broad-spectrum impact on the society and the non-governmental organization to work towards this end, incentivized plans for scheme implementation would need to be devised to attract stake holders into this framework for working towards this end of reducing juvenile delinquency and the justice system being redefined making it more adaptable to circumstances and changes taking place at this period of time.

With the above in view this issue of juvenile delinquency is a very important issue that needs urgent focus and attention by the government and judiciary for addressing the issue taking into consideration all causes into consideration and the system being redefined to meet this challenge as the future of the country lies in this fragment of society. I would vehemently appeal to all concerned express their viewpoints on the above stated subject that has been dealt here by me. We would all need to cooperate with the judiciary and the government to fight this menace which is taking an ugly shape with the passage of time and it needs to be earnestly dealt with by all to groom a healthy and productive life for the future generation.