



A Study on Mental Health and Counselling Status of Male Children in Conflict with Law in Vadodara

(A Study of Mental Health and Counselling of Observation Home for Boys at Kareli Baugh, VADODARA)

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ABSTRACT

There are a lot of youngsters in India who require care and safety. The State, the mental health community, and civil society organizations continue to face difficulties in providing mental health care to this population. Children are also most frequently involved in legal disputes. Belong to this group of young people who require care and protection. The juvenile justice system is the child's first real opportunity to be screened for any mental health risks and referred for any specialized mental health service, such as counselling, psychiatric services, life skills education, etc. This happens when a child is accused of committing an offence and gets in trouble with the law. Every child has a need, but growing kids and teenagers especially.

INTRODUCTION

In India, research on the mental health of children involved in legal disputes is lacking. Children who are in trouble with the law are at risk for mental health issues, which may involve marital violence, sexual and physical abuse, substance misuse, and other causes. Lack of parental care and supervision, emotional neglect, homelessness, poverty, access to or affordability of education, and undiagnosed and untreated mental illness. It will be possible to develop and put into practice effective treatment, care, preventative, remedial, and/or rehabilitative services if empirical data are available to identify the risk factors that have an impact on the mental health of children who are in legal trouble. There are currently no available empirical data about the percentage of children in legal trouble who suffer from mental illness, the kind of mental health issues, or the existence of risk factors that make them more likely to develop such issues. As a result, the nature and scope of the issue are not sufficiently known or comprehended. As a result, the mental health of children in India who are in trouble with the law has not been thoroughly or efficiently understood or handled.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN "CONFLICT WITH THE LAW" IN INDIA AND ELSEWHERE.

There is a significant link between mental diseases and children who are in legal trouble, according to research from the US. It is evident that the prevalence rate of mental problems among young people in the criminal system is consistently greater than the prevalence rate among adolescents in general (Grisso 2000). However, there is no such evidence available regarding the frequency or characteristics of mental health issues among youngsters in India who are in legal trouble.

COUNSELLORS AND COUNSELLING FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA WHO ARE IN LEGAL TROUBLE.

In the juvenile justice system, the counsellor's job is extremely important and hard. In order to provide effective counselling services in the specific correctional settings, the counsellor is required to have both professional competence and personal compassion. They are also expected to expect reform in the face of scarce resources, strive for rehabilitation frequently without access to rehabilitation services, and attempt social reintegration even as families and communities struggle to integrate children in conflict with the law into their regular lives and communities. However, despite the difficulties, the counsellor at any correctional facility is in a unique position to significantly improve the mental health of kids and families dealing with extremely difficult situations.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- **Children in confrontation with the law's" Mental Health Status: Frequency and Amount (2000 Grisso and Barnum)**

It is routinely discovered that there are more children with mental problems in the juvenile justice system than there are in the teenage population as a whole. Numerous in-depth research have demonstrated that there are Young offenders frequently suffer from specific mental problems, and some of the symptoms make them more likely to act aggressively.

- **Nature and dynamics of “children in dispute with the law” status (Capaldi, 1991, 1992; Cole & Carpentieri, 1990; Mc Conaughy & Skiba, 1993; Rapp & Wodarski, 1997; Robinson, Jenson, & Yaffe, 1992)**

Numerous studies have shown that many young people in the juvenile justice system or in prisons have mental health issues, many of which go unnoticed, unidentified, or untreated.

According to Cocozza’s (1991) estimation, up to 60% of young people in custody Possess an emotional or behavioral problem at a level comparable to clinical patients.

- **Socioeconomic standing (2002, Jarjoura, Triplett, and Brinker)**

According to studies, children who grow up in poverty, especially those who are young (between the ages of one and five) or in their early teens, are more likely to become delinquents .Families with a history of poverty are more prone to commit crimes involving property and violence. These findings are in line with earlier studies that demonstrate a connection between welfare rates and crime.

- **Mental health, incarceration, and institutionalization (McLeod,2018)**

One of the most effective studies revealing the dehumanizing consequences of institutionalization on people who are imprisoned as well as those responsible for their care and safety is Philip Zimbardo’s Stanford Prison Experiment. Could cause the ‘prisoners’ to act passively and submissively, while the guards and careers act brutally.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows :

1. To investigate the mental health of “youth in legal trouble”
2. To research the current state of counselling services offered to “children in dispute with the law”
3. To study profile of the respondents.
4. To make the suitable suggestions on mental health status of Children’s in Conflict with Law

Research design & Reference period

To accomplish the aforementioned goals, the current study conducted an in-depth of the mental health status of juvenile offenders incarcerated in the juvenile justice system.

The information was gathered from Vadodara-based observation homes after receiving authorization from the JJB Committee of Vadodara Karelibaug. On December 27, 2022, the data collection for 66 kids was finished (boys OH =66).

Universe

Here the universe considered for this study is the 66 respondents JUVENILE’S FILE STUDY & COUNSELLOR’S at observation home. Vadodara, Gujarat.

Sampling framework

The sampling framework for the study will be the BOYS OBSERVATION HOME . Vadodara, Gujarat.

Methods and Tools for Data Collection

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

SOURCE : MEETINGS, COUNCELLORS INTERVIEW

The three following three tools were employed in the current study:

1. The Mental Health Status Questionnaire for Children in Conflict with the Law
2. The Questionnaire of Counselling of Children in Conflict with the Law.
3. Negative childhood events questionnaire

SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

SOURCE : FILE STUDY, ARTICLES FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN JUVENILES OF GUJARAT

FINDINGS

Major Findings:

Major findings of the study are as follows:

1. According to studies, criminal behaviour and offending rates start to rise in preadolescence or early adolescence, reach a peak in late adolescence, and then start to decline through young adulthood.
2. High School, with a 0% education level, had the largest percentage of pupils in legal trouble, according to the statistics.
3. The results indicated that some children had to shoulder the financial burden of the entire family as a result of the father's passing, and that these children's schooling had been disrupted as a result of their need for financial support.
4. The results of the current investigation made clear that half of the children's fathers are men in trouble with the law were employed in semi-skilled or unskilled jobs, and a sizable portion of CICL were fatherless.
5. According to the survey, only kids from households who are struggling financially are having legal issues.
6. An unfavourable childhood experience that is known to have a detrimental effect on mental health in later life is the death of a parent or separation from a parent within the first 18 years of life.
7. Alcoholism and other substance use problems are known to increase the likelihood of developing mental health issues.
8. More than half of the CICL had witnessed violence against members of their families, extended families, or communities.
9. The findings are such the Weeping and sadness of more than half of kids involved in legal issues had had to cope due to extreme grief and weepiness.
10. More than half of the fathers were either now alcoholics or had passed away from alcoholism and smoking, and the level of substance use in the family was also high.
11. Interestingly it is found that less than 25% of children's in conflict with law had mentally illness in family
12. The findings stated that most of the children were in conflict due to petty and serious offences.
13. Some of the advantages of counselling cited by CICL include a brief sensation of relaxation, a place to express emotions, a chance to reflect on mistakes, comprehending right and wrong and understanding one's own behavior
14. The majority of CICL had aspirations for the future that involved school and job; many of them, however, were terrified of the future, and many more were unable to think about it.

CONCLUSION

The goal of the current study was to examine the mental health state and counselling of juvenile offenders. Children who run afoul of the law typically have a history of numerous mental health issues as well as psychosocial hardships, which puts them at risk of running afoul of the law. Therefore, one of the most successful strategies to avoid crime is to address their mental health issues and assist them in developing "psychological immunity" rather than trying to punish them after the fact. According to the law, the State is responsible for providing mental health services for children who have run afoul of the law. All of the functionaries in charge of doing so must approach this from a rights-based perspective rather than as a "service," "welfare," or "charity." Children's rights to mental health are those that contradict with the law. Children are also "children" first when they are in legal trouble. This implies that kids are defenseless and that it is our duty as a State and a society to take good care of, shield, and raise them. In an effort to make justice meaningful, this study urges and reminds the juvenile justice system and policy makers that all children in the juvenile justice system, even those who are in trouble with the law, have a right to mental health.

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