

Poverty and Juvenile

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Poverty and Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency relates to children engaging in criminal activities. Children in this case include all people under that age of majority. The US law provides that this group of people is also punished whenever they engage in criminal activities. In this case, it is necessary to make efforts to ensure that the children do not engage in criminal activities because, at their age, some of the activities they engage in can mean serving a sentence in jail. This can affect their future lives. The expectations are that parents take the initiative of ensuring that children behave in a proper way through guidance and appropriate discipline where necessary. However, the government also has a challenge because the children are resource for a country in the future. They have to play a role in ensuring that they behave appropriately. To reduce these crimes, there is a need to know the cause of juvenile delinquency.

Poverty means that people are not able to meet their daily needs because of their income levels. Poverty has many consequences in that the basic needs may not be enough, children may not go to school and difficulties in life are expected when people are termed as poor (Musick, 93). One of the issues that have been said to cause Juvenile delinquency has been poverty. This paper evaluates poverty and juvenile delinquency.

In the United States, most of the children who were found to commit crimes were the African Americans. This group of people was discriminated over a long period and this is why they remained in poverty for some time. Statistics indicated that the children from this group engaged in criminal activities as compared to the children from the white society. This indicates that poverty may have played a role in influencing the activities that the children engaged in.

The reason behind the criminal activities committed by children is that some of them lack basic needs. When such children have no food to eat, they start engaging in criminal activities as a way of getting a means of survival. Considering that there are other children already in criminal activities, it is easy recruit these new children to the criminal activities.

It is true that the parents have a role in ensuring that children do not engage in criminal activities. However, it is difficult to give instructions to a hungry child who has eaten nothing. Parents assume that their children are playing with other but during this time, they get a chance to associate with their friends engage in acts and this leads makes them engage in criminal activities. Failure to control such hungry children influences their behavior and increases the chances of engaging in the criminal activities (Shoemaker, 45).

In families where poverty level is high, children are not able to access education. When children fail to attend school, they have much time at their disposal. These children end up engaging in activities that amount to criminal activities. During the free time, the behaviors learned become addictive and at some point, these children end up in the hands of the police. Children need to be busy so that they have no time to engage in criminal activities.

The poor and wealthy families live in the same places, in US. The children from poor families fail to access some of the good things that the children from the wealthy families get. They result to committing crimes such as stealing from these children as a way of also possessing the items that their friends have. With time, this becomes a trend that can make the children commit crimes of higher magnitude and end up in jail.

Children from poor families grow up in harsh conditions. These conditions make them become hardy and can engage in difficult activities. It means that these children can fight other people. The harsh conditions also make them have less love to others because they assume that the world is an unfair place (McCord, 71). This is why such children can easily commit serious crimes. It is in the areas where poverty levels are high. It means that the children grow up in a society where crimes are committed on a daily basis. The children learn how to commit these crimes from the older people and start engaging on similar activities.

The analysis reveals that crimes in US that relate to children are greatly influenced by poverty levels in the society. The government has to target this issue if the problem is to be well addressed. The main resource for juvenile delinquency is poverty and dealing with poverty can effectively reduce crimes. It is true that some other factors influence whether a child will commit crimes or not. Such issues include the environment and the genetic composition that relates to the family background of the child (Burfeind, 87). However, poverty is a major issue that needs to be addressed so that the problem is also solved.

Poverty can be addressed by ensuring that the children have access to basic items they need in live. This means that the children should have clothes, food and shelter. This problem can be eliminated if their parents have incomes they can use to meet the needs of their children. If parents can provide the basic products to their children, then it means that they can influence the activities they engage in and reduce the chances that the children will commit crimes.

Taking the children to school is another method of dealing with the problem. When children can access education regardless of the poverty levels of their families, it means that they spend more time in learning activities, play and use their energy in the right activities. This ensures that they do not learn criminal activities and have no time to plan on how they are to commit the crimes. When in school, these children also have hope that, at one point, their live will be improved. In that case, there is no motivation to engage in criminal activities because they are of less benefit.

In conclusion, poverty and juvenile delinquency are positively related. Poverty increases the chances of committing crimes among the children. It means that the government has a responsibility of reducing crimes in the society by ensuring that the root cause of the crimes is addressed. In this case, poverty is the root cause of the crimes and the expectations are that the government takes the initiative of reducing extreme poverty so that children do not commit crimes. Efforts to redistribute income to reduce differences between rich and poor can also help reduce crimes.

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