

Study on the Type, Situation, and Cause of Juvenile Crime

Yuhao Jiang*

Law School of Guizhou University of Finance and Economics, Guiyang 550025, Guizhou Province, China

*Corresponding author: Yuhao Jiang, 2045922946@qq.com

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Abstract: The comprehensive strength of minors affects whether China can stand on the international stage for a long time in the future. The country issued several special laws and regulations and judicial interpretations about juvenile crimes, but in recent years, with China's reform and opening up and the influence of multiple factors such as social environment, juvenile crime began to grow, the social influence and crime happens, minor crime become the main influencing factors of social unrest. To effectively prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency, it is necessary to accurately analyze and grasp the types of juvenile delinquency, crime trends, and characteristics of crime, then to dig out its internal reasons, to provide solutions to this social problem.

Keywords: Juvenile crime; Type of crime; Crime situation; Cause of crime

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1. Introduction

In recent years, the number of cases involving juvenile crimes has increased. Ways effectively deal with juvenile crime cases occurring quietly should adhere to the principle of "education, influence, save" and "education, punishment is complementary." The government should actively adapt to the characteristics of minors for punishment that adhere to "tolerance but not indulgence." For crimes involving serious harm, especially repeated offenses, the punishment needs to follow the law and the role of warning education to give victims and society fair justice.

2. Type of juvenile crime

2.1. The structure of juvenile crime types according to age

Article 17 of the Criminal Law stipulates that the age of criminal responsibility is 14, those under the age of 16 only assume criminal responsibility for the eight kinds of criminal acts stipulated in the criminal law. The main

types of juvenile crimes with relative criminal responsibility are intentional homicide (5.6%), rape (15.9%), intentional injury (20.6%), and robbery (61.3%). The age of full criminal responsibility is over the age of 16, and they shall bear criminal responsibility for all criminal acts. The main types of crimes of minors who are fully criminally responsible are rape (12.9%), intentional injury (14.6%), theft (18.6%), and robbery (43.6%)^[1].

2.2. The structure of juvenile crime types according to gender

One of the important factors affecting the structure of crime types is gender. The survey found that the proportion of robbery, rape, and theft by men was 55 percent, 14.8 percent, and 12.2 percent, respectively, all higher than that of women (21.5 percent, 7.9 percent, and 5.6 percent, respectively). The proportion of female drug trafficking and intentional homicide was 18.6 percent and 11.3 percent, respectively, higher than that of men (4.7 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively). The main types of female juvenile crimes are violent crimes (54.8%) and drug crimes (18.6%), especially intentional homicide and drug crimes are higher than those of male minors. A female police officer at the Guangdong juvenile detention center said that women have seen an increase in drug-related crimes in recent years, mainly in entertainment venues such as KTV and bars. There are not only men but also some female minors involved in violent terrorist activities.

2.3. The structure of juvenile crime types according to the regional division

Economic development, group structure, family guardianship, and other factors affect the structure of juvenile crime types. Regarding the crime of robbery, the central region represents 58.9%, and the western region represents 57.2%. Both were higher than that of the eastern region (45.6%). In committing the crime of intentional injury, the western region represents 20.5%, the proportion higher than the central region (16.0%) and the eastern region (17.2%). Regarding the crime of rape, the eastern region represents 16.7%, higher than the central region (14.3%) and the western region (10%). In committing the crime of drug trafficking, the western region represents 4.0%, higher than in the eastern region (2.7%) and in the central region (1.8%). For repeated juvenile crime offenses, theft accounted for 27.0%, higher than the proportion of theft as the first crime (10.6%).

3. Characteristics of juvenile delinquency

3.1. Diversified of crime types

On the whole, the types of juvenile crime cases are robbery, theft, rape, picking quarrels, and provoking trouble. According to charts, data, and other information, the number of juvenile crime cases has continued to increase in recent years, among which the most criminal cases are two types of fighting and fighting on the grounds of school bullying. As the speed of network information transmission is more convenient, different bad information brings greater influence to minors, promoting the diversification of crime types^[2].

3.2. The age of crime is low

Before 2010, the age of juvenile crimes was concentrated at about 16 years old, but the data of the past five years showed that the age of some extreme cases was as low as 10 years old. The general age of crimes with cruel means was about 14 years old, that is, the junior high school stage. At this stage, the juvenile hormones are vigorous and reckless, and the types of related crimes are mainly murder and rape^[3].

3.3. Gang crimes are mostly committed

Junior high school students are the main part of gang crimes. They are often composed of some students who are poor and pushy, loyal and bonded. The most common one is school bullying. Even some minors join organizations with an underworld nature that they still do not understand because of their weak legal awareness, thus being involved in more criminal cases and having a lot of bad effects on social security.

3.4. The composition of minor families is complicated

Stepfamilies, mobile families, left-behind families, special family growth environments, lack of parental care, strict family education, and free-range personal growth, may become the inducement of future crimes for minors. In addition, if the minor is overindulged by the family, there is no prediction or reckless consequences of the development of the matter, it will eventually lead to the road to crime ^[4-5].

4. Analysis of juvenile delinquency causes

4.1. Subjective factors

Minors' mental development is immature and their ability to consider problems is not comprehensive, making it difficult to correctly respond to complex social phenomena and consider the consequences of their behavior, and they are easy to be affected by others' mistakes or bad Internet information. Secondly, the cultural level is limited and the legal consciousness is weak, it is difficult to face the temptation from all aspects of society, and eventually fall into committing crimes.

4.2. Family factors

The cultural quality of family members is generally low, and attention is not paid to children's education ^[2]. There are many noteworthy loopholes in the education and management of left-behind children. After parents go out to work, children are mostly raised by grandparents who dote to them more than giving discipline, while parents cannot give timely and effective correction and guidance, not allowing them proper self-development ^[6].

4.3. Educational factors

The imbalance of regional development is the basic national condition of China. In the southwest region, limited by many factors such as economy, geographical environment, and teachers, the teaching quality is limited, and the education subjects offered by schools are not enough to cover the all-round development of students. Psychological courses, safety knowledge courses, physiological courses, and other legal courses concerning the growth of students are rarely taught or even not opened. The content of these courses is precisely the controllable factor that could have avoided juvenile delinquency ^[7].

4.4. Social factors

Nowadays, with the rapid development of the market economy, the bad values of external factors erode the normal values and outlook on the life of minors in various ways. First, harmful information such as pornography, violence, terrorism, and bloody means spread through the Internet and mobile phones to minors. The minors tend to become the criminal tool or accomplice to commit the crime after being encouraged to help and commit the crime. Third, money and luxury influence can corrupt the minors, causing the minors to establish the wrong values and outlook on life.

4.5. Help to control and rescue aspects

Juvenile crime prevention, crackdown, processing work, re-education, probation, and rescue work are not enough, depth is not strong, and the effect is not significant. Hence, the government, functional departments, schools, youth league organizations, families, and members of political science and law need to unite and study the mechanism to prevent, stop, and punish juvenile crime ^[8].

4.6. Employment assistance

Minors who drop out of school and work at home, and lack livelihood skills, their education level limits the scope of employment and work channels, which leads to some minors having no source of income. Their idle fantasy of sudden wealth and windfall leads to the beginning of crime. To meet their needs at the expense of the law, they embark on the road of crime.

4.7. Crime types tend to be concentrated

The types of juvenile offenders in custody are mainly sexual crimes and violent crimes, accounting for more than 70%. The proportion of juvenile sexual crimes such as rape and compulsory indecency increased from 14.38 percent in 2012 to 50.73 percent in 2022, ranking first in the type of juvenile crimes. Sex crime targets are classmates, neighbors, friends, and other acquaintances accounting for 76.23%. Juvenile violent crimes accounted for 30.1%, of which intentional injury accounted for 4.82%, robbery for 14.12%, affray for 11.16%; property crimes for 16.4% ^[9].

4.8. The phenomenon of passionate crime is prominent

Among juvenile criminals, 62.56% are impulsive and passionate crimes, indicating that minors are stimulated by external environment or negative emotions, and are easy to form stress reactions, producing explosive and short-term violent emotional states. The criminal motive is relatively simple, with little premeditation and poor self-control. This phenomenon is a common typical feature of juvenile crime ^[10].

5. Epilogue

Growing environment and psychological development are the two main factors that cause juvenile crime. The purpose of the punishment for minors stipulated in the Criminal law is to “use hard steel plates to prevent the further distorted growth of their trunk”, and the reduction of the age of criminal responsibility means that the cognitive ability and the speed of distinguishing right and wrong are more advanced than before. The growth of minors is a process of continuous socialization. Only under a reasonable way and correct guidance can the correct values and outlook on life be established.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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