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Juvenile Justice

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Juvenile Justice

In United States, the juvenile justice system was initiated as a rehabilitation center for troubled youths and teenagers rather than a prison. The first juvenile court was created in Illinois, 1899. The system has provided juveniles with protection and has focused on restoring their behaviors as they assimilate into society once there has been an improvement. In regards to gender roles, female delinquency during these times was not relevant because very few girls and women committed crimes compared to men and boys. Primarily, the juvenile system was created to contain male delinquents. But as the years went by, female delinquents were on the rise despite the reduction of juvenile violent crime rates. In these cases, female delinquents were arrested for status offenses such as running away from home; hence the increase of female delinquents. Therefore, the paper will examine gender roles concerning juvenile justice and possible programs that can be implemented to minimize the rate of female delinquents in the system.

Role of Gender

Over the past decade, the rise of female delinquents in the juvenile system has risen due to status offense. Because the juvenile centers were created for rehabilitation purposes, the sentences young girls get after committing a crime are based on the judge's decisions. Both female and male delinquents do not get a right to a lawyer or a reason as to why they are taken into custody, unlike in the adult courts (Freiburger, 2017). Most of these cases are generally closed to the public to protect the interests of the young girls and boys. When girls perform a status offense, they are treated badly by the justice system in comparison with boys who have committed violent crimes such as robbery; this is because girls tend to be more emotional than boys and their reactions towards the decision by the judge may stir up violent behaviors (Cauffman et al, 2009). Such behavior exhibitions like anger end up being treated with force to

contain them. What leads them into the system? For starters for a young girl to decide on running away from home, the first reason she resulted in that is due to family constraints. Most of these girls are victims of abuse, both physical and verbal and are constituted by their family members and close relatives. Peer pressure also contributes to female delinquents in that, these young girls want to look cool and feel important especially those who come from broken homes where they do not feel loved or appreciated by their parents or siblings. As a result, they end up engaging in illegal activities such as drug trafficking or prostitution as a means of acting out to get attention from family members.

Another reason is that sometimes law enforcers do not take the offense a young woman has done, and instead they leave them a warning not to repeat the offense. For instance, if a police officer finds a girl or a group of girls indulging in illegal drugs, the officer is highly likely to let them go on a warning not to repeat that. The law enforcers overlook this mistake because they believe girls can never be delinquents (Freiburger, 2017). Girls act differently than boys, and the system runs the juvenile center on a version created to serve boys, in that those in authority fail to see that a girl can also be as dangerous as the boy (Cauffman et al, 2009). Such ignorance contributes to the rise in female delinquents because young women believe they are untouchable and repeat the offense as a way of seeking attention (Freiburger, 2017).

Intervention Program

Juvenile centers were initially created for convicted young men and boys. When female crimes grew, the system did not change its activities to accommodate the girls. Experts believe that how girls react is different from how boys react, boys, and act on the problem immediately while girls bottle up their issues. So girls must have their juvenile system that is run by individuals who understand how the female mind works. With such an environment, it is easy for

a girl to change her ways because she feels appreciated by the staff at hand. Besides, because most juvenile centers do not have therapists, girls should be taken to therapy sessions or a therapy section should be introduced in the juvenile centers to tackle the issues these young girls face. As stated earlier, some of the reasons why girls become delinquents at a young age are because they are often abused by people who are close to them, such as relatives and neighbors. Such trauma does not go away that quickly, mainly if it affected them mentally (Flocks et al., 2016). On top of that, the juvenile systems should introduce programs that educate young girls while serving their sentences in the juvenile center. Such programs should tackle real-life situations and solutions so that they can know how to handle themselves when faced with such cases to avoid recidivism and being committed back to the juvenile center.

The effective way to prevent delinquency from taking place, to begin with, is to offer early counseling and guidance to families and girls who show signs of rebellion. The prevention activities include mentoring programs for the youth, education on the effects of substance abuse and education in parenting, especially to single mothers. Most juvenile delinquents, especially girls, go through a lot at the hands of their mother's boyfriends if the mother does not take an interest in looking after them by taking them to school. Again, an introduction to community-based activities is another preventive measure that can be incorporated to prevent the young ladies from committing crimes; this is so because it keeps them occupied by indulging in productive activities such as crafting and participating in sports (Flocks et al., 2016). Lastly, as a preventive measure, it is the responsibility of law enforcers to inspect locations where illegal activities take place and might attract troubled young girls. If the inspection is continuously done, chances of the rise in female delinquents will reduce because the law enforcers have the authority to arrest juveniles involved in criminal undertakings (Flocks et al., 2016).

Theory Explanation

After the delinquents have served their term for three months or six months, assimilating back into society becomes a bit challenging for them, especially if people in the neighborhood are familiar with the situation. The female delinquent can feel isolated due to the stigmatization they face. As stated earlier, females tend to be emotional if the girl did not fully reform. At the same time, in the juvenile system, the feelings of being isolated and stigmatized might bottle up, and the girl goes back into committing crimes like before because they feel like they do not belong in society anymore. The theory of crime is caused by a lack of self-restraint (Daigle et al., 2016).

Low self-control is related to anti-social behavior; such behavior can be seen in girls who have just left the juvenile system (Daigle et al, 2016). They become anti-social due to stigmatization and isolation, even though their family members are supportive of them, they still feel the need to associate with people of their age to feel complete. As stated earlier, mental illness is the root cause as to why there is a tremendous growth of female lawbreakers, upon their release. Thus, if they are faced with the same circumstances that triggered their delinquency the first time, they tend to go back into bad habits due to lack of self-control and mental instability. With such relapses, this continues further into adulthood, whereby if they commit a serious crime like murder or bank robbery, they are faced with long sentences in prison (Dillon, 2017).

Respect

Energized ³ in the inspiration of Jesus Christ, we hold in regards all individuals' remarkable abilities, considering their gratification, and we aspire to pursue one's responsibility towards greatness in all our endeavours. The quality of our people's work depends on the accords

plus decent variety of our friends, and getting the hang of living, and working amicably. We look for connections and build relationships with people in our community. We divide our success by participating in community- based activities as a means of giving back to society and we respect and treat others kindly with compassion and understanding.

In summation, having discussed the gender roles in juvenile justice and possible solutions to combat the increase in female delinquents, it is clear that the problem of female delinquency is still an issue that needs to be looked into extensively. Apart from family dynamics, mental illnesses, and peer pressure, misconduct in females is much more profound. As stated earlier females bottle up emotions, so if all issues they are hiding and feelings are still not adequately dealt with, then the female delinquency will keep on rising. Parents should involve themselves by taking care of their children and continuously be on the lookout for weird behaviors, especially single mothers. Despite the challenges single mothers go through when raising their children, they should prioritize and put their children's welfare first to protect them from the dangers of this world.

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