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Case Study

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Case Study

Based on the case study, Enzo seemed like a nice young man who fell into the wrong crowd through his elder brother's influence. He had good grades and was musically talented. The circumstances surrounding him are also what led him to join the gang. His father was absent and only visited them once in a while until he went to jail, and Enzo would visit him there. Their neighborhood is fully raided with gangs, and they live in poverty under the care of his loving mother. He had no intention of injuring anyone when he joined one of the gangs as he wanted only to survive and protect himself from bullies. Despite his good intentions, his initiation into the gang he joined as a teenager led him to commit a crime to prove his loyalty to the crew. This landed him in jail after shooting and killing a six-year-old girl while taking out a gang member of a rival crew.

This case study's demographics are age, occupation, relationship, history of drug abuse as an adult, adult criminal records, and prior incarcerations. On the other hand, the case study's risk factors include characteristics of environment, family conditions, access to illegal substance abuse, access to weapons, peer influence, and childhood developmental issues like bullying (OJJDP, 2015).

The environment's characteristics are one of the risk factors that are likely to influence an offender to continue engaging in criminal behavior. Suppose the offender goes back to a criminal related environment or neighborhood that is ran by crime gangs. In that case, chances are they are likely to commit a crime again, especially when they reconnect with their old gang members. Rejoining the gang would mean that they would be involved in criminal operations that the crew will undertake, such as robbery with violence or selling illegal substances. Offenders will look for their old gang members since there is a sense of familiarity and because their family members

or relatives have stigmatized them. When the offenders have reconnected with the old gang members, it is also easy to access weapons like guns that they can use to commit a crime. Getting access to illegal substances after getting out of prison will definitely influence an offender to keep on engaging in crime. This is because when one is under the influence of substances like bhang or heroine, their actions may cause them to commit a crime caused by violent behavior. In addition, lack of proper follow up by probation officers or not getting a job because of their status will make an offender engage in criminal behavior. This is because they lack support from their family members or friends, society stigmatizes them, and they have nowhere to turn. Recommitting crime remains their only option to survive in their harsh reality and make a living.

Risk factors like substance abuse are likely to lead to violent crimes such as robbery with violence since they are under the influence of drugs, which clouds their judgment. In violent crimes, the victim is threatened and harmed through violence and the use of a weapon. The victims can be murdered, raped, kidnapped, or tortured. Peer influence can lead to white-collar crimes and organized crimes. White-collar crimes are less violent, and the motivation behind this crime is to obtain money or property through bribery, money laundering, and embezzlement of funds. For instance, a colleague might influence their workmate into venturing in a side hustle that looks promising based on the returns they have received, such as money laundering. It is easy to join such a side hustle because of their trust and the sudden lifestyle change of their colleague. Lastly, cyber crimes are caused by risk factors like stalking by targeting wealthy individuals, organizations, banks, or casinos. The crimes are carried out online through smartphones, tablets, games, or computers using the internet. Cybercrimes allow offenders to hide their location and identity as they commit crimes like fraud and identity theft through hacking.

Based on the case study's risk factors, Enzo's chances of committing a crime is 8. Despite having a supportive parent and doing well in school, his big brother's influence is likely to affect Enzo to join a crime-related gang for safety. This is because they are in a neighborhood controlled by crime-related gangs making it unsafe for a teenage boy to grow in. Additionally, since he has also started smoking bhang through his big brother's influence, chances are he may also start abusing alcohol at his tender age to fit in with his brother and appeal to the gang members. In addition, because he is talented and can play musical instruments, this has subjected him to being bullied, and for that, he will join a gang to seem cool to stop bullies and protect his image. Because he is already a gang member, he will need to prove his loyalty, and with that, he has to commit crimes such as theft or taking out a rival gang member to be fully initiated.

In summary, for individuals to engage in crime-related activities, they are influenced by their surroundings, people close to them, circumstances in their families, and personal issues. Risk factors are characteristics that make one develop a specific habit because of being exposed to certain conditions, according to Noel et al. (2016). These characteristics are easy to influence a delinquent into delinquency or aggressive behavior. For instance, in this case, study, Enzo was influenced negatively by his brother into joining a gang as a safety measure to seem cool to his peers and avoid being bullied at school. Additionally, the environment he was growing up in would easily influence him into committing a crime if he is not protected by programs that can help him skip the life of crime by building themselves. Family-based programs like Functional Family Therapy (FFT) targets youths at risk of delinquency (OJJDP, 2015). FFT is one of the most used programs that have a positive effect in reforming troubled youths through therapy.

References

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