



Research Article

CRIME IS A RESULT OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND NOT ON BIOLOGICAL FACTORS

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ABSTRACT

Although the majority of crime and violence in schools is caused by causes outside of the classroom, factors within the school system, such as the physical environment, educational and social atmosphere, and organizational ability and composition, may also exacerbate violent conduct. Criminality is the product of social and cultural causes, not biological factors. We may discover that a disorganized economy, weak social history, schooling, and lower socioeconomic status, as well as encounters with gangs and exposure to abusive family backgrounds, childhood violence, physical attacks, and other physical determinants, trigger an increase in crime and violent activity, impeding an individual's moral and social growth.

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INTRODUCTION

A debate that continues to have a controversy in most of the scientific disciplines is on the topic of heredity and the influence of genetics, which shows an overall character of a human being, which is most commonly referred to as the 'Nature v/s Nurture' debate. Scientists, as well as the average citizen, are fascinated as to what factors shape personal character as well as individual behavior. In this world, the rates of crime are being increased day by day.

In general, Crime is being defined as an act that violates the set laws in a given jurisdiction, and which is punishable when an individual is convicted (Arrington, 2006). The crime rates in each country are increasing per year. At the same time, there is no clear reason till now to why crimes are committed. There are several factors that cause high crime rates. High crime rates are seen in countries or areas where there are high poverty levels and low job availability, which shows the role of environmental factors. It is quite obvious that the number of crimes is increasing per day in the world, but I personally do believe that there is a relation with the environment and the social factors than the biological differences in the criminal behaviors projected and in crimes. Also, there are studies which show that even genetics plays a role in the criminal behavior of the individuals such as genetics and other complex processes in the body system which even has a connection with the environmental factors making the topic "Crime is the result of social and environmental factors than biological factors" a debatable topic.

While looking at the researches, we could see that environment and social interaction has a key role in the shaping of the behavior. Where in one study conducted in two types of twins, one is monozygotic, and another is dizygotic twins where both cared in the same environment, they had differences between the behavioral pattern. It was found that the monozygotic twins had around 50% of the same aggressive or negative behavior, whereas the dizygotic twins had only 21% of the same behavior, which shows the importance of environmental factors (Christiansen, 1977). Another study on two children adopted and raised by a family was found that the children are aggressive and developed an aggressive behavior as the adopted family than the biological parents, which shows the major impact of environmental as well as the social factors on the behavioral formation (Mednick, Gabrielli, and Hutchings, 1984).

Studies shows that the environmental factors have an affect on the offenders as well as on the victims which includes physical, social, family, community, economic, cultural and political environments in which individuals live. Where the papers show that, there is an effect of environmental and social factors on the criminal behavior, where, impoverished family environment including poverty, isolation in social support and being raised in a violent family structure gives a risk environment of being developing a criminal behavior. And also mentioned about the poor economic conditions in society and conflict ridden cultural and political environments makes up the risk factors for building criminal behaviors in both the offending and victimization. Also, the rate of unemployment and the varying level of education in the society has a great influence in the prevalence and nature of crime happening. Where the authors also point out an example where he

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mentions that higher rates of unemployment have an impact on the level of crime. And through this research, the author concludes that there is a major role of environment in the criminal behavior and the crime occurring.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In an article published by D S Elliott (1997) *Environmental Factors Contribute to Juvenile Crime and Violence*, the author depicts the role of environment's affect on the violent behaviors where he stated that most of the violent behavior is learned behavior. Where there is a key role with the family as an environmental and social place of growth of a human being. And through the early exposure and witness of both violence and physical abuse in family plays a role in criminal behavior. Also, the research suggests that these types of exposure to violence during his/her childhood increases the risk of violent behavior during adolescent by around 40% chance.

The effect of parental role in crime or onset of criminal behavior is also being highlighted in this paper where the author mentions that even if violence is not modeled in the home, the absence of effective control and social bonds with each other and the failure parents to teach children to internalize and the failure to teach the basic norms and values makes the children at a risk towards the behavior of forming violence.

Also, the interaction with the social conflicts and other gangs such as having an engagement in violence in the society, presence of gangs and illegal markets, mainly drug distribution networks and also having a violent role model, networks of getting positive rewards on violent activities also results in the increase in the rate of crimes and criminal behavior.

From the paper, we could see that even though the behavioral patterns which are learned in early childhood carry over the individual's academic life, where a social setting like school, has a role in the behavioral development. Where, the schools have its own potential for generating violent responses to most of the situations. And the author put forth the evidences that school dropouts, drug dealers and others having a prior record of violent behavior are most likely have any kind of criminal behavior and occupies themselves with any sort of weapons like guns.

The author concludes that due to the poor unstable environment and low economic growth with the exposure to the gangs and disorganized neighborhoods develops a criminal behavior in individuals mainly to events leading to crime. And shows that minority families and neighborhoods have a direct relation with the violent behavior and resulting in inhibition of the normal adolescent development. (*NCJRS - National Criminal Justice Reference Service, n.d.*)

In another article by Limbos, Mary Ann P, Casteel and Carri (2008) on *Schools and Neighborhoods: Organizational and Environmental Factors Associated with Crime in Secondary Schools*, it was found that social setting like a school environment has the primary role in the development of criminal behaviors and crime rates. Where it was found that even the violence and crime are deprived from factors in school setting, violent behavior can be aggravated by the factors within the school's environment which includes the physical environment, it's educational and social climate and the capacity of the organization. Also. The paper examines how neighborhood factors influences relationships and the

crime rate. The authors states that from their study, it was found that as the number of certified teachers and student- staff ratio increased, the rate of crime also decreased in the schools as the amount of interaction with a qualified teacher and a good amount of time in the field of the developmental aspects by a good teacher plays a major role in making students understand the moral values as well as the social norms which indeed helps them to grow to a better individual decreasing the rate of misleading through the knowledge on the good and bad. Also, from that environmental condition, the students develop an act of becoming increased in understanding the social factors that helps them to fulfill and achieve the rewards other than going through other social as well as violent ways of reward winnings with violent acts. And the authors conclude that both the school and neighborhood level factors have an association with increasing crime rates in schools level making the children to adults. And put forth ideas of School violence prevention efforts which include school and community partnerships which helps to address these potentially modifiable factors of violence and social stigmas making the student community to get a better-quality life. (Limbos & Casteel, 2008).

In another study by David O. Carpenter and Rick Nevin (2009) on *Environmental causes of violence*, we could identify a different type of environmental source than the personal factor that has an affect in the criminal behavior or the lead towards crime. Where it was found that the violent behavior is a cause of the exposure to the environmental contaminants which effects in the neurobehavioral effects which includes lowering of IQ, shortened attention span, and increased frequency of antisocial behavior.

The authors states that the exposure to the contaminants like "lead" causes the neurobehavioral effects and increased frequency of antisocial behavior leading to violent behaviors and crimes. Also, it was found that the exposure to different types of contaminants like polychlorinated biphenyls and methyl mercury also gives a similar pattern of violent behavior which will be reflected in the late stage of the adolescents and adulthood where the authors mentions that, the exposure in the childhood towards this type of chemical contaminants in the environment causes a major level of bringing the youth into a behavior of increasing antisocial and violence. In this study, even the authors focus upon the increased rates of conduct disorder which leads to the antisocial behavior where it was found that exposure to Prenatal and Postnatal SHS.

The study also reveals that, temporal trends in rates of violent crime were consistent with the preschool blood lead trends that has an appearance lag of about 20 years in the behavioral responses and lifestyle. And the author concludes that there exists an ecological correlation with many of the studies which states that the exposure to the contaminants in the environment such as lead makes the children to suffer irreversible brain alterations that makes them commit violent crimes as young adults. And shows that there exists a relation between the biological and environmental aspects which leads to the criminal behavior or antisocial behavioral patterns which have a source of environmental exposure of contaminants. And the authors suggest that the most effective way to fight crime is to prevent exposure to these contaminants. (*Environmental Causes of Violence - ScienceDirect, n.d.*)

In another article by Mapou, A. E., Shendell, D., Ohman-Strickland, P., Madrigano, J., Meng, Q., Whytlaw, J., & Miller, J. (2017) on Environmental factors and fluctuations in daily crime rates, we could see that the authors suggests that the environmental factors have both negative as well as positive impact on crime rates than biological factors. Where it was found that the number of crimes increased with an increase in the temperature of the place. Fay and Maner (2014) stated that hostile social responses was increased with the exposure to heat and leading to an increase in the rate of crime. And like wise, Ely and coauthors (2013) mentioned that there was an increase in fatigue, anger, depression and confusion with the increase in the temperature. And shows that how the increased temperature promotes anger and hostility leading to a hike in the number of crimes of various types. Also observed that the level of anger and aggressiveness increased with an increase in humidity.

It was also found that the immediate situational opportunities made an increase in the crime occurring and reflects that environment has a relationship with the rate of crime occurring. (Weisburd and coauthors, 2014). Also, it was found that there was an increase in the rate of crime depends on the cloudy environment as well as on the speed of wind which shows that higher in the wind speed environment has a chance of provoking assaults and a leading increase in thefts and cloudy time can have a chance of increase in crime (Donovan and Prestemon's 2012).

And the authors conclude that the primary environmental factors such as temperature, wind and other elements in the air including the manmade contaminants has a role in the increase in the amount of crime rates.(Mapou *et al.*, 2017)

CONCLUSION

From the reviewed articles, we could find that the crime is a result of the social as well as the environmental factors and not the biological factors. Where, it can be found that the disorganized economy, poor social background, education, and lower level of socioeconomic status and interactions with gangs and exposure towards violent family background, childhood abuse, physical assaults and other physical determinants causes a rise in the crime and causes an increase in the violent behavior inhibiting the moral and social development of an individual.

Also, with the good school and social environment leads to the decrease in the amount of violence with the implementations of good values and social morals and norms which increases the quality of life. And with the exposure to the air contaminants such as lead and also with the biological aspects such as SHS exposure in the post and prenatal stages leads a cause towards the increase in the anti-social as well as violent behavior resulting in the high rate of crime. And also, with the change in the temperature and the environmental factors such as wind and humidity plays a key role in the increase and decrease in the rate of crimes committed.

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