

The Impact of Emotional Challenges of Family on Children's Delinquency (Field Study in the Rehabilitation Center of Kerman Province)

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ABSTRACT

Family relationships are a major determinant of youths' behavior throughout their lives. Many studies have drawn on the hypothesized relationship between delinquency and family relations, and a large number of such studies indicated the presence of family challenges at different social levels leading to a wide range of behavioral abnormalities and delinquencies. However, the present study was conducted considering the special and critical situation of children, the effect of internalized cultural in their behavior as adults, and the fact that success in eradicating or mitigating a problem depends on identification of its causes. Regarding the special geographical position of Kerman province with respect to being located in a drug transit route, this study has been conducted for the first time in Kerman Correction and Rehabilitation Center. This research, focusing on the impact of family's emotional challenges on children's delinquency, studied 56 boy clients at the center through in-depth interviews with all the children in the center. The primary data were collected and analyzed by SPSS software. The research findings, while confirming the impact of emotional problems on children's delinquency, refer to the necessity of paying attention to this impact more than ever before.

KEYWORDS: Child, Delinquency, Correction and Rehabilitation Center, Emotional Problems

INTRODUCTION

Family is the basis of society and is responsible for preserving the generation, socializing children, and providing a friendly and safe atmosphere for its members. Family, by teaching norms of behavior, tries to train normal and social humans and guarantee the health and decency of future generation. However, family can also be a dangerous place for children. Various factors can create conflict between parents continuance of which would lead to emotional challenges and ruining of the family (Moazami and Najibzadeh, 2012: 59). Parents who withdraw their love, affection, care, and control from their children lead them toward aggressiveness and delinquency (Ezazi, 1997: 210). Studies reveal that children are more vulnerable than adults facing with family emotional challenges. Not only physical, mental, and sexual violence, but also witnessing violent behaviors of the parents have seriously negative impacts upon children. According to Siegel, there is no significant difference between the children who only see violence within the family and those who are the victims of such violence (Siegel, Welsh, & Sena, 2003: 198). In addition to the points raised about the effect of family on children's delinquency, the negative individual and social impacts of youth's delinquency on society deserve attention. Also, it is of great importance to study youth's delinquency in Iran due to its young population. And regarding Islam's teachings about the importance of preserving child's decency and rules of conduct with the child, it becomes clear that the condition of accused or convict children must be investigated, the factors affecting the crime must be identified, and appropriate solutions must be sought and proposed using different knowledge areas. This gives a proper understanding of the situation which enables efficiently controlling delinquency of children and preventing them from committing serious crimes in adulthood. On the other hand, Kerman province, due to its special geographical location in the drug transit rut, has a very specific situation. Thus, due to specific cultural, geographical, and social condition, the effect of family emotional problems on the delinquency of children in the Correction and Rehabilitation Center of this province is investigated. In this way, while working theoretically and practically on the etiology of children's delinquency in this province and offering preventive solutions, it becomes possible to better analyze the data and reach a conclusion. It must be mentioned that success in eradicating or mitigating a problem is greatly dependent upon the factors affecting it. By recognizing those factors and taking necessary actions, those factors can be removed. Part of failure in fighting against crimes is related to lack of attempts at identifying the causal factors. In sum, such a study is necessary so that by identifying some of the factors affecting delinquency of children in Kerman province,

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practical and preventive solutions can be offered. In this regard, a study on the effect of familial violence on youth's delinquency was conducted. After case study, 131 clients of Tehran Correction and Rehabilitation Center, and 75 participants of control group were selected through random sampling. The findings of this study confirmed the relationship between violence, misbehavior, and indifference against children in the family and delinquency (Moazami and Najb Esfahani, 2012: 59). Another study conducted in 1388 as a doctoral dissertation about the youth at risk is in line with this finding. In this study, 165 delinquent teenagers from Tehran Correction and Rehabilitation Center and 65 non-delinquent teenagers from the schools of Tehran were randomly selected. The findings of this study revealed that most delinquents were always beaten by their parents, while most non-delinquent participants had not experienced physical violence. Some experts consider child abuse as a kind of medical – social disease which is common in all societies and social classes. According to them, the main reasons of violence and child abuse are parent's drug addiction, economic pressures and financial needs, indifference and cultural poverty, mental problems of parents or children¹. Some studies have found that weak attachment between parents and child, too strict or nonchalant control, lack of order in the family, rejecting children, and severe conflict between parents and children are the main risk factors for children's delinquency (Burfeind & Bartush, 2006). Hence, in order to offer appropriate and efficient solutions for prevention, the present study aims at investigating the effect of family's emotional challenges on children delinquency, the relationship between parents' divorce and emotional problems of the children, and different forms of emotional problems in the family through a field study on the children in Kerman Correction and Rehabilitation Center.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, field study and library research were used to collect the required data. The data collection instrument was in-depth interviews with 56 children in Kerman Correction and Rehabilitation Center. Some part of the data was analyzed by SPSS and their one-dimensional and two-dimensional tables were developed which are presented in the next sections. The bases of comparative analysis in the present study are descriptive and deductive methods, and the theoretical section of the study is based in explanatory-comparative approach.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Concepts

To clarify the subject of discussion, first the relevant concepts are addressed and then, the related viewpoints are presented.

Delinquency

The literal meaning of delinquency is to abandon a legal duty or to commit a wrong deed which is not necessarily crime (Najafu Abrandabadi & Hashem Beigi, 1998: 199). However, in legal terms, it is used as equal to crime (to act or leaving the act as predicted in the law), especially in relation to crimes committed by children and youths (Moazzami, 2011: 68-69). According to criminologists, youth delinquency includes all general wrong deeds committed by 12 to 20 years-old individuals between (ibid). Sociologists have adopted a broader perspective to this issue; they believe that it covers "a broad range of cases violating legal and social norms" (Abercrombie, Turner, & Hill, 1984: 62), though some believe that delinquency is "a deed contrary to approved laws" (Sarookhani, 1991: 181).

Child

Any boy or girl who has not reached maturity is called child. In other words, any immature human being is called child (Moazzami, ibid, 51). However, in legal terms and according to Iranian national laws (Precedent vote No. 30, dated 1985.10.3, and act 1931 of Civil Law, and note 1 of act 49 of Islamic Punishment Law) the limit of childhood is 15 lunar years for boys and 9 lunar years for girls, except for the cases of properties which the individual has possessed before maturity where there is a need to prove growth (Ebadi, 1998: 12). Of course, some believe that the circumstantial evidence for maturity (15 lunar years for boys and 9 lunar years for girls) is rationalistic; thus, it would be better to consider note 1, act 49 of Islamic Punishment Law, and note 1, act 1210 of civil law as complementary, and when the opposite is confirmed, it is violated (Marashi Shoostari, 1997: 17).

Theories

Various theories have been proposed about emotional problems; some are at the level of individual analysis, and some at structural and social level. Theories with structural and social viewpoints, by examining social institutions such

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as family, peers, school and media, view the issue of crime and delinquency as a phenomenon in social and structural context. Therefore, since the present study has focused on the impact of emotional challenges of family on children delinquency, the approaches with social and structural views are adopted. And as one approach is not able to explain children delinquency, it is tried to develop a comprehensive theory by synthesizing several theories.

Theoreticians of social processes, consider family, peers, and school as the main factors of individuals' socialization. Youths who have grown in agitated and tense families, or in single-parent families, or the parents are divorced, or the support and affection are lacking in the family, are inclined toward delinquency. According to Sampson and Laub, the main factors of family context affecting delinquency are lack of maternal control, rejection of the child by the parents, emotional rejection of the child by the parents. These factors have an indirect effect on delinquency (Walde, Bernald, & Snips, 1387: 403). Theoreticians of social learning believe that as crime is an acquired behavior, people learn criminal methods and thoughts in close relations with their criminal friends (Sediq Sarvestani, 2008: 48). Sutherland believes that misbehavior which is the manifestation of general needs and values cannot be explained by these general needs and values (Sutherland & Cressy, 1966: 77-83).

According to Sutherland, socialization at early childhood is very important and most of the main definitions about right and wrong deeds are learnt during childhood and change into beliefs throughout life (Vinfri, 2009: 260).

Theoreticians of social learning consider violence as an issue which is learnt through a process called prototyping (modeling). In modern societies, violent and aggressive behaviors are formed after passing through three main sources. The most prominent models are family members (Siegel, 2005: 277).

According to this theory, children who live in families with violent lifestyle are likely to learn that such behavior is desirable. Even if the parents tell their children not to be aggressive or punish them if they show such behavior, children form their behavior according to evident behavior of their parents. Hence, children witnessing aggressive behaviors of their parents learn that violence is one of the most effective ways of achieving personal goals and controlling others (Moazami & Najib Esfahani, *ibid*, 64-65).

Theoreticians of social control assume that people are naturally inclined toward misbehavior and do so if they are not controlled (Reckless, 1973: 55-57).

Hirschi and Gottfredson argue that training children has the main role in creating and developing continence. According to them, weaknesses of child training, such as lack of control, particularly on the part of mother, and weak attachment to father lead to lower level of continence and higher level of criminal deeds (White and Hanes, 2006: 120).

Testing the theories of social control, Hirschi found that youngsters' attachment to their parents and passing their free times with the family decrease their tendency to delinquency. Also, commitment to institutions and organizations can integrate youths in formal groups leading to individual and social control and regulating their behavior (Ahmadi, 2009: 89).

Robert Agnew's general strain theory is only related to individual or a minor part of the society and does not address the effects of strains at macro level of society. In response to the question why individuals feeling a kind of stress and pressure are more likely to commit crime, he argues that criminal acts are directly formed as a result of effective states such as anger, pressure, discouragement, disillusionment, and inimical feelings caused by negative social relations. According to Agnew, anger, disappointment and discouragement, depression and fear, and other negative states originated from strain make youth commit crime, and among these state, anger is the major cause of strain and delinquency. Agnew believes that some sources of strain are negative motives such as child abuse and indifference, punishment, and conflict in the family (Moazami & Najib Esfahani, *ibid*, 65-66). Aggressive or delinquent behavior is a tool by which most children experiencing abuse or inattention show their enmity to their parents (*ibid*). Some of those children, as they do not find the home environment secure and safe, join delinquent groups whose members mainly have the same problems are of the same gender and age. Such groups play a major role in adverse socialization of the youngsters (Mohajerin, 2008: 84).

In this respect, it can be assumed that children reared with wrong parenting styles are not well-socialized at home. Also, children experiencing misbehavior or inattention as well as emotional challenges that lead to loss of attachment to parents and feeling of failure, strain, disillusionment, and disappointment develop inimical and antisocial attitudes as their need to social relations, attention, trust, belief, praise, and respect are not met. Such attitudes weaken their attachment with the family and lead them to join antisocial groups, activities, and norms which in turn, result in deviant and delinquent behaviors.

Familial factors affecting children delinquency

Inappropriate environment of the family has an undeniable impact on children delinquency. Criminologists list factors such as family disconnection, job condition of the parents, and addiction of family members, financial problems, low education level of the parents, and emotional problems as family problems affecting delinquency.

Family disconnection

Family disconnection does not only relate to divorce or abandoning the family by one of the parents, but is covers inappropriate relations of parents with each other, loss of any of them as a result of disease, unintentional absenteeism, death, or punishment, as well. Loss of father or mother deprives them from control and support and has irrecoverable impacts on training of the children.

Loss of father, besides creating financial problems, has negative effects on the minds of the children. Studies conducted after the First and Second World War revealed that children who lost their fathers in the war suffered from more disorders in their physical and mental growth compared to children who had fathers (NajafiTavana, 2003: 85).

Various studies have confirmed the effect of loss of mother, especially, before 5-years old, on children delinquency (Walklate, 2007: 184). Parents' divorce is always considered as one indicator of a large gap and great disaster which lead to deprivation from vital affection of father and mother (NajafiTavana, *ibid*: 85).

In a family with high levels of disunion, opposition, and loss of understanding, though the child is not apparently rejected from family, indeed, they have been deprived from the love of mother or father or both, and thus, becomes depressed and angry (Shabiati, 2005: 215). A study revealed that experiencing conflict in parents' behavior, lack of appropriate performances, and observing their aggressive behavior can increase the likelihood of children's tendency to violence and delinquency in future (Hemmati, 2004: 230).

Job condition of the parents

If parents' job permits enough time for being with the family members, the children will have sufficient time to have contact and relation with them which prevents one of the major mental sufferings, i.e. the feeling of deprivation. In addition, parents' presence has an undeniable impact on mental and personality development of the children. Criminals in general, and youth delinquent, in particular, are mostly of the families where the parents have low-income jobs or do several jobs to compensate for the low income of the main job (NajafiTavana, *ibid*: 96).

Addiction of the family members

To succeed in their responsibilities, parents need to have a balanced and healthy character. Parents who fail to accomplish their duties, not only are unable to directly train their children, but also indirectly provide an inappropriate model for their children. Use of narcotics and alcohol, and addiction to them are some risk factors that inhibit child training and lead to deviation and abnormality (*ibid*, 84).

Many researchers have observed that parents or siblings using drug are the major risk factors in the family which cause children's addiction to drugs (Khazaeli Parsa, 2009: 60).

Financial problems

As the parents of poor families are usually illiterate, they have to work hard throughout the day to make income, and when they come back home from work respond angrily to the needs of their children (Shambiati, *ibid*: 239), or to balance their income and expenses, put pressure on the family members which has a significant negative effect on both physical and mental development of the children (Najafi Tavana, *ibid*: 95). In this respect, when home environment is always agitated because of poverty, children and youngsters become fed-up with family life and tend towards crimes and addiction (Danesh, 2006: 6). The findings of some studies indicate that undesirable economic condition increases crimes and violence of the crimes in suburbs (Mohajerin, 2008: 109).

Low education level of the parents

Sometimes, inability of parents in training children, due to various factors such as cultural poverty or illiteracy, financial problems and not meeting primary needs, prevents parents from protecting their children against social threats. This causes problems in the character of the children faced with everyday problems and makes the child suffer from their inability and gradually, leads to backwardness. In this condition, the child has no interest in going out and playing with peers, and suffers from temporal and emotional disorders (Najafi Tavana, *ibid*: 80).

Emotional problems

The responsibility of the parents is not only providing food, clothing, and housing for the children; rather, meeting emotional, temporal, and training needs must be considered as the major natural duties of the parents. Creating a friendly, coordinated, and safe environment enables the child to face the problems out of home and solve them (Poormahyabadi, 2010: 46).

In this section, considering the above-mentioned points, the emotional problems affecting children delinquency are separately discussed.

1. Excessive attention and affection

Excessive love and inattention of the parents are considered as the faults in training children. Excessively overlooking child's mistakes and behavioral problems makes them proud and selfish individuals and weakens their ability to face difficulties of the life. Such an individual feels depressed and oppressed in their first attempt to face ordinary problems and failure to solve them. Because they are not blamed and criticized for their mistakes and misbehaviors, they do not recognize right and wrong (Najafi Tavana, *ibid*: 83). Examples of such individuals are the children of rich families whose needs are immediately met, study in the nest schools, and enjoy from all facilities. They expect all affairs of the society to be done in accordance with their will, and are proud of violating rules and regulations (Danesh, *ibid*: 60).

2. Violence and anger

Violence against children is a serious problem throughout the world. According to a UNISEF report, only in 16 countries physical punishment of the children is forbidden in any condition. This means that the majority of children in the world do not enjoy from this legal right to be protected against misuse in their homes (Moazami & Najib Esfahani, *ibid*: 70).

Statistics show that on the average, about 133 to 275 million children in the world experience home violence in a year which can severely affect their health, growth, and social interaction in adulthood (Pineroo, 2008: 9). Some studies on child abuse show the direct role of parents in over 87% of the cases (Irvanian, 2010: 50). Child abuse involves all forms of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, inattention, and commercial use as well as exploitation of the children which cause potential or real damages to their health, growth, and dignity (*ibid*: 59).

Violence is not a new phenomenon. Researchers believe that tendency to violence is not a congenital problem in children. In fact, children learn that violence is an effective way to reach personal goals and control others. It must be mentioned that tendency to violence in children can increase their willingness to crime in adulthood (Moazami & Najibzade, *ibid*: 71). Studies in different parts of the world indicate that before the age of five, children are at highest risk of abuse, because they are more dependent and unable that others (Mohseni, 2007: 127).

The impacts of sexual abuse can be disastrous. According to estimations of World Health Organization (WHO), 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 years old have experienced rape and other forms of sexual abuse together with physical contact. A large proportion of such sexual abuses are done by family members or other people at home of the children. According to research findings, about 14 to 56 percent of girl abuses and up to 25 percent cases of boy abuses have been made by close relatives or the parents (Pineroo, *ibid*: 56).

Fear, sense of guilt, and embarrassment is common among these children, and the mental problem caused by abuse continues to adulthood in some cases (Moazami & Najib Esfahani, *ibid*: 72).

The risk of violence against children is caused by different factors such as quality of child's familial relation, family condition and the relations of family members with each other; and sometime, a combination of personality, familial, social, cultural, and economic factors is involved in violence. Factors related to family, low education level and lack of life skills, migration living in neighborhoods with high level of crime are factors that lead to poverty, violence, strain, and deprivation and increase the risk of physical and mental violence against children. Also, dissociable families, families addicted to drug and alcohol, and families that are not able to control their anger show more misbehavior and inattention to their children. Inattention is one of the major causes of children mortality and diseases (*ibid*).

The context of weak laws and other socio-cultural factors directly pave the way for violence against children².

3. Lack of love and affection

If the child is deprived from affection and love in the early years of life, the main core of anger and mental problems is formed within him which in later years, will be the source of deep stress and many affective disorders. Lack of affection is a strong factor which leads children and youths to delinquency. Sometimes, it is observed that some children incline toward theft, violence, and mayhem as a result of parents' indifference and inattention. According to many psychologists and experts, the reason is that since some children do not get sufficient attention and love in the family, start to steal and hurt others as a reaction to this lack of love and affection. Indeed, such children crave for love, but since they do not receive it from their parents, commit crime to attract and to attract the attention of their parents. In other words, the motive behind crime in children is to show off. No punishment and

²In article 7 of the law of protecting children and youth, article 1179 of civil law, and article 59 of Islamic punishment law, this is excluded (i.e. parents who punish their child for discipline are excluded from this law). This is while child abuse mostly happens in the family. In note 2 of article 549 of Islamic punishment law it is stated that punishment must be according to expedience. What is this expedience? Is it the interest of child or society? Generally, making consensus among the law of protecting children and youth, note 2 of article 49 of Islamic punishments law, article 59 of that law, and article 1179 of civil law is very difficult with respect to criminal policy.

threat would be effective for removing such unrighteous habits, unless the parents find out the major reason and love the child (Shambiati, *ibid*: 211-214).

Besides, lack of love and affection would lead the child to be supported, guided, and loved by membership in groups. Children and youths, who are not accepted in their families, try to join groups, even criminal ones, to show their character (Danesh, *ibid*: 95).

It must be mentioned that they seek a model for themselves according to their age, so the likelihood of joining group with older members who have experienced different types of crime increases (*ibid*: 116).

The impacts of emotional problems

The emotional problems mentioned have severe consequences. For example, anger and violence against children have very negative effects in training and quality of child's character, especially after childhood and years before puberty, and in later years, increases the feelings of jealousy, enmity, and violence against others. They become passive, inflexible, timid, and low self-esteem individuals who try to meet their emotional needs in environments such as neighborhood, school, peers group, etc. as their needs are not met at home (Mohajerin, *ibid*: 84-85).

In developing the comprehensive theory of sexual delinquency, violent training on the part of the parents and its resultant feeling of anger and hatred are considered as the basic elements of sexual delinquency. In this regard, some criminologists related the weakness caused by unfavorable relations of parents and the child to commitment of sexual crimes (Moazami & Mahdavi, 2009; 94).

One of the most common consequences of family emotional problems is children's escape from the home. Children who experience sexual abuse, high levels of indifference, or violence at home might escape from the home or prefer street life which further expose them to the risk of sexual abuse or exploitation (Moazami & Najib Esfahani, *ibid*: 74).

The risk of children's delinquency increases by emotional problems of home, as factors endangering mental health of most children include the experience of children's involvement with destructive factors at home such as conflict, family disconnection, lack of order in the family and control over the children's behavior, and in general wrong ways of training which lead to low attachment, strain, deprivation, anger, disappointment, and finally, antisocial attitudes, and delinquency. A study in dangerous criminals revealed that 72% of them had lost their parents because of death or divorce, and over half of them had reported a kind of misbehavior, indifference, or depilation. This study indicated that parents' addiction to alcohol was 22% in the study group, while this rate was 2% in the control group. Also, addiction to drugs was 12% among the parents' of the criminals, while it was 4% in control group (Naomi, *et al.*, 2005: 98).

A study on the girl clients of Tehran Welfare Organization indicated that 80% of them had the history of emotional child abuse, deprivation from mother's love, mayhem, abusiveness, blame, and downgrading on the part of mother which led to emotional separation with the mother. 65% of the girls who had fathers with addiction or perversion, had the history of illegal relation and remarriage (Moazami & Mahdavi, *ibid*: 92).

Studying the life history of women prisoners indicates the relationship between being victim during childhood and criminal in adulthood. Most of such women also have the problem of addiction (Moazami & Najib Esfahani, *ibid*: 75).

Research findings

The following data were obtained from 56 boys in the Correction and Rehabilitation Centers:

64.3% of the children reported that their parents always had disputes and conflict with each other. 19.6% of them stated that besides disputes, their parents sometimes had battles. 7.1% reported that their parents sometimes had disputes, and only 5.4% evaluated their parents' relation as good at home.

The parents of 76.8% of the children lives together, and parents of 23.3% lived separately. From 23.3% whose parents lived separately, 1.8% was due to remarriage of the father, 5.4% were due to the divorce, and 16.1% were due to death of one parent.

Studying parents' attention to emotional and psychological condition of the children among 13 (23.3%) children whose parents did not live together revealed that 53.8% of such children believed that their emotional and psychological status did not matter to their parents at all, 23.1% believed that their parents attend to their emotional and psychological needs to some extent, and 23.1% of them reported that their parents care about their emotional and psychological condition.

41.1% of the children had a family member who had experienced imprisonment and 58.9% of them did not. Among the children whose family members had experienced imprisonment, imprisonment of the father with 12.5% and brother with 16.1% had the highest frequency. The other seven children respectively reported mother, sister and brother, parents, uncle, father and brother, parents and siblings, mother, uncle, and grandfather as the prisoner family

member(s). Among these 23 children (41.1%) the most frequent reason for the imprisonment of family members were respectively drug trafficking (60.9%), robbery (17.3), and murder (8.6%). Five other children reported battle, driving crimes, carrying weapons, carrying others' document, and buying forged documents as the reasons for imprisonment.

Regarding the job condition of the father (except for 8.9% of children who did not respond to the relevant question), the fathers of 71.4T children were working, 3.6 were unemployed, 10.7% were disabled, and 3.6 were retired. The mothers of 45 out of 56 children were housewives (80.4%) and the rest were working.

Regarding the addiction of family members, it was found that 39.3% of the children had one or more family member(s); i.e. fathers of 25% the children, the mothers of 1.8%, the brother of 5.4%, and the parents and sister (three of them) of 3.6% of the children in the center were addicted.

The economic condition of 33.9% of the children was evaluated as poor, 3.4% as the average, and 35.7% as good.

Regarding the education level of the father of children under study (except 3.6% who did not answer the questions), 39.3% had illiterate fathers, the fathers of 21.4% had passed primary school, the fathers of 16.7% had passed guidance school, and 19.6% of the fathers had diploma. In this evaluation, it was found that 44.6% of the children had illiterate mothers, the mothers of 23.2% of them had primary school education, the mothers of 16.7% had passed guidance school, the fathers of 14.2% had diploma, and the mothers of 1.7% of them had bachelor's degree.

Considering the emotional problems of the families, 73.2% of the children reported indifference and inattention, 16% reported psychological violence, and 5.3% reported physical violence. From among 56 children, only 3.7% reported that their family had no emotional problems.

With respect to parents' behavior when the child did a wrong act, 82.2% reported interpellation and 17.8% reported indifference.

Data analysis

The findings revealed that emotional problems existed in the family of most children. Severe violence (continuous dispute and battle among the parents) was reported by 64.3% of the children under study. In addition, 19.6% of them pointed to the battle between parents, besides continuous dispute between them. Another point is that 17.8% of the children faced no appropriate reaction on the part of their parents when they committed a wrong deed.

The emotional problems of the family of the children under study (which, according to the literature, have a significant effect on children delinquency) are in the order of frequency inattention and indifference, mental violence, and physical violence.

Based on the studies conducted in this area, inattention and indifference toward 57% of delinquent youths played a role in 58% of property damages and 49% of violent crimes (Moazami & Mahdavi, *ibid*: 95).

Comparing the findings obtained by evaluating parents' care for the psychological and emotional condition of the children whose parents did not live together (23.3% of the children in this study) with the findings about children whose parents lived together indicated that by separation of the parents, meeting the emotional and psychological needs is distorted contributing to hard situation for the children. That is to say, among 41 children whose parents lived together, 17.1% believed that their emotional and psychological status did not matter to their parents at all, 24.4% believed that their parents met to their emotional and psychological needs to some extent, and more importantly, 58.5% of them reported that their parents cared much about their emotional and psychological condition.

In this respect, the results of data analysis confirm the main hypothesis of this study: there is a relationship between emotional challenges of the family and children's delinquency.

Table 1. Frequency of Responses with Respect to the Relation between Parents at Home

Parents' relation at home	Frequency	Percentage
Good	3	5/4
They sometimes had disputes	4	7/1
They sometime had battles in addition dispute	11	19/6
They always had disputes and battles	36	64/3
Unanswered	2	3/6
Total	56	100

Table 2. Frequency of Responses with Respect to the Type of Emotional Problem

Type of emotional problem	Frequency	Percentage
Inattention and indifference	41	73/2
Physical valence	3	5/3
Mental violence	9	16
None	2	3/7
Unanswered	1	1/8
Total	56	100

Table 3. Frequency of Responses with Respect to the Parents' Care about Emotional and Psychological Needs of the Child before Coming to the Center

Total	No	Yes	Parents live together	
			Parents case about emotional and psychological needs of the children	
14	7	7	Frequency	Not at all
25/9	53/8	17/1	Percentage	
13	3	10	Frequency	To some extent
24/1	23/1	24/4	Percentage	
27	3	24	Frequency	Much
50/0	23/1	58/5	Percentage	
54	13	41	Frequency	Total
100/0	100/0	100/0	Percentage	

Table 4. Frequency of Responses with Respect to parents' Reaction to the Wrong Behavior of the Children

Parents' reaction	Frequency	Percentage
Interpellation	44	82/2
Indifference	12	17/8
Total	56	100

The findings of this study are in line with the results of Moazami and Najib Esfahani (2012) on the "impact of family violence on children and youth delinquency". They randomly selected 131 clients of Tehran Correction and Rehabilitation Center as their study group and 75 as their control group from among the visitors of clients. They found that 60.2% (about 124) of the children in both delinquent and non-delinquent groups had experienced physical violence on the part of parents.

The present study indicated that the education level of the parents of study group was clearly low (the father of 39.3% and the mothers of 44.6% of them were illiterate) and only the mother of 1 child had university education.

The findings of this study indicated that economic poverty has clear relationship with different types of emotional problems against children in the family (64.3% of the children lived in families with economic poverty).

This study indicated that there is a relationship between the addiction of family members and emotional problems imposed upon the children by the parents (about 40% of the children had addicted family members).

The present study, in line with the studies of Mahdavi (2009), Sadeghifar (1389), and Moazami and Najib Esfahani (2012) revealed that the parents of most clients had low level jobs.

Observing the violent relations of parents contributes to aggressive character of the children. The findings of this study indicated that the parents of 64.3% of the children always had disputes and battles with each other, and the children under study observed it.

Since one or more person(s) in the family of 41.1% of the children had experienced prison, and father (12.5%) and brother (16.1%) had the highest frequency of imprisonment, and considering the reasons of imprisonment (the commonest of which being drug trafficking with 60.9% frequency) the effect of geographical location of Kerman province (being located at drug traffic route) on the adults, and more importantly, the children of this province is confirmed.

Conclusion

Families who do not have the capabilities and skills necessary to train children, and families in which conflict, violence, and misbehavior are very significant are not able to properly socialize their children. In this respect, factors such as family disconnection, the job position of the parents, financial problems, low education level of the parents, parents' addiction, physical and mental misbehaviors, inattention and indifference in the family enhance the risk of perversion and delinquency in the children.

Inattention to children and continuous misbehavior with them weaken their attachment to parents and lead to uncommitment, ignoring ethical norms and beliefs, and getting involved in deviated behaviors. According to Hirshi's theory, delinquency happens when the connection of the individual with the society is weakened or ruptured. According to social learning theory, children learn the behavior of those whom they like.

Children learn from their aggressive and angry parents that they can use violence and anger to solve their problems. According to strain theory, deviation occurs among socio-economically deprived groups of the society. In this theory, one of the sources of pressure and strain is negative motives such as the disagreement and conflict between parents, misbehavior and violence against children, and inattention and indifference toward them.

There is a statistically significant relationship between parents' separation, especially death of a parent (16.1% out of 23.3%) and divorce (5.4% out of 23.3%) and familial problems. In addition, the physical battles of the parents (negative motive) were estimated to be 64.3% which is statistically significant.

There is a significant relationship between violence in the family against children and their delinquency. Accordingly, it can be claimed that the more violence and misbehavior are common among family members, the more children are likely to be inclined toward delinquency. The major emotional problems in the family of children under study in order of frequency were inattention and indifference (73.2%), mental violence (16%), and physical violence (5.3%).

It can be argued that the main hypothesis of the study, i.e. the effect of emotional problems on children delinquency is confirmed. Poverty, addiction, low educational level, and job position of the parents affect emotional problems of the family against children.

According to the findings of the study, it appears that the best way for controlling youth delinquency is implementing programs for preventing emotional problems against children. This requires supporting the family from different aspects. The support program is multifaceted; it includes financial, health, social, and welfare support from the family, on the one hand and education of the families, on the other. Education consists of teaching the ways of selecting spouse, job, protection, child training, having friendly relations with children, and problem management. This program also covers the followings:

- Programs helping and supporting children who have experienced emotional problems at home;
- Increasing the efficiency of educational system for promoting the awareness and skills of the children faced with dangerous and problematic situations, specially the children at risk;
- Increasing public awareness through pre- and post-marriage workshops regarding marriage, the consequences of unsuccessful marriage, and the effect of parents' dispute on the children;
- Organized legal, financial, and social support from single-parent families together with continuous supervision of its implementation;
- Adoption of mechanisms for implementing alternative solutions for the articles of child right treaty for those children whose major reason of delinquency or repeating it is their family environment;
- Updating the information of qualified organizations in the area of children at risk (children whose parents are separated, single-parent children, children with addicted parents, disabled children, orphans, etc.) and allocating necessary resources to develop effective and efficient supporting programs with the help of related experts aimed at preventing delinquency of such children.

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