

Analysis on the Causes of Juvenile Crimes from the Perspective of Psychology

HUANG Qi-qi

People's Public Security University of China, Beijing 100038, China

ABSTRACT. *With the continuous occurrence of juvenile crimes, juvenile crime has become a problem that cannot be ignored in Chinese society. The article believes that to analyze the causes of juvenile crime from the perspective of psychology, it is necessary to explore the special psychological characteristics of juveniles themselves, but also to consider the influence of the external social environment on the formation of juvenile criminal psychology.*

KEYWORDS: *Juvenile crime, Psychology, Cause of crime*

1. Introduction

In recent years, a number of juvenile crimes have attracted great attention from whole society. Cases such as the murder of a 12-year-old boy in Hunan province and the dismemberment of a friend of a classmate by a 13-year-old girl in Guangxi province have not only stimulated the public's nerves, but also put the investigation of the reasons for juvenile crimes back into the public eye. Juvenile crimes often starts with psychological problems, which may deteriorate and spread at any time like a malignant tumor. While damaging the juvenile's immature mind, it will eventually become the inner cause and dominant force of criminal behavior¹. The investigation of the cause of criminal behavior must be based on the understanding of the psychological motivation behind the criminal behavior. As for the thinking about the psychological factors behind the criminal behavior of minors, it is necessary to consider the minor's own special psychological characteristics and the external social environment.

2. Special Psychological Characteristics of Minors

The psychological characteristics of minors are caused by various factors such as physiology and psychology in the growth process. The contradiction between the physical development and psychological development of minors, the contradictions between the various parts of the psychological activity itself, and the contradictions between psychological development and objective reality are important reasons for the criminal psychology of minors².

2.1 The Contradiction between Physical Development and Psychological Development

Minors are in a rapid stage of physical and intellectual development. Especially minors who have entered puberty are at the peak of physical and intellectual development. During this period, height, weight, brain, and sexual function are all developing rapidly. However, relative to the rapid maturity of physiological functions, the development and maturation of minors' personality psychology is a relatively slow and gradual process. The lag of the level of psychological development relative to the physiological development makes minors show great inconsistency in the process of contacting the external social environment, and cannot control their own behavior rationally. The specific manifestations are strong rebellious psychology, poor ability to distinguish right and wrong, lack of correct evaluation of self-consciousness, the variability and impulsivity of emotions, etc. If the imbalance between psychological development and physical development does not get the attention and intervention of teachers and parents, and let it develop, it will aggravate this imbalance, causing minors to form a distorted psychology and bad personality. They will embark on the path of crime in the future to bury terrible hidden dangers.

2.2 The Contradiction between the Various Parts of the Mental Activity Itself

Psychological activity is a comprehensive integration of the coordinated development of the three elements of cognitive activity, emotional activity and will activity. The interdependence and coordinated development of the three elements are the prerequisite and basis for promoting the development of minors' mental health. However, due to the immaturity mental development of minors, it cannot effectively regulate the coordination and balance between the three elements, which leads to contradictions between the various parts of the mental activity itself.

2.2.1 The Contradiction between Cognitive Activity and Emotional Activity

Minors are full of curiosity and strong thirst for knowledge about the world around them, and they always want to explore new and strange things. Therefore, the minor period is the golden stage of learning skills and exercising thinking. However, minors have insufficient social experience, lack of in-depth thinking and profound experience of the surrounding things, so they are too superficial and superficial, and they are easy to be emotional, irrespective of right and wrong, or be deceived by others. The development of cognitive level lags behind emotional development is one of the contradictions that minors face in the process of growing up. If they are not adjusted in time, they may embark on the road of illegal crimes.

2.2.2 The Contradiction between Cognitive Activity and Volitional Activity

While minors show their strong thirst for knowledge to the world around them, they also expose their lack of self-control and restraint, and their will activities are bipolar. On the one hand, they tend to retreat and appear weak-willed to accomplish their beneficial goals; but for their own desires and needs, they will always find ways to overcome all

difficulties and satisfy them, showing the stubborn will. The development of volitional activity lags behind the contradiction of cognitive development, which makes it difficult for minors to distinguish the boundaries between kindness and evil, and lays an incentive for embarking on the path of crime.

2.2.3 The Contradiction between Emotional Activity and Volitional Activity

Minors always have strong enthusiasm for new things around them. They are emotionally rich, but they are also accompanied by the characteristics of impulsive irritability and inability to rationally control their emotions. In addition, the volitional activities of minors are obviously bipolar, which makes them unable to rationally use their own will to control emotions, and even contributes to the production of bad emotions. The impulsive and changeable emotions lead to the shake of the will development, so that they don't know how to make the right choices and control their behavior. If the contradiction between emotional activity and volitional activity is not properly guided, it will easily lead to criminal behavior.

2.3 The Contradiction between Psychological Development and Objective Reality

The most notable feature of minors' psychological changes is that they have a strong sense of self and urgently require contact with society. In their consciousness, they think that they have got rid of the identity of "children" and are eagerly seeking the same social status as adults³. The mental development of minors is immaturity and easily controlled by emotions. Some minors will even do whatever they want to achieve their goals under the control of rebellious psychology. If this contradiction between psychological development and objective reality is not adjusted and alleviated, it may lead to minor deviant and criminal behavior.

3. External Social Environmental Factors

The occurrence of crime is the result of the interaction of many factors. Minors commit crimes not only from their own psychological characteristics, but also from the social environment. The author believes that the social environmental factors that affect the formation of juvenile criminal psychology are as follows:

3.1 The Mental Development of Minors Has Been Ignored for a Long Time

In the process of growing up, minors will inevitably encounter such a phenomenon in their daily study and life: when parents and teachers deal with problems encountered by minors, they will always handle psychological problems "physically" - wear more clothes when they are cold, rest more when they are tired, go to the hospital if they feel unwell, use material satisfaction to replace spiritual communication and communication⁴. Minors themselves have an unbalanced state in which their psychological development lags behind their physical development, and the indifference of schools, families and society to their psychological problems can only exacerbate this contradiction and conflict.

If things go on like this, minors who are not guided and educated are very likely to take wrong or even extreme ways to get rid of the difficulties they face when facing difficulties and setbacks.

3.2 Improper Family Education

Improper family education methods are mainly divided into three categories: The first category is families with unsound family structure. In this type of family, because the parents are divorced or cannot accompany the child's growth for long-term migrant work, it is impossible to timely intervene and guide the child's psychological problems; the second type is the family lacking the ability to discipline. Parents of this type of family either ignore the children's spiritual and psychological needs in the process of learning and life; or overdoting, respond to the children's various reasonable or unreasonable needs. Minors who grew up in families lacking the ability to discipline are either full of doubts and confusion about the future development direction, difficult to form a correct outlook on life and values, or are selfish and lack a sense of social responsibility; the third type is to adopt high-pressure education methods family. Parents of this type of family discipline their children too harshly and do not know how to respect their children's choices and self esteem. This kind of overpowering education method is likely to hurt their self esteem and trust in their parents, and breed hatred and hostility towards the family and society.

3.3 Too Much Emphasis on Learning and Despise Moral Education

Nowadays, knowledge and talents have become an important part of economic development. Affected by various factors such as pressure from higher education, employment pressure and educational resources, teachers and parents always use the student's academic performance as the decisive indicator of whether a student is outstanding. While neglecting the shaping and training of students' spirit and morality. Most juvenile offenders are students who have dropped out or have poor academic performance at school. Because of their poor academic performance, they have endured a lot of pressure and criticism from school and family. The self esteem of these students has been hit, their sense of self-identity is low, and they gradually become bored and avoiding school and learning. When they encounter similar groups (criminal groups) in society by chance, in order to gain the recognition and acceptance of their peers, they are likely to commit illegal acts under the instigation or instigation of others and gradually embark on the path of crime.

3.4 The Influence of Bad Peer Groups

People are social animals that determine their social attributes, and it is difficult for individuals to separate from the group and exist independently⁵. When minors reach a certain age, they will yearn to get rid of dependence on their parents and are more attracted by the close relationship between their peers. But as minors with immature psychological development, their recognition ability and willpower are relatively weak. If

they fall into a bad peer group, they may hinder the internalization of their social morals and legal norms. Many behaviors performed by minors are not their instincts, but are often the result of the experience of observing and learning the behavior of others⁶. Therefore, when minors receive more negative influences than positive influences in the bad peer group, they may commit crimes.

4. Conclusion

There are laws to follow to explore the causes of minors' crimes using psychological theories. The formation of juvenile criminal psychology is closely related to the laws of physical and psychological development, but it is inseparable from the influence and promotion of the external social environment. It is precisely because of the interaction between the psychological characteristics of the minor individual and the external environment that the individual's behavior causes feedback from the external environment, and the environmental feedback strengthens the individual's psychological characteristics and ultimately leads to criminal behavior. To curb the occurrence of juvenile crimes, it is necessary to strengthen the mental health education of juveniles and create a good learning and living environment for them. This is the enlightenment brought by the discussion of the reasons for juvenile crime from the perspective of psychology.

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