



EFFECTS OF SOCIALIZATION ON YOUTH VIOLENCE AND CRIMES

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Abstract

in modern times, youth violence and criminality have surged in developed and developing countries. it has heightened public anxiety about personal security and property protection. every year, 1.25 million individuals die as a result of violence-related injuries. violence stems from various conditions in young people's lives and early experiences that can have profound implications when they transition from childhood, a time of rapid development, ambiguity, exploration, and excitement. as a result, the rise in violence, particularly the growing engagement of the young in economic and social violence, whether as victims or offenders, has become a stark reality and a burden for social, moral, and economic domains.

Keywords: family, neighborhood, peer pressure, self-control, self-esteem



Introduction

The term 'youth' has no broadly accepted international definition (Dreal et al., 2022; Penn & Davenport, 2022). However, the UN defines 'youth' for statistical purposes as anyone between the ages of 15 and 24. In its resolution 36/28 of 1981, the General Assembly adopted this term, which emerged in the framework of planning for the International Youth Year (1985) (United Nations, 2022). This concept serves as the foundation for all UN data on youth, as shown by the yearly yearbooks containing statistics on demographics, health, employment, and education released by the UN.

According to this statistical definition of youth, people under 14 are regarded as children (Brown, 2022; Flannery, 2022). However, it is noteworthy that 'children' are defined as those under 18 under Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations, 2022). Since there was no similar declaration on youth rights at the time, it was intended that the convention would offer protection and rights to the broadest age range conceivable.

Many nations limit youth regarding the 'age of majority,' at which an individual is treated equally before the law (Case, 2022). However, in many nations, this age is often 18. Hence, once a person reaches this age, they are considered adult (Dollinger, 2021). Nevertheless, based on specific sociological, political, economic, and institutional considerations, many countries have different operational definitions and nuanced uses of the term 'youth' (Taylor, 2018).

According to the World Health Organization (2022), each year, violence-related injuries claim the deaths of 1.25 million people worldwide. Three of the top five causes of mortality for persons aged 5 to 29 are car accidents, murder, and suicide. Furthermore, national economies are heavily impacted by violence and crime, which costs them billions of dollars annually in law enforcement, lost productivity, and health care. In addition, various Sustainable Development Goal objectives will be easier to fulfill by preventing violence and crime.

Each year, violence claims the lives of twice as many men as women. Around the world, men make up roughly 75% of those killed in car accidents, 45% of those killed in homicides, and 33% of those killed in combat. The three leading causes of mortality for females of all ages are falls, road traffic accidents, and suicide. Violence is also more likely to occur when people are poor. 90% of violent deaths occur in low and middle-income nations (WHO, 2022). People from lower socioeconomic origins have more severe and non-severe injuries than those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds, even within the same nation. Even in high-income nations, this is true (Levell, 2022).

Research Justification



According to united nations (2022), 1.2 billion young people, or 16% of the world's population, are between the ages of 15 and 24. the estimated increase in the young population by 2030—the deadline for achieving the sdgs that make up the 2030 agenda—will bring the total to about 1.3 billion. when given the information and opportunity, they require to succeed, youth may be a powerful force for growth. however, on the other hand, youth might hinder the process of advancement in the modern day in the absence of positive opportunities.

Research Question

What are the effects of socialization on youth violence and crimes in the contemporary era?

Research Objectives

1. to highlight the types and factors affecting youth violence and crimes.
2. to discuss the effects of individual factors, i.e., self-esteem and self-control, on youth violence and crimes.
3. to discuss the effects of family on youth violence and crimes.
4. to discuss the effects of peers on youth violence and crimes.
5. to discuss the effects of a neighborhood on youth violence and crimes.

Research Methodology

Numerous issues arise as a result of a large amount of scholarly literature. one is how to fully document and evaluate the status of knowledge on a specific aspect. a systematic review method is an effective tool for accomplishing this. the continual increase of research and the need to synthesize available content resulted in the formal establishment of the systematic review method in the late twentieth century (Chalmers et al., 2002; Higgins et al., 2011; Meer Pohl et al., 2012). the systematic review method comb through assesses and compiles all pertinent empirical information to give a comprehensive interpretation of study findings. although the systematic review method is often employed in the social sciences, it is also used in management sciences, law studies, life sciences, earth sciences, and physical sciences (Gil body, 2005; O'Hagan, 2006; pulling & Stewart, 2006).

The systematic review approach has many advantages. to begin, they provide a concise and comprehensive summary of the available data on a particular subject. additionally, it assists in identifying research gaps in a field's understanding. furthermore, they can draw attention to methodological issues in research projects, enhancing future work in the field (Eagly & wood, 1994). finally, they may identify clear answers based on current data and do not require more study (Chalmers et al., 2009). conducting systematic reviews, particularly for new writers, demonstrates to be a valuable endeavor. authors get a deeper understanding of their topic area of interest, generate fresh research ideas, and build critical abilities for synthesizing current material.



A systematic review approach was used to conduct this research. this technique highlights establishing the research objectives and comprehensively examines the subject's literature (Komba & Lwoga, 2020). first, the study results are categorized per the subject's topic (petti crew & Roberts, 2006). second, the study categorizes classified data into categories (Pawson et al., 2005). third, the study's flow is determined by evaluating classified material and titles (Rahi, 2017). finally, the integrity guarantee is maintained by comparing the research subjects and their contents (victor, 2008).

Consequently, this technique was selected, and the associated processes were observed. reviewing the relevant literature resulted in accumulating data and information coded according to the study goals. the coded data were grouped by subject. after classifying and merging the subjects, they were ordered by degree of connection.

Types of Youth Violence and Crimes

The home office provided funding in 2019 to create the wales violence prevention unit. they approach violence prevention from a public health perspective. it indicates that they look for reasons for violence based on facts. they create programs that target the root causes of violence using this evidence. before scaling up any initiative to assist additional individuals and communities throughout wales, they thoroughly analyze them. they aspire to create a systemic reaction to violence prevention through this method. according to the wales violence prevention unit (2022), the enlisted are the types of youth violence and crimes.

1. **Sexual violence and abuse:** any unwanted or unconsented act perceived as sexual constitutes sexual assault and abuse. online, verbal, psychological, and physical forms of sexual assault and abuse all exist.
2. **Intimate partner violence:** young individuals who experience intimate relationship violence may be subjected to physical injury, sexual assault, stalking, or psychological trauma by a current or previous partner or spouse. this kind of violence does not require sexual closeness and can happen between spouses.
3. **Bullying:** it is unwanted and aggressive conduct, including a real or imagined power imbalance. this conduct frequently continues over time and may leave a lasting impression on victims. bullying can occur verbally, in person, online, or even physically.
4. **Gang violence:** to increase or maintain their strength, reputation, or financial resources, gangs frequently engage in illegal activities using violence or intimidation. the types of violence can be very diverse, including homicide, crimes involving knives and guns, assault, and crimes of exploitation. in addition, young gang individuals may experience violence or feel pressured to act in specific ways (e.g., carrying weapons or drugs and stealing). as a result, they could experience abuse, exploitation, and danger.
5. **Online abuse and violence:** any abuse that occurs online or through various devices



is considered online abuse and violence (like on gaming devices and mobile). cyberbullying, inappropriate use of private images, sexual abuse, and exploitation are all examples of online abuse and violence.

6. **Exploitation and contemporary slavery:** the use of a person (such as children or young people, or vulnerable individuals) for one's gain, enjoyment, or profit is known as exploitation. this usage frequently results in unfair, harsh, and hurtful treatment. there are many types of exploitation, including contemporary slavery and sexual and criminal exploitation.
7. **Knife and gun crime:** it includes offenses when a person is in public with a weapon, has used a firearm against someone else, or has threatened someone with a weapon.

Various factors affecting youth violence and crimes

data on the elements might increase the likelihood of youth being involved in violence as offenders or victims. these risks can add up; thus, having more than one risk factor can raise the overall risk (wales violence prevention unit, 2022).

1. **Psychological and behavioral traits:** traits such as impulsivity, sensation seeking, poor behavioral control, hyperactivity, and attention issues are signs of a problem. violence can also result from gang membership or other dangerous or delinquent behavior.
2. **Demographic profile:** age, gender, and ethnicity are factors in the demographic profile that might increase the likelihood of participating in violent behavior. boys and young men, for instance, are more likely to be involved in knife-related violence, while girls and young women are more likely to be victims of intimate relationships and sexual abuse.
3. **Education:** low academic expectations, a lack of dedication to and involvement in school, and violence are all related.
4. **Exposure to trauma:** youth violence is frequently seen as an unpleasant childhood experience, although exposure to acts such as parental mental health, neglect, abuse, and community violence can also increase the likelihood of becoming a victim or an aggressor of violence.
5. **Parental relationships:** parental interactions, including child-parent bonding, parental corrective measures, and the supervision and monitoring of a kid (e.g., strict or lax parenting), can influence a person's risk of engaging in violence.
6. **Deprivation:** while anybody can become a victim of violence, some forms are more common in the poorest neighborhoods (like gang-related violence). lack of income and work might raise the likelihood of violence.
7. **Drugs and alcohol:** violence can also result from the easy availability of alcohol and drugs.

Individual Factors Affecting Youth Violence and Crimes



Each individual has unique skills, including the capacity for violence (Engdaw, 2018; Seifert; 2011). young people developed their techniques or strategies using violence after witnessing how others used it to settle disputes (Gunter, 2017; Rodriguez, 2020). the most crucial aspects are those related to the environment, society, physical health, and mental health since these factors lead to teenage violence (brown, 2022). the most significant predictors of juvenile aggression are family background, peer group relationships, and academic success (Dreal et al., 2022; ward, 2012).

Individual variables that lead to violence and crime include early aggressive actions, violent attitudes, personal prejudices, and social cognitive deficiencies (Goldson & Muncie, 2015). these elements have all been shown to encourage aggressive conduct in young people. in addition, researchers claim that taught behavior is the most violent conduct when we look at the leading causes of youth violence and crimes (Lim, 2022).

1. Self - Esteem

Many sociological theories hold that low self-esteem has a significant role in delinquent conduct, emotions of stress and anxiety, and academic achievement (Dollinger, 2021; Hammond et al., 2015; Taylor, 2018). the social sciences have three lineages that link low self-esteem and externalizing issues.

Morris Rosenberg (1965) asserted that poor self-esteem erodes social bonds. observance of social standards is less likely, and criminality is more likely when there is a weak relationship with society, claims the social-bonding theory (Hirschi, 2017). in contrast, humanistic psychologists like carl rogers (1961) have claimed that psychological disorders like violence are linked to low self-esteem.

Finally, neo-Freudians propose that aggressiveness is motivated by poor self-esteem. according to Karen Horney (2013) and Alfred Adler (2009), humiliation, neglect, and early childhood deprivation contribute to aggressiveness and antisocial behavior. according to Jessica Tracy and Richard robins (2004), people cover up their emotions of shame and inadequacy by pointing the finger at others for their mistakes, which leads to sentiments of resentment and antagonism between people.

2. Self - Control

Robert Bursik and Harold Grasmick (2002) are of the view that,

1. People who lack self-control lack tenacity and effort. they desire money without labor, sex without union, and retribution without legal action.
2. Impulsiveness is a sign of self-control weakness, and such people experience immediate satisfaction. in contrast, those with good self-control tend to put off pleasure in pursuing longer-term rewards.



3. Those with poor self-control prefer physical exercise over contemplation or social interaction.
4. People who lack self-control are detained for engaging in risky and exciting activities.
5. The negative relationship between self-control and low frustration tolerance suggests a propensity for confrontational dispute resolution.
6. They neglect other people's needs.
- 7.

Socialization Factors Affecting Youth Violence and Crimes

1. Family

Scholars concur that a child's social ability depends mainly on their home circumstances (brown, 2022). the family guides the developing youngster's experiences and possibilities (Levell, 2022; Wilkinson, 2015). additionally, it aids in the development of the essential abilities, attitudes, and information necessary for successful social interaction (case, 2021).

Children begin to follow their loved ones and close friends (Engdaw, 2018). one could say that the family is the primary environment for the emergence of aggressive attitudes and actions (Gunter, 2017). parents' views about violence may significantly influence youths' attitudes toward violence (Levell, 2022). some parents even encourage their kids to take revenge (Lim, 2022). in this sense, cultural and communal norms also significantly impact (Flannery, 2022). children that grow up in an antisocial home may engage in criminal conduct, misuse drugs or alcohol, and engage in many other negative behaviors (Goldson & Muncie, 2015; Penn & davenport, 2022; Taylor, 2018).

Aggressive and delinquent conduct in kids is also caused by flawed parenting methods, such as inadequate supervision and monitoring of children, a communication gap between children and parents, and a lack of effort (Lim, 2022). in addition, children and young people's development is significantly influenced by their families. if they are subjected to the strain by the family, this impact is further strengthened (Levell, 2022).

A young man's family shields him from many societal issues (Flannery, 2022). family considerations are the most critical component at this level since they either highlight or strengthen the impact of the community (Dreal et al., 2022). violent conduct is predicted by harsh discipline, poor management, and low parental bonding (united states congress senate committee, 2015). in addition, low-income family circumstances, parental conflict, and crime are linked to this sort of emotion (case, 2021).

after researching youth, Flannery (2022) came to the following conclusions.

1. Family habits, behaviors, awareness, and parental collaboration affect adolescent development.
2. The parent-child bond is crucial for children transitioning from adolescence to adulthood.



3. Despite the possibility that gender differences in degrees of aggressiveness and mental acuity may exist, both male and female adolescents showed equivalent or equal levels of violent behavior and mental acuity.
4. Parents are pretty crucial in the life of their kids, whether they are sons or daughters.

Evidence suggests that parents play a significant role in their adolescent children's and youth's development. parents have a significant impact on how adolescents and young people develop. the parents' and kids' good connection protects the kids from the authoritarian and lenient parenting style. parent-child relationships are impacted by parenting techniques such as awareness support, monitoring, and family concerns. therefore, poor parental supervision or monitoring is the cause of bad parenting.

2. Peer Pressure

Peer connection difficulties in childhood are associated with several detrimental effects in adolescence and later life (Gunter, 2017). the main issue facing young people nowadays is feeling like they belong with their companions (Penn & davenport, 2022). youth must forego the morals that their parents have taught them and the social standards established to be accepted and to hold a position of prestige among peers (Dollinger, 2021).

Adolescence is regarded as the most challenging time in young people's lives. youths face numerous physical, psychological, and social pressures (brown, 2022). physical, psychological, and social pressures are present during this period. they detach themselves from their parents, work to become their distinct personalities and establish adult behaviors (case, 2021). in this context, peer functions play a crucial role. they assist kids in acquiring social interaction skills (Taylor, 2018).

The young person may become angry or violent due to harmful peer pressure (Seifert, 2011). teenagers predisposed to drug, alcohol, cigarette use, sexual promiscuity, and gang offenses display this risk factor (lim, 2022). it is generally known that having trouble with peer connections as a youngster is linked to several detrimental effects in puberty and beyond (Rodriguez, 2020). although often seen as beneficial and crucial in forming interpersonal interactions during adolescence, peer influences can sometimes have unfavorable outcomes (Goldson & Muncie, 2015). for instance, delinquent companions are frequently linked to youth violence and crimes (united states department of health and human services, 2018).

Studies in affluent nations have consistently found a link between acting violently and having acquaintances who take drugs (government accountability office, 2015). however, it is unclear whether having violent friends occurs prior to or after becoming a violent offender as the causative direction of this link (Hammond et al., 2015). peer bonding was a result of criminality, but it was also a result of that peer bonding with other delinquents (Taylor, 2018).



3. Neighborhood

Higher crime rates are observed in places with lower socioeconomic levels because fewer residents commit more crimes, or because foreigners who enter these areas create havoc in some other way. However, most often, those who live in low-status neighborhoods and commit crimes are not themselves low-status (Flannery, 2022).

Illicit substances also provide a consistent supply of users in some impoverished neighborhoods where they are a source of work and cash. As a result, youth from lower socioeconomic groups committed horrific crimes at double the rate of middle-class people (Dollinger, 2021).

The residents in a high-crime area anticipated self-reported violence (Dreal et al., 2023). Teenagers from underprivileged environments also forecasted reported and official violence (Levell, 2022). In communities with less violence, social and environmental variables are more important in predicting violence than individual characteristics (Lim, 2022).

Low levels of informal social control contribute to high crime rates (Penn & Davenport, 2022). Young people's communities significantly impact their families, the make-up of their social groups, and the likelihood of being exposed to violent circumstances (Case, 2021). Generally speaking, males who live in metropolitan regions are more prone to engage in violent conduct than those who do not. In addition, people who reside in high-crime areas are more prone to engage in violent conduct than people who reside in other areas (Brown, 2022; Gunter, 2017).

Conclusion

Youth criminality and violence are complex issues. They demand ongoing, multi-level, effective prevention by the stakeholders. Personal socialization elements greatly influence the conduct of young people. Low self-esteem and a lack of self-control significantly contribute to teenage criminality and violence. Aggression is the primary cause of teenage violence and criminal activity.

Family socialization has an immediate impact on young people's character. Abusive interactions between parents also influence violence among young people. Like a family, a neighborhood may negatively impact children's conduct if it is aggressive. Because nobody likes to be perceived as a disrespected member of society, conformity to norms is a crucial component of society that aids youngsters in avoiding violent acts and crime.

Although typically pleasant and crucial in forming interpersonal interactions, peer influences throughout adolescence can also have harmful outcomes. The kid may be exposed to aggressive or violent conduct due to negative peer pressure. This potential risk is present when



teenagers are more likely to use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, engage in sexual promiscuity, or commit gang crimes. it is well known that having trouble with peer connections as a youngster is linked to several detrimental effects in puberty and beyond.

Recommendations

Youth socialization, both on an individual and group level, is essential. parents must be more aware of effective ways to interact with their kids. parents should foster a positive environment for their kids at home and teach them values like collaboration, trust, and respect. each child has a unique personality; therefore, parents should praise and correct their kids on their actions and stages of development.

Governments should launch initiatives to assist parents who lack fundamental family and parenting skills. community-based initiatives may be more successful in dispensing the necessary training. when a community is well-run and its members well-acquainted, they take an active role in its development. as a result, children have less opportunity to participate in criminal activity than in communities with a lack of organization. it is vital to fortify social networks among individuals since doing so will help to lessen/prevent delinquency and crime in the neighborhood.

Youth should be engaged in society and the economy. youth engagement in gainful labor decreases the likelihood that they will engage in criminal activity. ngos and the media may be quite influential in raising public awareness of the benefits of constructive socialization. in order to solve today's challenges, religious leaders must actively promote family values.



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