The impact of education on juvenile delinquency and its global economic implications. Challenges and problems

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Abstract: The main purpose of this paper is to investigate the impact of education on juvenile delinquency and its global economic implications. Technically, the gangs are formed by groups of children or young adolescents in order to sustain a common identity and certain specific causes, but which is based on criminal, illegal or delinquent activities. Furthermore, in most cases, children in gangs are involved in activities of consumption and trafficking of drugs, alcohol or other illegal substances. Unfortunately, the average age of the members of such gangs is continuously decreasing. Official statistics provide a apparently different framework in developed countries compared to emerging countries in terms of juvenile crimes and gang affiliation of children. The significance of gangs for juvenile delinquency is almost symbiotic, beyond any form of addiction or inclusion.

Key-Words: juvenile delinquency, children in gangs, deviant behavior, globalization, economic consequences

1. Introduction

Currently, juvenile delinquency is one of the most representative forms of deviance, with major implications for both the individual and society itself. Technically, the deviant behavior refers to certain forms of behavior that substantially depart from the existing rules (generally accepted) and includes all violations of social norms, which are legally sanctioned. However, an unbalanced family structure involves the failure of moral education for children, or even young people, teenagers. The rather negative consequences on the child's personality formation are caused by the education given by his parents, especially when it is characterized by indifference, abuse of authority, premeditated inhibitory attitude or on the contrary by an excessive indulgence and excessive permissiveness. The purpose of the education outcomes the negative impact of juvenile delinquency.

2. A comprehensive approach on juvenile delinquency

The influence factors that facilitate the emergence of juvenile delinquency are classified into two major subcategories, namely external factors and internal factors. Internal factors include the following significant issues: heredity, affective disorders, behavioral deviations, physical features, human physiology (endocrine system, hormonal system), temperament, intellectual disabilities, personality disorder. On the other hand, the external factors consist of the following significant influential parts: family, extrafamilial environment, school as independent entity, primary socialization, media channels (Internet, television, radio, newspapers and magazines, etc.). However, not all juvenile delinquents members of a gang have disharmony criminal personalities. In the last period, the percentage of girls has significantly increased in terms of juvenile crimes or delinquency and is also a very serious social problem. Moreover, an overwhelming influence in shaping the child's behavior is due to some dramatic events such as: physical abuse, psychological sequelae,
3. Premature school abandonment

The World Bank stated that: “Education is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality and lays a foundation for sustained economic growth”. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) suggested that many countries are now considering the development of life skills-based education in response to the need to reform traditional education systems which appear to be out of step with the realities of modern social and economic life. In a recent research study, Birău, R. and Birău, G. (2014) investigated the premature school abandonment and its long-term economic consequences in developing countries. Premature school abandonment is a social phenomenon rather difficult to prevent and control, especially in emerging countries. The authors suggest that early school abandonment has deep roots in the case of transition countries and it is extremely difficult to eradicate this social phenomenon at the aggregate level. Poverty is one of the main reasons leading to abandonment early school abandonment, especially in developing countries. It is important to perform a complex analysis considering the probable causes of the problem in order to highlight some specific aspects for near future perspective. It is well known that social issues are very much distinguished from economic issues, but their aggregate action constitutes a major influence regarding the development of educational system. It is very important to prevent premature school abandonment by developing, adapting and implementing reliable educational management strategies. Moreover, the high risk of exposure to drugs and violence for children with a poor education lead to disastrous long-term effects. Rettew (2013) investigated the differences between temperamental traits and psychological disorders based on child temperament. Beyond the inherent justifications, temperament plays an essential role since the very young age. Therefore, the author suggests that a “temperament-informed view of child behavior problems,” will significantly contribute and help clinicians, parents and teachers in order to correctly identify and treat mental or behavioral issues. On the other hand, Birău and Birău (2014) revealed the fact that another fundamental direction involves effective communication between the parties concerned, ie schools, community and parents. Furthermore, psychological counseling based on emotional development must be perceived as a natural alternative if it is necessary, in order to identify potential problems. According to Nielsen (2011) : “when it comes to classifying countries according to their level of development, there is no criterion, either grounded in theory or based on an objective benchmark, that is generally accepted.” On the other hand, Birău and Birău (2014) argued that the economic implications of educational system constitute a social issue of great current interest. However, a viable educational system significantly contributes in providing effective solutions on certain issues such as: sustainable economic growth, stability, gender equality and poverty reduction. In addition, the beneficial impact of education has a very high resonance regarding several negative aspects such as: social inequality, corruption, lack of transparency, bureaucracy, degrading (poor) living conditions which have a long-term influence on health, and so on. Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) stated that: “Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world.” Moreover Dib (1987) : “The rigid structure of formal schools, mainly based on laws and regulations than on the real needs of students, offering a curriculum that leans away from useful objectives, obeying a rigid set of clerical-administrative procedures, has long since fallen short of meeting individual and social needs.” The general approach of Eurypedia – the European Encyclopedia on National Education Systems, one of the most important features of the education and training system depends on certain factors such as centralisation, decentralisation, deconcentration or deregulation in the governance and administration at various levels and/or types of education. In addition, the leading decision-making bodies exercise significant influence at different levels of
implication, ie central, regional or local authorities, education institutions and likely to be more and even more so. According to a recent research paper of Birău, R. and Birău, G. (2014) the educational system includes vulnerabilities in the case of emerging economies and may be affected by a range of factors, such as: poverty, dysfunctional family environment, parental international migration, unequal access to health care, genetic inheritance patterns, family traditions, ethnic identity (ethnicity), inherited habits and prejudices. Additionally, the complex analysis highlighted in this article revealed that certain macroeconomic factors (conditions) such as economic output - Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation, unemployment, standard of living, consumption, international investment, economic integration can strongly influence the stability of educational structures and thus the degree level of premature school abandonment. Moreover, final conclusion of the authors reveals that combating premature school abandonment should be a priority for the educational system and governmental policies considering the long-term economic impact of this negative social phenomenon. From the economic point of view, the greatest difficulties are faced by those families with two or more children. A direct consequence of this issue is the decrease (current trend) in the number of children in a family. Moreover, given the economic difficulties caused by the global financial crisis, even less adults dare to want more than two children, and some of them will not have any children at all. However, there are some exceptions, such as poor families, characterized by relatively low interest to ensure optimal living conditions for the minors, so that in the absence of economic barriers, the birth limitation has no fundamentals.

4. Conclusions

Juvenile delinquency represents a reprehensible behavior of children and teenagers (minors) with negative effects on the social community, considering the fact that those activities can escalate into all sorts of crimes or anti-social acts by breaking the law. In these cases, the parental authority is insignificant considering that the juvenile delinquent completely ignores this aspect. Understanding child temperament is an issue of major importance that raise a very high interest among academics, psychologists, parents, educators, neurologists and other practitioners. The framework of juvenile delinquency is complemented by disorders of character due to which children exhibit negative behavior phenomena such as impulsivity aggressiveness, laziness, idleness, selfishness, stubbornness, self-centredness.

References:


