

Chapter 12

Other Forms of Sociopathic Manifestations

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ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquency, abuse, and addictions are among the very serious problems of the modern world. They are becoming more frequent every day and appear among the younger categories of children and youth, with increasingly destructive forms and manifestations. The community seeks ways and takes measures to prevent these socio-pathological phenomena, with the aim of reducing or preventing them altogether. In order to succeed, social pedagogical theory and practice are constantly being improved and enriched, and they offer new contributions that can help in the constructive resolution of these painful social phenomena. Their spread degrades the personality of the individual and the whole social community, and this leaves lasting and far-reaching consequences. Only by getting to know and having insight into all the above aspects of these socio-pathological phenomena will it be possible to create and offer organized professional activity in their transformation.

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile Delinquency: The Notion of Juvenile Delinquency

Very often, behavioural disorders, if they are not seen and eliminated in time, can turn into delinquent behaviour. According to Dervišbegović (1997) and Tomić (2005a), delinquent behaviour is the most severe form of behavioural disorder. We shall state several definitions of juvenile delinquency.

“Delinquency is not a medical diagnosis; it is a social disease, because delinquents are considered to be persons who do not live in accordance with the moral and physical norms of society and who are therefore occasionally or permanently in conflict with the laws” (Hajduković, 1975: 126). The author agrees that the delinquency of young people should nevertheless be socially defined as the behaviour that minors display in the social environment, which is dangerous to the society and which comes under the jurisdiction of juvenile legislation.

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It is similarly defined by Carić (2002) and Martinjak & Odeljan (2016): they say that “basically this term implies such behaviours of minors that are manifested in violation of legal norms, that is, in deviation from generally accepted behaviour”.

Milutinović (1981) and Martinjak & Odeljan (2016) explain two understandings of juvenile delinquency, one of which is broader and the other narrower. According to a broader, more extensive understanding, juvenile delinquency implies all forms of deviations that occur in their behaviour, “mismatches”, in the broadest sense of the word. This term includes antisocial to associative behaviours that range from various predelinquent deviant forms to those behaviours that are incriminated. “This practically means that the transference of minors, which we take as a general concept, not only for all forms of conduct incriminated by positive laws, but also for other activities of minors that are morally unacceptable and that create such negative consequences on social goods and subjects of behaviour that the application of social, protective, educational, and other measures is necessary.” (Jašović, 1991: 56).

The narrower understanding, which is based on existing normative systems, refers to those behaviours that are incriminated in the applicable criminal codes, which constitute criminal offences, as well as in the cases when they are performed by adults (Martinjak & Odeljan, 2016).

A narrower understanding, which is based on existing normative systems, refers to those conducts that are incriminated in the applicable criminal codes, which constitute a criminal act as well as in the case of adult practices.

The term, juvenile delinquency, (the word “delinquency” comes from the Latin word “delinquere” (to do wrong) or “delinquens” (offending)) is identified as criminality in its form of manifesting, i.e. by the pathogenic mechanism underlying its manifestation. Juvenile delinquency, in its manifestation in the form of aggression towards other people and material goods, can be regarded as being much the same as adult criminality. When talking about elements of phenomenology of juvenile crime, data on the behaviour of young people who are punished under the provisions of criminal laws are used. This approach also corresponds to one of the definitions of juvenile delinquency provided by Milutinović (1990), by which juvenile delinquency covers all activities of minors who are incriminating (the Latin word “criminari” to be accused or prosecuted), according to the positive criminal laws of individual countries.

There are reasons why youth crime, i.e. juvenile delinquency, is discussed in isolation. The first reason is that all behaviours of young people are traditionally distinguished from adult behaviour, including those that are marked as criminality, i.e. juvenile delinquency. Another reason for talking specifically about youth crime is that youth crime, in many of its dimensions, especially in a number of social, psychological, legal, and other characteristics of children who manifest it, differs from adult crime (Jašović, 1978; Tomić, 2005a).

All classifications of delinquent behaviour emphasize the basic aspects: biological, psychological, and sociological. According to Brkić (1998), the biological aspect emphasizes physical and nervous system diseases, psychological aspects of lower intellectual ability, emotional instability, neuroticism, aggression, inferiority complexes, etc., while the sociological aspect emphasizes industrialization, various migrations, family, school, peers, mass media, etc. Delinquent behaviour is linked to sociopathic personality structure, which does not always have to persist. According to the type of delinquent behaviour, sociopathic personalities are divided into two groups.

Sociopathic personalities with antisocial behaviour are children and adolescents who are constantly conflicted with social norms. Educational and punitive measures have little effect on them because they do not draw positive lessons and positive experiences. They do not respect the moral and aesthetic needs

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