

# Study on the Diversification Trend and Countermeasures of Juvenile Crime

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## Abstract

In the survey about juvenile crime, it is obvious that the juvenile crime has been a prominent problem to impact the social stability and the economic construction. Based on the survey and research of above problem, the characters, forms, causes, and countermeasures of juvenile crime are discussed in detail in this article. The research result of this article is hoped to mobilize the power of the whole society to participate in the comprehensive treatment of juvenile crime, even minor crime, prevent and reduce the juvenile crime, maintain the stability of the society, protect young people's legal rights and interests, and promote their healthy growth.

**Keywords:** Juvenile, Crime, Countermeasures

## 1. Introduction of practical survey of juvenile crime

At present, the amount of juvenile crime increases gradually, and its proportion in the criminal crime is always in the high level.

According to the statistics of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of Zhejiang Province Department of Public Security, juvenile crime increases year by year, and the proportion of the young members involved in the crime always keeps above 1/2 in recent years, and sometimes, this numbers even achieve about 70%, and the situation is serious and the condition is still far from being satisfactory (data from the statistical data of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of Zhejiang Province Department of Public Security of the Police Information Network).

### 1.1 Actuality of juvenile crime

From Aug of 2008 to Dec of 2009, the Youth League Committee of Hangzhou and Zhejiang University of Technology founded the task group together, and made a serious questionnaire survey aiming at the actuality and problems of young children from 5 years old to 11 years old in Hangzhou. The conclusions of the survey not only made us feel the heavy of the task, but also more worried about the actuality of young persons' morality.

The survey shows that the young children of Hangzhou basically possessed the judgment ability of distinguishing good and evil corresponding with their ages, and they had correct cognitions and selections to almost all moral problems, i.e. though they might not do the best, but they know what is the best and right. The survey indicated that most young persons in Hangzhou had the moral judgment ability corresponding with their ages, and they knew clearly about the socialism moral criterion of "law-abiding patriotic, Ming-li integrity, unity and friendly, thrifty and self-improvement, professional dedication", and have strong identification with many excellent moral traditions such as "filial piety, sympathizing, friendship, responsibility, courage, goodness, helping others, honesty", and at the same time, most of all had the consciousness about the environment morality and the ecological civilization.

However, in this premise, serious problems still exist in young person's moral state. For example, the value view is blurred and mismatched obviously, the custom of moral behaviors is deficient, the knowing and doing separate seriously, the material gain and common customs trend of moral cognition is still obvious, and the human cares are deficient in the moral consciousness.

For the problem of "In the ethics course, students are required to be small helper, small model, small associate, small guarder, and small master, but most students have not done that, and what are the causes in your opinion?", there were one third of school students to answer that "what are taught in the course and what are done in the practice are different originally", and with the increase of age and grade, the proportion of the students with this opinion rose perpendicularly, which might have you scratching your head.

In addition, for the problem of “In China and foreign countries, some children can homicide or suicide because of a little thing without considering the aftereffect, what is your opinion?”, in the group from 11 years old to 15 years old, 13.2 urban young persons and 16.1% rural young persons thought “the hand on hand”, and the urban and rural young persons who thought that “Do like that in TV and game” respectively occupied 14.3% and 15.6%, which really should be worried.

Two problems reflected in the survey result also need to be concerned. First, with the increase of age, the proportion that young person identified the negative selection increased obviously. The negative selection in the age period from 16 to 18 was obviously higher than the age period from 5 to 10 and the age period from 11 to 15. Second, though urban young persons’ conditions including materials, culture, security, and education were better, but the proportion that they identified the negative selection was obviously higher than the proportion of rural children, which is hard to understand.

### *1.2 Characters of juvenile crime*

(1) Ultra-lowering ages. Data indicate that from Jan to Dec in 2009, there were 3692 children below 13 years old committing crime in Zhejiang, and it was very worried that the initial age of crime moved up so largely (data from the Office of the Department of Zhejiang Province Department of Public Security).

(2) Gang crime. The gang crime means the crime has premeditation, organization, and motivation, and definite infraction target, and it gives priority to the invasion of property. According to relative statistics, in above years, there were 80% juvenile crimes including robbing, crime of forcible seizure, theft, crime of fraud, organized robbery crime, and racketeering, in all criminal members, and most of them belonged to gang crime (Zhou Changkang, *Development Crime*, Jan of 2006, Beijing: Qunzhong Press, P.26-27).

(3) Intelligent measures. At present, with the quick development of science and technology and the dissemination of communication tools, many juvenile criminals adopted the computer measure. For example, when the amount of urban young persons “surfing the internet” in Zhejiang increases year by year, some young persons neglected their studies and were crazy in the internet, and they drank in amorism, slap and tickle, dine and wine, snatch, sexual language..., and from 2000 to 2009, the crime rate ascended obviously (Zhou, 2006, P.26-27).

(4) Violent behaviors. In recent years, not only the initial age of juvenile age moved up, but also may major criminal cases such as homicide, rape, gangbang, kidnapping, murdering hostage, harming, and robbing increased, and the crime measures were so venomous to tremble with fear (Work Summing-up of the Criminal Division of Zhejiang Provincial Higher People’s Court in 2009).

## **2. Cause analysis of juvenile crime**

Juvenile crime has many causes, and it is also the comprehensive reflection of a series of conflicts and problems in the society, such as the invariable character of criminal crime, the individuality of the special group and the special period of young persons, and the bad influences of various social factors.

In practice, many parents might face thus mess, for example, they taught their children not to smoke, drink, and gamble, but their children would ask them, why you could smoke, drink, and gamble? Why you can not abstain from them? Therefore, in the formation roots of young persons’ negative morality, parents’ influences on children is the most direct one.

In the classroom, many children knew they should not write the facts in their compositions. In ancient ages, the composition is to train a person’s moral quality and literal quality. From primary school to university, Will those persons who have been used to write flam become “The style is the man”? At present, many bad social styles such as right corruption, justice corruption, and education corruption, the breakthrough of the social moral base line, and the low cost of illegal and immoral of the public right induce that the reduce of legal confidence and government faith, and many children begin to doubt the power and value of the morality, and they pay more attention to the right and money, even admire corruption and defalcation, and they think “morality is false, money is true, and right is hard (which was reflected in one survey organized by the Youth League Committee of Hangzhou and the Law School of Zhejiang University of Technology)”. This negative influence and distortion of young persons’ value view are very obvious and worried.

In addition, the concept of moral education is lagged after the socialism market economy, and educators lack in the “people-oriented” education concept, and the content of moral education is too old, and educators treat the dominant value view education by the mode of negative action, which are the essential cause that young persons’ moral education lacks in the actual effect and can not be transformed into the common value view. Concretely, following causes could not be ignored.

(1) Because young persons are in the transition period that their body and mind go to mature, and their self-consciousnesses are gradually increasing, and they have the adult feeling, independent orientation, learning desire, curiosity, and strong adventure, but because of the limitation and superficialness of knowledge and the relative deficiency of social experience, they always could not distinguish right and wrong, kind and evil, beautiful and ugly, and they are easy to be impacted by the bad factors from the exterior world, and go astray because of bad men's cauterization and abetment.

(2) Young persons could not control themselves well enough, and their moods are sensitive and fragile, and they are easy to excite and act impetuously. Even a tiny thing, a sudden idea, or an unnecessary brawl may induce a surprise major serious case.

(3) Young persons have strong curiosity and simulation ability, and most of them could not resist various temptations from the exterior world, and some take delight in talking about many bad videos and books including sex, violence, and gambling, and they admire those persons in these works, and blindly canonize "big brother" and "big sister", and follow the lead of these dummy figures.

(4) The hedonic psychology only pursuing the material benefits makes some young persons to abandon the study of cultural knowledge, and give up their own legal and moral cultivation, and their alternation of world view, philosophy, and morality. By the influences of individualism, money worship, gastronomy, and having an eye to the main chance, they have not established far and right ideality, so they would ignore the legal and moral standards of the society, and only want to satisfy their won demands without considering others' benefits and relative consequences, and some of them will do the illegal crimes harming the society.

(5) The family education and methods are improper. Family is the cell of the society, and parents are not only the legal guardian and education duty officer of children, but the first teacher of children, and parents' personal example and good family atmosphere are very important for children's healthy growth. In addition, many marriage and family problems such as divorce, remarriage, and "keeping a mistress" in the society have destroyed normal family structure, and some parents are crazy in scene of debauchery and lead a befuddled life, and they lack in the social and family responsibility of fostering children, and a few young persons' minimum life could not be guaranteed, and these children could find nothing in their feeling world. Furthermore, some rich persons only know coddling their children in economy, but lack in spirit lead and care, and they always ignore even indulge children's initial bad behaviors, and children will gradually have the mind of arrogant. Under this mine, young persons are easy to break the laws. Some other parents have the minds such as "being exasperated at their failure to make good" and "hoping their children will have a bright future", and control their children too strictly, and they would only pay attention to the education of intelligence, not the comprehensive development, and they are not good at teaching their children to leave from those bad behaviors, but drop into even strike their children, so the children will induce the negative mentality which might push their children to the lair of crime (Teacher Zhong Hongwei's survey summarization in Xi'an of China).

(6) Some education departments only emphasize the intelligent education, but ignore the moral education, which will induce the vacuum of young persons' spirit world. In the current education system, the standards to evaluate the school education would always refer to the enrollment rate and various examination scores, so from teachers to students, they all takes the enrollment or examination as unique future and outlet. Under this pressure, many schools pay more attention to the book knowledge, but ignore students' moral education and young persons' abilities of analysis and judgment which should be possessed in the growth have not been emphasized. Without necessary guidance, facing various new things and problems in the market economic condition, many school students have not efficient mental preparation, and get into extreme maze and mess, and they begin to loss their confidences for the actuality and future of the society, and begin to believe nothing are ideal, faith, and morality, and they begin to believe that self-implementation is their unique coordinate in their life (which was reflected in one survey organized by the Youth League Committee of Hangzhou and the Law School of Zhejiang University of Technology). Driven by this self-consciousness, they only believe "there is a certain wonderful delight in books", and only hope getting something from the society, but never contribute the society. Some students only blindly lose themselves in "we must concern ourselves with personal affairs", but forget "the affairs of the state and the world", and they only emphasize the faith of individualism and utilitarian such as "let things drift if they do not affect them personally", and they rarely cultivate their own philosophy and moral view, so they always dogmatize some social phenomena, and some of them even go their own ways to break the laws.

(7) Bad social style, bad friends, bad cultural environment, the failure of social management, the fluky mind, and the failure of justice management of "emphasizing strike and ignoring management" are all social factors to induce the juvenile crime. Every one lives in certain social environment, and the society will also influence his

behavior. One philosopher said that “human is water, he will be quadrate when the water is in the quadrate container, and he will be circular when the water is in the circular container”. That means the environment will bring up a person. For example, the corruption in the society and the selfish mind and retaliation mind induced by the negative effect of the market economy will also make young persons walk up the evil road. In the current system reform of socialism, individual production increases, private component becomes more and more, too much difference between the rich and the poor, corruption and fraud behaviors in the society will all influence young persons’ mind and distort their spirit balance, and large material temptation will distort their philosophy, value view, and moral view, and they will always break the laws to satisfy their private desires (Teacher Zhong Hongwei’s survey summarization in Xi’an of China) by virtue of the excuse of resisting the unhealthy tendency.

### **3. Prevention advices and countermeasures of juvenile crime**

When discussing the diversification tendency of juvenile crime, the young persons’ moral mess should be emphasized. Children all know the honest should be the essential of one person, but when they were asked “when will you lie?”, there are over half of them who will select “lie when necessary”. In one survey organized by the Youth League Committee of Hangzhou and the Law School of Zhejiang University of Technology, above inharmonious note made us feel the heavy of the topic of young persons’ moral construction.

#### *3.1 Advice: people-oriented*

The value view education should be contained in the topic activity and life behaviors, and by the value clarifying and value judging, children will form right concept of value, and the coherence of the family education and the school education can be guaranteed. The education plan actively advocated by the UNESCO took the life value as the core, and it encouraged children to develop 12 individual and social value views (including equality, respect, love, responsibility, happiness, cooperation, honest, humility, tolerance, simplicity, freedom, and unity).

Whereas, the provincial education departments in China should list the “volunteer service” in the necessary course of middle school students’ “comprehensive practice activity”, and bring it into the assessment, and regulate that only if the time and credit-hour of the “volunteer service” are fulfilled in the stage of high school, students could graduate. In created conditions, young persons will learn how to be an upright person, how to do things, how to care about others, and how to cooperate with others, and they will gradually cultivate their social responsibility, enhance their ability of moral judgment, and unify the knowing and the doing.

At the same time, the fortune concept and the financing education should be added in primary school students’ moral course, and parents and schools should teach children to be an upright person in creating fortune and spending money. Further more, the anti-corruption course could be established in the higher grade of primary school, and the education content preventing occupational crime should be added in the course. And relative measures of Hongkong ICAC and Mexico could be used as references, and they establish the anti-corruption course in the higher grade of primary school, and add many education contents such as the relationship between the public and the private, and preventing occupational crime, the public employees’ right concept, what is the occupational crime, what is the corruption and bribery, what is to abuse of power for personal gain, the meaning of anti-corruption and preventing the occupational crime, and the harm of corruption and bribery to others and the society. The people-oriented education will lead children to know the harm of corruption, discuss the anti-corruption, know some negative aspects of the society, possess certain immunity of the occupational crime behavior, when their mental structure and life attitude have not been modeled, and the concept of honesty in politics will root in their heart, which will largely influence their behaviors of participating in the public affairs and social management after many years.

#### *3.2 Countermeasures to prevent juvenile crime*

In conclusions, the seriousness of juvenile crime and the diversification of crime cause also decide that the comprehensive control must be implemented to control and prevent the juvenile crime.

(1) For the self-improvement, the moral cultivation should begin from the details. Mao Zedong said that “exterior cause is the condition of change, and the interior is the reference of change. The exterior cause acts because of interior cause”. Therefore, children’s morality should be formed when they are young, and children’s cultural knowledge, habit cultivation, and self-protection should insist to be cultivated from details. Parents and schools should hold the “Law of the People Republic of China on the Protection of Minors” and the “Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency Law” as weapons, and teach children to implement the unity of knowing and doing, and put an end to the crime.

(2) For the family education, the moral education should be emphasized strictly and particularly. “Strictly” means children should be educated according to scientific theory, and “particularly” means the education should

start from large aspect but emphasize details. Parents' every word and action will potentially influence children's growth, and even decide children's moral behaviors in their lives. Therefore, parents should not only foster but educate their children. Parents should try to establish democratic, warm, harmonious, and friendly family atmosphere, and instruct children to make a clear distinction between right and wrong, good and evil. For the children in single-parent family, schools, base organization, community, civil administration, even justice department should cooperate to carry out the education responsibility, and stop the gap of juvenile crime. At the same time, first, children's misconducts such as smoke, drink, making friends with bad persons, truancy, staying out all night, taking controlled knives, fight, abusing others, forcedly asking properties from others, watching unhealthy books and videos, burgling, intentionally destroying properties, gambling, or entering improper e-game parlor, singing and dancing parlor, internet bar, all should be guarded. Second, children's morality should be cultivated when they are very young, children's enthusiasm and good study habit should be emphasized, and they should be taught to care about others, have social responsibility, and for children, parents should pay attention to enhance their own moral cultivation. Third, children should be taught to use relative laws to protect themselves, and know and use laws by the simple and efficient method, and parents should shoulder the responsibility of legal education to their children, and gradually cultivate their children to be the new generation of people with lofty ideals, moral integrity, good education and a strong sense of discipline.

(3) For the school education, children's comprehensive development must be extended from the classroom. School is the main place where students are, and it has the dominant function in the legal education. To standardize the instruction idea of schooling, schools have to turn the education deflection emphasizing intelligent education but ignoring moral education, teach and lead students to comprehensively develop themselves from morality, intelligence, and physical. First, the "exam-oriented education" should be turned into the "quality-oriented education". Based on survey and research, schools should closely associate with practice, implement the moral education, the excellent traditional cultural education, the social morality education, the tasting education, and the adolescent education to students, and help them to cultivate good behavior habits, and establish upright world view, philosophy, and value view, and eliminate possible potential factors inducing the juvenile crime in the campus at any moment. Second, schools should fully utilize the teaching of two courses (the course of moral education and the course of politics), and lively publicize and propagandize legal knowledge. To ensure the main channel of legal education, not only the hour and periodical examination should be guaranteed, but also the teaching method should be continually improved, and many measures such as case analysis and telephone teaching should be utilized to strengthen the education effect. Third, three meetings should be took place successfully, i.e. the enrollment education meeting in the beginning of the new term, the legal report meeting in the middle of every term, and the class, Communist Youth League, and group meeting in each week. The simulation court could be conducted, and many activities such as the legal knowledge competition, the story lecture, and the skit performance should be took place periodically, and schools should combine the ideas and knowledge with interests, and make students accept visual legal education, and continually strengthen their legal concept. Fourth, the education management function of the class should be exerted well. Backward students' education must be emphasized. Backward students are the main roots of the juvenile crime, and their good education will sufficiently reduce the juvenile crime. Therefore, the school should not only check the teacher's cultivation to whiz kids in the annual assessment, but also check their new ideas and achievements in educating backward students. Fifth, schools should develop abundant ideal education activities, and resist the erosion of bad cultural amusement to young person's ideas. For example, schools can organize many ideal political education activities such as holiday literature performance, poor family interview, visiting martyrs cemetery and revolutionary holy land, taking the patriotism education and the revolution traditional education as the central contents. And schools also can widely develop activities about the tasting education and the arts education to further enhance students' ability to distinguish good and evil. And schools can organize various activity groups which are beneficial for youths' body and heart, which could occupy students' amateur cultural position. Third, to form the deep atmosphere using laws to govern the campus and using morality to instruct the teaching, schools can establish effective management system according to actual situations, and develop various appraises through comparison such as "cultural class" and "cultural dorm" to strengthen students' consciousness of observe law and discipline, and make them cultivate good moral concept in daily accumulation.

(4) For the environment spiritualization, the community management should start from "comprehensive control". To try to cleanse the social environment and eliminate the soil of juvenile crime is the respect and breakthrough to strengthen the comprehensive control of the community. Therefore, for the amusement places that youths often go to, the community should fully strengthen the power of the security management, and continually eliminate the sale and production of pornographic and illegal publications, and charge those places which make

against youths' healthy growth to hang out obvious mark. At the same time, the market management of e-game and video products should be strengthened, and secrete deals about the e-game products and software involving murder, violence, and eroticism should be eliminated, and the construction of cultural amusement places which is beneficial to young persons' health growth should be largely supported, to reduce the opportunities that young persons contact with unhealthy and uncivil activities in the society. Therefore, the community should carry out the responsibility, define the target, and fully exert the functions of works, young people, women, education, culture, security, industry and commerce, commando, and neighborhood committee. Above units could compose the community education committee to harmonize and associate each other, and also can found the "youth legal education center" to organize school, family, and society to popularize the legal education for the young persons in the community, develop the mind survey and psychological research to young persons, find the education management method for backward students, strictly punish the illegal people who disturb the school and community order and invade teacher and students' legal rights and interests. Furthermore, the community should insist in the management principle of "the leading is the cleverest measure", and actively participate in the education conversion of illegal young persons to help and save slipped youths.

(5) For the strike and prevention, the principle of "combining strike with prevention" should be strictly implemented. Many organs of dictatorship such as police, court, and procuratorate should insist in the guideline of "promoting the prevention by strike" to limit the juvenile crime and save illegal young persons. Above departments should always take severe measures against grave illegal and criminal activities, increase the strike power to the criminal crime, especially strictly punish those lawbreakers who connive, abet, allure, and intimidate juvenile crime, which will frighten and educate young persons. For the case of juvenile crime, dictatorship departments should handle the cases according to laws, and never pacify lawbreakers by satisfying their demands with little or no regard for principle. For those young persons who don't fulfill the criminal punishment, the labor reeducation place and juvenile prison should strictly decide according to law. At the same time, the helping and educating system aiming at juvenile criminal should be further perfected, and various measure of helping and educating should be really implemented, and relative departments should try to do the education conversion works well, and avoid these juvenile criminals from the crime again. To sum up, to prevent and strike juvenile crime is a very complex engineering of "comprehensive control" in the new situation of reforming and opening, which needs the mutual participation and endeavor of the whole society.

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