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Boys and Girls in Delinquency

At present, boys and girls have equal rights everywhere. In fact, both boys and girls have possibilities to engage in juvenile delinquency. Research shows that the number of female offenders have been increasing significantly by the time. According to the article “The Future of Children”, girls are committing more offenses than they did in 1985 while total number of violators both boys and girls has decreased. This article proved that less attention of the juvenile justice system, mental stress, and risky environment are responsible for the girls being more delinquent than the boys.

First, the most important reason of increasing female delinquency is the less attention of juvenile justice system to the female offenders. In the article “The Future of Children” the writer said, “Offending girls once treated with the kid gloves by the justice system are now receiving the same attention as the boys.” Research shows that girls may become more violent than the boys in some cases. However, female delinquency came to focus recently because of its aggressive growth. According to the article “The Future of Children”, in 1980, boys were four times as likely as girls to be arrested for a violent crime; today they are only twice as likely. This shows the contradiction of juvenile justice system between boys and girls. As a result of this contradiction, the number of female offenders may be higher than male in future.

Secondly, mental stress like depression and anxiety affect the girls more seriously than the boys; this is the cause of female delinquency. There are many source of having mental pressure; for example, school, friends, and family. Girls may be addicted to the drug or alcohol, sometimes may be engaged in sexual crimes like prostitution, and in some cases run away from home. In the article “The Future of Children” the author said, “Girls have higher rates of what are termed “internalizing” mental disorders like depression and anxiety while boys have higher rate of “externalizing” disorders like conduct and behavioral problems.” Moreover, there are not enough facilities of treatment to protect the girls from mental and conduct disorders. The article also mentioned that only a few programs have been scientifically evaluated to show their effectiveness with the girls of ment*al disorders. The writer also gave an example of MTFC (Multimedia* Treatment Foster Care) which had been redesigned with “gender specific components” to make it more effective but the result was not so fruitful. Mental stress changed the lifestyle and attitude of the girls which is the reason for the girls being drug addicted, sex workers or a murderer.

Thirdly, environment has a huge effect in both boys and girl’s life which is the cause of a boy or girl being delinquent. There are many events in the society either good or bad may attract a boy or girl like sports or drugs, recreation or prostitution. An unhealthy environment including drug and robbery is not suitable to raise the children. In the story “The Other Wes Moore” Wes 1 and Wes 2 were seriously affected by the environment which was the place of drug dealing. Now a days, we can find the similar or more dangerous story of the girls even though the crime patterns may different. Miranda Barbour Known as “Craigslist Killer”, 19, is the best example of young female offender. According to an article of “Daily News”, she has committed 22 murders and also addicted to drug. Miranda’s father said, “She was addicted to the heroine at the age of 13 and worked with a gang.” The overall story says that she was raised in an unhealthy environment including sexual activities at the early age and drug addiction. In addition, there are many news of female delinquency in the newspaper everyday which are mostly occur in the bad neighborhoods.

In conclusion, teen agers are more likely to fall in the risk of delinquency no matter boys or girls. Both boys and girls have high possibility of committing crimes in certain areas. The present condition of correctional system of female delinquency needs more consciousness of juvenile justice system than they have. Proper facilities for the mentally depressed girls, more consciousness about female offense, and building a crime-free environment may be the effective ways to solve the problem of teen age delinquency.