



A Sociological Study on Societal Environment Influencing Criminal Behavior of Children of the Families Engaged in Pottery Industry (Based on Katupotha pottery village of 581 Maradankalla Grama Niladhari Division in Mihintale Divisional Secretariat)

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Abstract

In today's Sri Lankan society, there is a greater tendency for children of the families engaged in pottery industry, which is a historical and traditional occupation, to be tempted into criminal behavior. It was observed that children who add their labor to domestic occupational requirement have a tendency to grasp child delinquency in social environment over other social strata. The child who mainly contributes to the occupational needs is tempted to do illegal activities with various individuals and groups. This is because the child is a teenager and is in the most vulnerable period. The main problem of this study became why children of families shows a tendency to tend criminal behavior in traditional pottery village. The main objective of this study was identifying societal environment that influencing children of the families engaged in pottery industry to tend to criminal behaviours. Historical method, comparative method and stastical method were used for this study and 86 of children and 94 of parents from 50 selected families were selected as the sample. Questionnaires, interviews and non-participant observation were used to collect data. Since the information obtained in this study consists of qualitative and quantitative data, in the analysis of data, according to nature of data and how it needs to be communicated, qualitative data has been prepared in detail and quantitative data has been prepared according to a tactical procedure. Adult's temptations, poverty, illiteracy and wrong socialization are special reasons for children to resort to crime. Family background, occupational nature of adults, entertainment, experimentation, social motivations and group feelings are the main reasons why children engage in crimes. It can be concluded that lack of knowledge and intelligence of children, lack of support in legal sector, protection, education and development that child should receive from traditional rural society leads to criminal behaviour.

Keywords: traditional pottery industry, child delinquency, criminal behaviour, societal environment, crime

