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Abstracts

The Impact of Internal and External Family Factors Upon Juvenile Delinquency (Experimentation Based on Integrated Theory of Social Control and Differential Connections)

Mohammad Reza Meshkani, Zahra Sadat Meshkani

The present paper reports a field study on delinquency among the young adults charged with delinquency and arrested there after in Tehran in 1992. In order to determine the factors and at the same time account for the internal and external forces affecting delinquency, a theoretical framework was developed and applied which was a combination of the Hirshi Social Control Theory and the Sutherland-Kursi theory of differential connection. From among 140 under age boys and 15 under age girls arrested in 1992, 90 boys plus all 15 girls took part in structured interview. Four variables indicative of acts of delinquency were measured, together with 81 independent variables

including individual characteristics living conditions and immigration, family support system, beliefs and performances, socializing with delinquents, leisure time and hobbies. The data were reduced into smaller scales through factor analysis, which rendered one factor as contributing to severity of delinquency and 28 factors as representing the independent variables in condensed form. Administration of a multi-regression analysis demonstrated that severity of delinquency is influenced and explained merely by three factors: attachment to the family, beliefs and attitudes, and socializing with delinquents. The findings demonstrate that as family ties become stronger and attachment to the family increases, severity of acts of delinquency decreases; also religious beliefs prevent delinquency, whereas negative attitudes toward rules and regulations, agents of law and social norms encourage delinquency; finally constant and continuous socialization with delinquents inclines the young adult towards delinquency.

The Effect of Order and Conflict in the Family Upon Violence Against Children

Massoud Chalabi, Samad Rasoulzadeh Aghdam

It seems that researches addressing violence against children, particularly in Iran, have not paid attention to theories which assign such violence to problematic and confused interactions. The present study attempts to emphasize the factors relating to intra-family relationships (order and conflict). It is a survey carried out with 300 families in Tehran. Data were analyzed through correlation index, multi-variable regression and modeling of structural equations. The findings demonstrate that the variables relating to order and conflict in the family have respectively critical and significant effects on violence against children.

Determinants of Misbehavior Among High School Students of Lorestan

Jafar Sekhavat

In 2001, a study was carried out in Lorestan province to examine the factors encouraging misbehavior among high school students in three towns of Khorram Abad, Boroujerd, and Nour Abad. From among the male and female high school students in different fields of study, 975 were selected through multi-stage cluster sampling. The study examined the relation between students' misbehavior and some individual characteristics, such as educational level, sex, some family features, student's self-concept, student's relationship with parents, student's self image, job ideals, student's impression of his/her family income, and student's impression of rules of order in school.

Selection of variables was mostly based on the theories of social control as presented by scholars such as Gutt Fredson and Travis Hirshi. The findings demonstrate that in-school and out-of-school misbehavior both have common causes, and should therefore not be treated as two separate phenomena. With regard to the significance of the relation between misbehavior and the above mentioned variables, findings suggest that factors influencing students' misbehavior at school are: relationships in the family and at school, student's self-concept, student's impression of the family income, father's job, student's impression of school rule of order, educational achievement and sex. They also suggest

that some variables such as educational achievement, sex, and relationship with mother play a greater role in out-of-school misbehavior. The findings are statistically significant.

Imprisonment and Recommitment of a Crime

Abbas Abdi

The concept of commitment or non-commitment of crime clearly depends on the situation and cost of assessment and the usefulness of the convicted individual. Imprisonment, as the main punishment for criminals, is a major and officially acknowledged cost of crime commitment, and at the same time leads to various social losses and damages, such as losing one's job, social rejection, lower social status, etc. On the other hand, there is a relation between the individual's first and later instances of imprisonment. Moreover, learning specific techniques of re-commitment, making new acquaintances, escaping legal punishment and the effects of all these depend on various factors such as internal conditions of the prison, its facilities and management, and individual variables. Under the present conditions, there exists a conflict between a criminal's attempt to conform to the values and norms dominating the prison, and the advice he receives from ordinary people who try to encourage him to avoid crimes. The conflict remains unresolved unless new techniques are sought to modify the situation.

Drug Market in Iran (Price, Consumption and Impact of Foreign Production)

Fariborz Ra'iss Dana

The economic aspects of addiction are not restricted to consumer behavior, production mechanisms and motivations, drug trafficking and distribution, and the role of price and income; rather these aspects should mainly deal with the structure of political economy. At the beginning, the topic was treated in general articles and sometimes in reductionist explanatory studies based on neo-classical hypothetical models, and received limited distribution. Along with it, radical economists critically discussed the different politico-economic and socio-economic aspects of addiction. And today various types of critical and systemic studies and economic researches dealing with addiction are being carried out. The present article deals systematically with the structures of political economy and social economy related to drug trafficking and addiction in general, and assumes that there exist strong motivations for production and consumption. Ruling out individual and exceptional cases, these motivations are rooted in factors which themselves contribute to perpetuation of the abnormal social structure and encourage drug abuse. The increase of drug addiction is induced by confusions resulting from complications in political economy, such as poverty, unemployment, deprivation, and existence of a strong drug trafficking network, which is seriously related to political management. But basic solutions are possible only after the major preventive factor is eliminated and structures inducing the situation are altered. However, despite the persistence of the basic structures which generate the abnormalities, serious and effective control can be exercised and social costs can be immensely reduced through adoption of radical approaches.

A Glance at the Problems of Crime Statistics in Iran

Parviz Ejlali

The paper starts with a definition of crime and crime statistics, then describes the types of crime statistics and assesses each in terms of its positive and negative points. The rest of this paper deals exclusively with crime statistics in Iran. The results of the present study demonstrate that there are three official sources of producing crime statistics in Iran: Bureau of Statistics and Data Processing at the Ministry of Justice, Bureau of Statistics at the Police Force Dept. of Plans and Programs, and the Iranian Prison, Security and Training Organization. For numerous reasons, including inefficiency of crime classification and its confusion with crime statistics and files statistics, the statistics concerning the convicted and the indicted, and restriction of the crime statistics to national and provincial levels, no realistic reports can be produced of the situation of delinquency, delinquency rates and estimation of the probability of crimes. The paper elaborates on the technical weaknesses of crime statistics in Iran and presents solutions for its modification.

Remembering Robert King Merton 1910-2003

Mohammad Abdollahi

Merton was born in the United States in 1910. After receiving his Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University, he accepted the invitation to work at the University of Columbia. He has written extensively on the theories and methods in sociology, particularly sociology of science, social problems and deviance. He was interested mostly in structural functionalism and functional analysis. Merton tried to incorporate theoretical and empirical principles into the middle range theory, introduce samples of this theory from masters of classical sociology like Durkheim and Weber, present middle range theories in sociology of science and social deviance, and establish a link between sociology and everyday issues, all of which played a significant role in the development of sociology. After so many years of research, education and management in sociology and receiving Honorary Ph.D. degrees from twenty accredited universities and scientific centers worldwide, Merton died in 2003, at the age of 93.