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The Link between Juvenile Justice and Drug Crime

Juvenile crime that is related to drug use has a chronic effect on violent crimes; poor family relationships; ill health; cognitive problems and poor attainment in education.

One of the reasons why juvenile crimes happen is because teenagers are under the influence of something (alcohol, drugs) or somebody (their peers who force them to engage in such activities). Even though it is not always the case that juvenile crime is related to drug use, a lot of crime-related cases typically happen when a teenager has been under the influence of drugs.

The main reason why it happens is because drugs change the perception of reality, as well as the ability of a person to think clearly. Thus, a person may start believing that they will not be caught or that the punishment is not severe.

What should also be highlighted is that the active use of drugs has a negative impact on the quality of life and physical health of a person, especially when it is a teenager or a young adult. For example, teens tend to report the inability to focus, memory loss, problems with concentration, lagging behind at school, fatigue, not feeling well, as well as poor family relationships.

According to a study focused on juveniles in New Delhi, 86.44% of juveniles have a history of substance use (Sharma & Barkataki 2016). Such statistical data proves that there is a link between using drugs or alcohol excessively and developing a tendency to commit crimes. It should also be highlighted that it is not the only reason why people commit crimes, and it is completely possible that a person who has never done drugs and comes from a good neighborhood suddenly becomes engaged in such kind of activities.

Another vital aspect to mention in regards to the topic under consideration is that the type of drug a person uses determines what the consequences are going to be. In other words, in some cases the consequences will be severe, while in other cases they may be completely unnoticeable. Regardless of that, drug use still has a negative effect on the physical and mental health of a person, as well as may lead to depression and anxiety.

Taking everything into consideration, one can come to the conclusion that there is a link between drug use and juvenile crime. However, it is also significant to mention that there are some differences based on age. Besides, various types of drugs influence a person in a completely different way. As a result, the use of different drugs leads to committing different crimes.

Works Cited

Sharma, Shridhar, et al. "Substance Use and Criminality among Juveniles-under-Enquiry in New Delhi." *Indian Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 58, no. 2, 2016, pp. 178–182., doi:10.4103/0019-5545.183791.