

Personality disorder caused by childhood trauma leads to criminal Behaviors

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Abstract. Genetic factors are known to cause human beings' personality disorders; however, childhood trauma could also affect children in their lifetime. Furthermore, patients with personality disorders caused by their childhood experiences are more likely to commit a crime. More specifically, neglect of parents will cause the children to have antisocial behavior in their childhood and then develop an antisocial personality disorder. ASPD is known to be the disorder that causes the highest crime rate. Children with helicopter parents have a higher risk of depression; this disorder may not be directly related to criminal behavior but seems more aggressive and violent since their self-control ability is weak. Bullying or online bullying is significantly related to bipolar disorder, another PD that will cause individuals to commit the crime. What's more, the high offense rate is also led by the low-income family, since children with a family like this will grow up in a more dangerous and complex area that will cause them to have various personality disorders. All these situations could be saved by using cognitive and biological or other treatments such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Electro-Convulsive Therapy after the form of PD, reducing the crime rate since PD will cause a higher crime rate.

Keywords: Childhood trauma, Emotion dysregulation, Personality Disorder, Criminal behavior.

1. Introduction

There are many causes of personality disorders, and one of the leading causes could be childhood trauma. This personality will extremely possibly cause them to commit a crime in their adulthood since inmates committed only about 24 percent of violent crimes with no diagnosis of a PD, which means that PD patients committed approximately 76 presents of them, according to the study by Apostolopoulos et al. [1].

To begin with, it is necessary to be clear that DSM is a widely used system in psychology. It is usually chosen to diagnose personality disorders, and DSM-5 defines a personality disorder as the internal experience and behavior which are in an unceasing form that departs substantially from the information about an individual's cultural expectations, which demonstrate in their thinking or biological factor control, it is found that long-term misery or the situations that similar to social defect [2].

However, for how these kinds of PD are related to criminal behavior, Robins [3] has continually advanced the argument that antisocial behavior starts early from childhood and remains until their adulthood. These lead to the presence of APD. The condition that a person to be diagnosed with APD requires only three characteristics related to antisocial behavior in their childhood in the DSM-III and DSM-III-R. And another kind of PD related to violence is STPD which could also be diagnosed [4] through DSM-II if they experience the symptoms involving social isolation, illusions, or others similar to this. More specifically, according to the data from Athanasios [1], Schizotypal personality disorder is the third most violent crime, 66.7%.

Additionally, the example could be a serial killer named Edmund Kemper, who was highly famous in the psychology area in the 1970s since he killed his grandmother without warning at the age of 15 for the reason that he just wanted to know what is he feeling to kill his grandmother, had been diagnosed with both an antisocial personality disorder and schizotypal personality disorder. This also proves that patients with personality disorders like these are more likely to have violent behavior, and the possibility that they murder others will also increase.

In short, as various personality disorders cause high criminal rates, carrying prevention of childhood abuse must be attached. Therefore, this study will clarify the relationship between childhood maltreatment and personality disorder and how PD affects patients' criminal behaviors. In addition, the research also aims to provide solutions to these problems.

2. Literature review

2.1 Personal Criminal Behaviors

Personal crimes are those committed by an offender against another person, including aggression, rape or smuggling rugs, illegal driving, unlawful business, and robbery. The criminal will punish any conduct involving these above.

2.2 Original Reasons

Violent and aggressive behaviors are focused on among these criminal behaviors since personality disorders are easily related to violent behavior. There could be many reasons that cause someone to have personal criminal behavior; the environmental factors such as the family they live to grow up with, and society are the main ones that cause them to commit the crime in their adulthood.

2.1.1 Family of Origin

Both extremes, such as the parents controlling the child excessively or ignoring them, could lead to severe but opposite consequences. Firstly, the former is known as helicopter parents, which are the persons who use a kind of well-intentioned parenting style that offers excessive support for young children and adults and is overly interfered with in the personal lives of children or the day-to-day incidents of their children [5]. These parents usually give children significant pressure and feelings of anxiety, leading them to be diagnosed with personality disorders such as depression. More specifically, there is a particular relationship between these types of psychological control and personality disorder. As the study by Barber, psychological control is not about regulating behavior but about controlling and violating the child's psychological self. There are also plenty of examples of parental controls, such as the usual expression of their disappointment, withdrawal of love, neglect of children, and use of embarrassment and blame characterize examples of psychological control [6]. According to several studies, parents' excessive control will impact children's life and mental health. For example, the result found by Barber is that there is a relationship between the symptoms of two personality disorders (depression and anxiety) reported by juveniles and controls that are both maternal and paternal [6].

Besides, seldomly caring about the children or ignoring them will also lead them to be personality disorder patients. It is undeniable that genetic factors could cause children to commit crimes in their adulthood. Nevertheless, environmental factors with the genetic ones or alone will increase the offense's chance. Also, it is found that personality disorder like ASPD is usually caused by childhood maltreatment like psychological and physiological neglect or abuse, just like the serial killer Edmund Kemper mentioned before.

To disentangle whether heredity or environment affects the presence of PD, Twin studies usually begin with pairs of identical and non-identical siblings that means whether monozygotic or dizygotic, in which one of the twins is diagnosed with a particular personality disorder and to see whether the other one get the same disorder. If the symptoms are shown that we share more among identical twins, the likelihood that genetic factors cause the disorder is much higher [7]. ASPD is another kind of PD known as a high crime rate. To be more specific, of those with APD, the persons with a juvenile arrest recode who were diagnosed with APD is highly reach 87 presents, which is much higher than those who were not (28 percent). Similarly, the proportions of subjects with APD who endorsed the items far exceeded the proportion without APD. According to the items tapping illegal activities. Of those with APD, mighty-two percent reported stealing, and fifty-nine percent reported vandalism, as opposed to the proportion of forty-four and eight of those without APD [8]. As can be analyzed, this

evidence shows that APD could be the reason that causes a person to commit a crime, so each rate is higher than the one of a person without this disorder.

2.2.2 Society Causes

If the family is one of the environmental factors that cause the child to have a personality disorder, society could be another that affects a child most.

With the rapid development of the internet, people can heartily express their opinions on the internet. However, there is a risk of this phenomenon that children may be more likely to become victims of online bullying. People on the internet usually comment on one another recklessly although these words may hurt these persons that they have never met in reality. Bullying online could become the cause of personality disorders and abuse the children invisibly. Plenty of studies show youth bullying is defined as behaviors that are intently negative and will generally repeat in high frequency, especially when there is a power lack of balance which means one side may have more powerful a person or in a militant group with plenty of people [9, 10], so bullying online means these action above was all happened on the internet, always in the form of words. Several studies have proved that childhood bullying will impact the consequences in their later life, for example, Vaughn et al. [11]. Has identified a significant correlation between bullying in their lifetime and the presence of a kind of personality disorder called bipolar disorder, which is a kind of depression and could be understood as an individual's mood, energy, and civility levels changing from one extreme to another. During follow-up sessions, the data proves that people with bipolar disorder are more likely to commit a violent crime than general populations. Three hundred fourteen bipolar disorder patients committed the crime, which made the rate highly reach 8.4%, and the one for the general population was much lower than the one for bipolar disorder, at only 3.5% offense [12].

What's more, the effect of reality, such as family economic status, could influence children more in their lifetime. Several studies show that low family socioeconomic status, which means children living in the family with terribly low incomes, significantly influenced children's mental health [13]. Meager income may strip children's opportunity to be educated, and their health problems, especially mental health problems, will be ignored. Additionally, children in low-income families will live in areas with high crime rates, so they will experience more violent events, like stealing and murder [14]. A complex environment like this could lead children to develop a personality disorder, which is exceptionally high if the children are not diagnosed with this disorder. Children are more likely to imitate aggressive behavior, leading them to crime when they grow up.

2.3 Prevention

2.3.1 Psychology Mechanism

It is possible to reduce this kind of event through psychological prevention and law prevention by treating their mental disorder or using the law as a weapon to scare them.

To begin with, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy which aims to identify and change maladaptive or unwanted thoughts and feelings, is one of the psychological mechanisms to treat personality disorders and reduce the criminal caused by mental health problems. CBT incorporates the principles of both cognitive and behaviorist approaches to psychology. Nevertheless, it does not focus as much on observable behavior and recognizes the influence of the invisible cognitive process on learning. According to Sensky et al., the group treated with CBT showed more significant improvements than other groups in treating personality disorders. This treatment can always be effective as it focuses on cognitive and environmental factors. However, this is not suitable for urgent situations, as this usually takes a long time.

Additionally, the second PD treatment is electro-convulsive therapy, a biological treatment to induce the seizure and reduce the symptoms of related PD. During the treatment, the electrodes are fitted to specific areas of the head, and a small electrical current is passed through the head for no longer than one second, which induces a seizure last for one minute. These psychological treatments

reduce their symptoms from biological and cognitive approaches, and the one cognitive could incredibly efficiently reduce the symptoms and lower the crime rate. To be more specific, It has been found by two psychologists called, Landenberger and Lipsey, that the effectiveness of this type of treatment is stable as even the behaviors which will cause high risk, the symptoms can still be stopped. For example, the effects are more significant than any other effects among other severe offender behavior. This efficient therapy may cause these; the therapy is more effective than other therapy, so patients are more likely to engage in the treatment and continue to accept it. In reducing further criminal behavior, this therapy could be known as one of the most effective treatments when clients simultaneously are provided other supports, such as oversight, improvement, education and training, and other mental health counseling services [15]. Opposite to CBT, this can be used as urgent assistance, but the symptoms of each personality disorder can easily relapse, which seems to be a limitation. Even worse, ECT can be significantly dangerous to patients since it may cause them to lose their lives.

2.3.2 Law Mechanism

The other prevention depends on the law mechanism, which provides an authoritative response to offenders. Take Harm plus culpability as an example; guilt is assumed as a typical form of significant criminal offenses like murder. This unlawful behavior would cause specific damage to society, so guilt is needed. While these offenses are obviously “answers” to damage, reporting these behavior lead to crime can be considered as the overall guilty of the government to prevent damage. By its nature, the declaratory aspect of criminal law is anticipative and preventative [16]. This shows that the severe punishment matched with the criminal behavior may stop some patients from committing the crime as they may fear the power of the law. However, as patients with PD have different cognitive systems from ordinary people, law mechanism prevention may affect their criminal behavior much less.

3. Future Direction

Although this prevention could efficiently treat personality disorders, it still does not solve the problem fundamentally because this prevention can only be used after the personality disorder is formed. The significant problem that has not been solved is how to reduce childhood maltreatment such as extremely controlling or ignoring the children, bullying online, that the personality disorder will be less likely to form than treating the PD that had already formed. However, these problems are tough to be solved completely, as there are still plenty of factors about why parent hurt their children and why children suffer from bullying since the causes of the mental disorder are complex and difficult to be avoided. To be more specific, parents abuse their children because of income pressure, continuous low mood or want their children to develop in the way they want. Also, maltreatment from society could be more complex such as teachers’ insults or classmates’ bullying verbally and physically. These are all complicated reasons that made this problem hard to be solved. What’s more, the question of how to keep children in poverty areas away from aggressive behavior is also a nettlesome one that the area with a high crime rate is known to be more scramble to organize. Therefore, caring about children’s mental health in various ways, such as a parent, schools, and communities, could be especially important as these will affect their future life and even cause a risk to society.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, there are incredibly tight relationships between personality disorders, childhood trauma, and criminal behavior. Childhood trauma will lead to personality disorder, and PD will increase the crime rate. This thesis has already listed each personality disorder, such as STPD, ASPD, and their specific causes of offensive behavior. Additionally, the resources of child maltreatment in

family and society are analyzed, and the prevention of criminal behavior through treating personality disorders such as ECT and CBT are described and evaluated. According to the result, these personality disorders can be treated after diagnosis. Nevertheless, the prevention of them before they formed is still not complete. In the future study, it is necessary to focus on the sources of childhood trauma and solve which means reducing the crime rate from a primary point ultimately and balancing the pacific society.

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