

## **The Study of Influence of Faulty Parenting and Substance Abuse on Rape, Sodomy and Murder by Using Projective Test**

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### **Abstract**

The impact of family conflict and faulty parenting leads to conduct disorder and personality disorder. The role of early parenting plays an important role in the personality development of the individual. Any type of maladjustment in the family prone the adolescent towards the asocial /antisocial activity, The rate of crime in adolescent have increased because of various such factors. One of the major problems in today's scenario is conduct problem. The present paper is a case study, which discusses this aspect. Master R, is a 13 year old boy who had absconded from home due to family distress and strained relationship in family. He also felt harassed by his step father. He was in the habit of stealing and later he got addicted to psychotropic substance. He had started inhaling the tube because of which felt aroused sexually. The boy is reported to be involved in the murder of 2 year old child after the inhalation of the substance used for repairing of tyre/tubes of vehicle. He was referred to psychological assessment to know the causes behind it and to help him. The psychological profile was developed based on the police record, postmortem report, interview and psychological test of the accused.

### **Introduction**

Adolescents of the century are bombarded to various attractive environmental situations, which they are unable to handle at the tender age. It results into difficulty in accepting and adjusting to the environment. Lots of factors are contributing to the mental health of today's adolescent. The socio-cultural factors like break up of joint family, financial problems in family, working parents, high expectation from the parents, extravagant life style, study pressure, peer pressure, early exposure to sexual life, curiosity of smoking, chewing tobacco, alcohol drinking, and the facility of internet giving easy accessibility to pornography websites and violent computer games have made today's emerging generation quite confused and aimless. The adolescent is unable to handle his physical, emotional and cognitive needs. To avoid such situation, he gets distracted to other vices, which results into destruction of his own mental growth and eventually fails to perform in the society as a member of the society and sometimes becomes dangerous citizen of the country.

Conduct disorder is an illness resulting out of such conflicting situation within an adolescent. It is frequently associated with adverse social environment including unsatisfactory family relationship, failure at school and peer pressure. It results into serious concern ranging from annoying and disruptive behavior such as non-compliance to more serious delinquent behavior. In cases where it is unnoticed, the drive and need to harm others and gain attention and pleasure takes the severe form which is destructive to the

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family, community and society. This drive and intention may even lead to plotting and committing of murder. The American Psychological Association have defined Conduct disorder as “Repetitive and Persistent pattern of behavior in which the basic right of others or major age- appropriate societal norms or rules are violated”

### **Facts**

A boy of 13 years old had absconded from his home town. He had developed the habit of stealing, inhaling psychotropic substance and indulging into homosexual activity during his stay away from home. He had developed the other habits viz. masturbating / indulging into sexual activity after inhaling the tube (a kind of substance). As a part of his routine, on holiday, after inhaling solution he had urged to have sex. He saw 2 year old boy moving alone in the market. He took the child on the terrace and tried to have sex with him. As the child started crying, he got afraid and he covered the face of the child by pillow. In this process, the child died. He got scared and absconded.

### **Background Information**

The adolescent @ Mr. R reported that he lost his father when he was a child. His father used to drink and he had cancer. His mother re-married. According to him, his step father used to beat him and also loved him. His parents used to often fight at home. He is the youngest of three siblings. He has one elder brother who is working as a driver in Delhi and earns about Rs.6,000/- per month. According to him, as the brother does not give money at home and therefore the mother does not allow him to stay at home. Though his elder brother was in love with a girl, he would marry only after the approval of his mother. His brother was not ready to keep him as Mr. R was in the habit of stealing money. He reported that his step father used to beat him because of which he left home and ran away. He says his mother used to care and love his sister more than him because of that he was not obeying her. He told that as he was stealing at home and in neighborhood, his father asked him to leave the home and go. He enjoyed living in Delhi with his friends wherein he got into habit of substance abuse.

Later he said that many a times, police arrested him because of his stealing habits and every time his parents had bailed him out. He says, once he had stolen about money from his own house and spent all that money with his friends in a week’s time. Because of his addiction, of inhaling tube, he used to steal and do anything told to him to do after inhaling the substance (which he calls tube). After he left home, he worked on daily wages. He also worked in hotel as water boy and eventually with hotlier. During his stay, he made few and shifted to larger city for better remuneration.

As per his routine one day, after inhaling the tube, he saw one boy. He asked few persons about for the child, when they denied, he took the child to the terrace and suffocated him by closing his mouth, which made him unconscious. He had tried to have sex with him and there after he sprinkled water on him. On regaining the consciousness, the child started crying which made him scared. Eventually he killed the child by putting the pillow on his face , thereafter he covered the boy with ‘shawl’. He went down to the hotel at around 6-8 O’clock in the evening to do the work and went to sleep on terrace. He saw the police who had come in search of the small boy. The police had taken him to the police station where he was interrogated from 6 A.M to midnight 12 P.M, after that he was released. Fearing that the police will catch him, he eloped.

### **Mental Status Examination**

He was well dressed, neat and tidy. He was cooperative during the tests. Rapport was established with ease. He was seating comfortably. No abnormality was detected in his motor behavior. His speech was slow, relevant, coherent and goal directed. He was attentive and orientated to time, place and person. His immediate, recent, remote memory was good and also the general awareness. His mood was low and

affect was depressed, appropriate and communicable. He had ideas of helplessness, future was unclear. No abnormalities were detected in perceptual phenomena were intact. His judgment and insight was poor.

### **Tests Administered**

The Bender-Gestalt test (B-G), Draw-a- person (DAP), Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) and Rorschach test were administered. He appeared to be comfortable and relaxed in taking the test. All the tests were administered during the five days of his stay in the department.

### **Test Findings**

The B-G test indicates intact visuo- motor coordination with no signs of organicity was observed. He had difficulty in decision- making. He manifested the signs of oppositional tendency. He had drawn a human figure with distinct body parts and facial features. His drawing reflected that he was trying to be guarded in his behaviour and manipulate things according to his convenience. There was no coordination between the thought and emotions, which evokes conflict in his behaviour. His sexual needs and passive aggressiveness were projected in his figure. The TAT test indicated his low level of aspiration. The male figure was projected as dominant and female figure is projected as submissive and timid character. Deprivation of food and money has lead to strained relationship within the family members. His personality was depicted as possessive, suspicious and impulsive on the cards. His need for money and sex is dominantly expressed. The Rorschach test had shown his focus on concrete ideas rather than the novel ideas. He projects his unfulfilled instinctual needs and seeks for gratification. He has less control over his ego functions.

### **Case Formulation**

Overall finding of Mr. R reflects that his home atmosphere was not congenial. He exploited the differences between the parents which were manifested in his interpersonal relationship. His society failed to inculcate any moral or value system in him. His habit lying and stealing did not evoke the feeling of guilt or shame. His brother who was his role model did not support which made him more vulnerable to other vices. He revealed his passive aggression towards his step-father, who is perceived as dominant figure. Because of his limited social interaction he has become withdrawn and aloof. His defense pattern is yet to be established looking to his chronological age. He appears that he is process of adapting new coping skills. He has average intelligence with low aspiration. His past experiences have secluded him and because of it he has difficulty in accepting and adapting society norms. He has a uniform approach to solving his day to day problems. Because of his social bluntness, he expresses his physical need in socially acceptable way.

### **The Psychodynamics**

Mr R was brought up in a family which was distorted. He was deprived of the basic needs to survive. His maternal need was not satisfied as his mother had re-married. He was criticized and beaten for his behavior. His habit of stealing and deceiving was formed to gain attention and warmth from parents. This environment instigated his rebellious behavior and walked out of the house. His unfulfilled basic need i.e food and shelter forced him to continue with theft activity. The first promiscuous encounter was with an adult who sexually abused him. This was an unpleasant experience for him. To overcome, his guilt feelings, he took the help of psychotropic drug,(inhaling of tube), which gave him plight to the world of happiness. The substance abuse helped him to get into his comfort zone which he had lost after leaving his home. He also did not commit to any work or did not have friends because of the fear of being

rejected. His early experience of being abused by elder male led him to rationalize his sexual encounter with the two year old child.

### **Social Learning Theory**

Mr R felt deprived of the required trust. At an early age, he picked up the habit of stealing, to which his mother physically beat and eventually neglected him. The beating of step-father and inattentiveness by mother instigated him to leave his house. He had failed to make a positive identity like his brother, which resulted into feelings of inferiority. Because of his inferior feelings he did not had friends nor did he take interest in sports. This made him an easy target for substance abuse (inhaling of tube), which gave him a sense of security. The act of molestation made him helpless victim which resulted in depression and outrage. To overcome his agony he took the help of substance abuse which subsided his depression and gave him a feeling of ecstasy. The sexual encounter with young child gave him the feeling of power and authority. A strong desire to belong to the group /community was satisfied by his conducive behavior under intoxication.

### **Conclusion**

The psychological profile of Mr. R depicts that the deprivation of love and warmth from family instigated him to leave home. In order to compensate his social aloofness, he adhered to substance abuse. Under the intoxication stage, he was abused by his fellow mates which later became his habit and vulnerable to other vices like theft and lying. Gradually, he became dependent on his addiction and promiscuousness. A consistent involvement in activities has made him emotionally insensitive, vulnerable and manipulative.

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