

Understanding Parenting, Parent-adolescent Relationship and Delinquent Behavior: A Study on Incarcerated Adolescents in Child Development Center, Tongi

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***Abstract:** The Adolescents are the dependent and more vulnerable segments of the society. As they are the product of nature and nurture, family, more specifically parents as the primary care giver have the responsibility to nurture them. Parental monitoring, parenting style, parental warmth, and attachment affect youth behavior and very often parents are blamed for the misconduct of their children. Nowadays adolescent shows various delinquent behavior ranging from petty theft to murder and this became a growing concern in contemporary Bangladesh. They even dared to kill their parents, siblings or friends. Parents are the first responsible persons who should debar their children from these violent as well as any sort of anti-social activities. In this context, by adopting both the qualitative and quantitative methods this study has attempted to explore the nature of parenting, parent-adolescent relationship and its relevance to delinquent behavior of the adolescent. The study findings suggested that negative parenting and distant parent-adolescent relationship is one of the major causes of the delinquent behavior of the adolescents in Bangladesh.*

Keywords: Parenting, Adolescence, Parent-adolescent relationship, Delinquent behavior.

Introduction

Parenting and parent-adolescent relationship is a socio-cultural phenomenon which consists of a combination of practices, behaviors, feelings, and expectations that are unique to a particular parent and a particular adolescent in a given society and culture. Parenting is adoptive practices and behaviors of the parent that is directed toward the child. Parental practices such as punishment, monitoring, affection, and communication to rear up their child are the general manifestation of parenting as well as the demonstration of the parent-adolescent relationship. Parenting and Parent-adolescent relationship is vital for the development and wellbeing of the adolescent. For Steinberg (1990:139), adolescence is a transitional period of development from childhood to adulthood with evident biological and emotional changes that bring transformation and reorganization in family relationships. Erikson (1989) argued that, during adolescence, the individual begins to develop his or her own identity by experimenting with various personalities and different social groups to see where he or she fits in. In this period, adolescent needs much more support and attention from their parents. Baumrind (1991) suggested that in order to adapt to their child's changing needs, parents have basic information about effective parenting during the adolescent years. In this period, the relation between parents and adolescent became complex as the adolescent start viewing themselves as adults and independent; on the contrary, parents may find it difficult to

adapt to this discernment. The child's urges for independence seems to be a threat to the parental authority. For parents, to deal the adolescent is a difficult and critical task. So, when considering the development of an adolescent, the quality of parent-adolescent relationships is vital. It is a common phenomenon that when the child turns into adolescent, parent-adolescent relationship became difficult and more complicated. Sometimes it turns into conflict; both can feel perplexed about themselves. Parents may perceive that their little child has changed so dramatically. For the adolescent, they think that their parents became more controlling and inconsiderate. Noller and Callan (1988), through their study, articulated that in this period, adolescents tend to overestimate the negative aspects of parenting because they want to express their uniqueness and independence. These perceptions create misunderstanding between them and may put a negative impact on the adolescent's overall development. From parents' sides, they expect that their children to be modest, gentle, soft and submissive. They should carry out their command without any question. And for the adolescent they think that they have the right to express their opinion, it is their right to make argument.

The study of Dekovic (1999) revealed that the negative quality of relationships between the adolescents and their parents is related to higher levels of externalizing problems, such as disturbing others, verbal and physical aggression, and acts of violence. He argued that when a stressful situation is prevailed between the parents and adolescent relationship, a number of negative outcomes including juvenile delinquency also subsist. Steinberg & Morris (2001) reported that the most serious form, this highly stressful environment is associated with a number of negative outcomes, including juvenile delinquency, moving away from home, increased school dropout rates, unplanned pregnancy, membership in religious cults, and drug abuse. So, the idea that parents influence their children's behavior is not a new concept. Many studies have demonstrated how parental monitoring, parenting style, parental warmth, and attachment affect youth behavior. Keijsers et al. (2009) argued that, families with low parental support as well as decreased parental control led to increased adolescent delinquency. Marcotte et al. (2002) found a higher occurrence of delinquency and depressive disorders among adolescents with a lower level of family support. Similarly, Hair et al. (2008) revealed that high quality relationships between parents and adolescents and spending time involved in routine family activities was predictive of fewer delinquent behaviors.

Parents play the most important role to develop a child both physically and culturally. It is the parents who first teach their children what is right or wrong. They are the key persons to teach their children to conform to the norms and values of his society. Children are more inclined to model or imitate the attitudes and behaviors of their parents because parents are generally the ones children have frequent interactions with over a long period of time (Bahr et al., 2005). Parents are the primary agents of socialization and social control. They maintain social control through the inculcation of norms and values to the children of the society. They tried to ensure that their children will behave in such a way that they do not clash with the norms of the society as well as the legal codes of the state. Parents mold and shape their children into adults by using various discipline style.

Parents of the adolescent are repeatedly blamed for the delinquent behavior of their children. Taylor & Kliewer (2006) argued that the parents, more than any other social

group, influences whether juveniles learn to conform or deviate. In Bangladesh, if a child aged between, 9 to 18 commit any act which is forbidden by law, is called a juvenile delinquent and this study has accomplished its analysis based on this definition. There is an assumption that, parenting and delinquency is interrelated; a clear analysis on this regard is absent in Bangladesh. Therefore, this article is an attempt to explore the nature of parent-adolescent relationship and its relation to juvenile delinquency.

Objectives

The broad objective of this study is to analyze the nature of parenting, parents-adolescents relationship and its relation to delinquent behavior. In connection with this main objective some specific objectives of this study are as follows:

- (1) To identify the nature of parenting;
- (2) To find out the nature of parents-adolescents relationship;
- (3) To uncover the types of delinquent behavior of the adolescent;
- (4) To assess how the nature of parenting and parents-adolescents relationship are related to adolescents' delinquent behavior.

Methodology

In Bangladesh, criminal responsibility of an adolescent has fixed in the age limit between 9-18 years. So, this study selected the adolescents from this age boundary. Child Development Center (CDC) of Tongi, Gazipur, was selected as study area due to the availability of the accused adolescents of any offences. Mixed method was chosen as methodology of this study. So, both qualitative as well as quantitative data collection technique and presentation approach was applied in this regard. However emphasize had been given on qualitative method. By using Purposive sampling 15 confined adolescents' in-depth interview were conducted for case study. Respondents' physical and psychological capacity to response properly and their voluntary motivation to talk was the selecting criteria of selecting respondents for the intensive interview. On the other hand, to assess the types and severity of crimes and offences all incarcerated inmates' official documents were collected in this regard.

As per the official document, there were 240 incarcerated juveniles with the accusation of different specific offences and stayed in the CDCs over three months in the month of April in 2015. This study excluded the inmates who were arrested in mere suspicion under section 54 of special power act, 1974 and stayed below 3 months. Demographically the adolescent included in this study have the potential to vary in their age, socioeconomic background and offence history. This variation has manifested the different level of parent-adolescent relationship and its impact on the adolescents. Besides this, the study also tried to collect information from the CDCs officials and guardians on some specific and sensitive issues, as they directly dealt with the adolescents. In this regard, 07 Key Informant Interviews (KII) were conducted. This ensures the triangulation of the study. Their valuable opinion enriched and validities this article as well. However, the study failed to provide generalized idea as it included only one CDC in Bangladesh and only the male adolescents.

Major Findings and Analysis

Nature of parenting:

The concept of parenting is well addressed by Steinberg and Darling (1993). They articulated that, parenting style is an attitude that is expressed toward the child across a wide-range of situations, whereas practices or behaviors are expressed toward the child's behavior in specific situations. Parenting is a behavior of the parent that is directed toward the child and therefore included such practices as spend time, emotional support, punishment, monitoring, affection, and communication.

Parents could adapt different teaching process and parenting style to teach a child, such as: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and detached teaching process (Baumrind, 1971). Authoritative parents allowed their children to express their opinion. Through discussion they take decision. They are both responsive and demanding (Schaefer, 1959); they are firm but discipline with love and care. This way of teaching creates self esteem and independent adolescent and finally inclusive as well as interactive relationship between parents and adolescents. In authoritarian way parents remain rigid in their opinions; expect children follow them without any questions. Parents adopted physical punishment or withdrawal affection as a means of discipline to shape their children's behavior. This teaching process creates distant relationship between parents and adolescent and eventually led to anti-social activities by the adolescent. On the other hand permissive or indulgent way of parenting and teaching is responsive; not especially demanding. In this style, parents have little control over their children's behavior. Parents expect little from their children and the children also feel insecure in their future life which is manifested through their activities. They did not get proper guidelines about their future though they are creative, spontaneous and joyful. Lastly, detached parenting style is neither responsive nor demanding. Parents are careless and indifferent about their child's needs. Adolescents who are treated by this way may involve the path of anti-social activities. Positive parenting involves interaction between parent and child that have positive effects on interpersonal relationship between the two. Farrington et al. (2003) articulated that too strict authoritarian control and harsh punishment appear to be linked to high levels of delinquent and antisocial behavior. Kamal (16) an accused of theft said that his parents were indifferent about his future. He narrated his history as:

"I liked to spend my time with my neighborhood friends, as my mother and father frequently scolded me for any silly matter. They let me go astray. They pave the way for me to become delinquent as they were unable to meet my material as well as non-material needs. I think they do not love me. For the last few months, I rarely visit my parent. Gradually I maintain a distant relationship with them".

This is supportive in the literature, as previous studies suggested that neglectful parenting in particular has been linked to delinquent behavior (Maccoby and Martin, 1984; Steinberg and Morris, 2001). The adolescent under this study experienced strict authoritarian parenting from their parents.

Nature of parent-adolescent relationship:

The Parent-adolescent relation is manifested in everyday interaction and their performed roles. Parents maintain their relationship with the adolescent through their parenting. For

Baumrind (1967), parenting style, in particular, may have important implications, since it is thought to provide an emotional climate for the parent-child relationship. When the relationship turned into positive it creates academic as well as any kind of work skill for the child and that reinforce conventional values and norms (Regoli and Hewitt, 2000). On the other hand, when the parent-adolescent relationship becomes more distant and alienated the chances of delinquency increases over time. It is true that parent-child relationship has changed during adolescent over time. When adolescent were children, parents' role was to nurture and guide them. But for adolescent, along with other material needs, emotional support is vital. In adolescence, the youth need more socio-psychological supports along with its indispensable needs. Parents are frequently blamed for the delinquent behavior of the adolescents, because parents are primary care giver, from birth adolescent spend most of their time with parents and they have strong influence over their children. It is important to know that how parents maintain their relation with their youngster. Various studies found that the negative parent-adolescent relations increase the risk of setting a child off on a delinquent path that starts in the early teens, entails many delinquent acts and persists far into adulthood (Moffitt, 1993; Patterson and Yoerger, 2002). One of the major objectives of this study was to explore the nature of parents-adolescent interaction, which has been portrayed under the following captions:

Spending time altogether

In adolescence children have a strong drive to be independent. They like to spend and enjoy their time with their peer. So this period whether all the family members had spent quality time is a major indicator to examine the nature of relationship of the adolescent with their parents. The study of Greenberg et al. (1983) suggested that it is useful to consider the quality of attachments to significant others as an important variable throughout the life span. The quality of attachment to parents was significantly more powerful than that to peers in predicting well-being. Generally parents are worried about their adolescent and tried to monitor more than as before. If the parent maintains a friendly relationship with the adolescent, they feel free to spend their time with their parents. On the other hand if the parent monitor is meddling, the adolescent spend less time with their parents. Nayeem (13) expressed his experience as:

"My father owned a grocery shop in our locality. From morning to evening he has to busy with his business. My mother is a housewife and she is also busy with her household chores. They have little time to spend with me. I usually spend time with my neighborhood friend; some of them have the habit of smoking and introduced me to cigarette. This cost money which lead me to anti-social activities."

Many parents and adolescents report a decrease in closeness during this time. Mother of Khaled (15) an accused of women repression case told:

"My son is 15 years of age. His behavior has changed dramatically. In his early childhood he seems to be very friendly with me and liked to spend time with me. But recently he did not share much with me. He also obtained poor marks in his examination. I guessed that something was going wrong with him but I could not find it out."

Level of communication between parents and adolescents

As a person progresses into adolescence, the bondage between parents turns into different dimension. Some adolescents maintain close relationship with their parents, share everything with them; for someone peer bondage became strengthened. As children mature into young adults, they may transmit their communication hub from the parents to peers or a mate. Smith (1976) argued that adolescents tend to turn to parents for advice on topics of values and decisions about the future, but are more likely to seek advice from peers if they have parents who are rejecting. Thus, in the present study it was asked whether adolescent were able to communicate with their parents about many of the things going on in their lives. It was found from this study that it was quite impossible to discuss some specific issues with their parents, especially with father. Sometimes, adolescents remained skeptical about their basic needs and rights, their future goal and destination. Most of the cases father maintained a distant relationship with them. In this case, adolescents approached to their mother first; mother in her convenient time informed their father for any of their needs. If the mood of father remained positive, he had approved the demand, otherwise it happened adversely. However, issues like, romantic matter is like a taboo in the culture of Bangladesh. As most of the respondents of this study came from lower socioeconomic background, it is natural that the parents were not aware enough to the need of fruitful communication and emotional support of their children. Hossain (15), an accused of robbery, alleged:

"Both of my parents were bad tempered. So I could not freely converse with them; even in time of hungry I dared to ask food from my mother, let alone others issues."

Data provided by a survey report support this. According to the survey report, male youth prefer (71.4%) friend to discuss about any of their problems, then mother (59%) and 46.5% youth like to talk with their father (Daily Prothom Alo, 2017). Davalos et al. (2005) argued that, lack of communication was found to be an important predictor of delinquency in their study of Mexican American and White non Latino adolescents. Thus, relationships between parents and their adolescent children are highly an area of study as it is one of the risk factors of delinquency.

Emotional attachment between parent and adolescents

Warm, cordial and friendly relationship between parents and adolescent is a prerequisite for the development of the adolescent. In this period importance of peer association increase among the youth and there may emerge of romantic attachment and these introduce a new set of stress. When the adolescents feel that their parents are caring and concerned about their emotion, they easily communicate with their parents at the stressful situation. On the other hand, if the adolescents feel that their parents are rejecting, neglectful and indifferent, they find solace outside their home. It was found from this study that the delinquent boys came from the unfavorable emotional interaction and relationship. They hardly get emotional support from their parents. To stress the need of positive relation between parents and adolescent, one of the guardians and also by profession a school teacher, opined:

"Parent should be friendly with their adolescents, as parents are the first persons who have to understand the needs of their adolescent. They have to create such an environment that the adolescent can share all the matters with them." [Father of Monir(14)]an accused of explosive case.

Literature also supports this as Machteld et al. (2009) revealed the fact that, the effect of poor support by fathers was larger than poor maternal support, particularly for sons.

Openness in conversation

Usually the mother is the parent to whom the adolescent first becomes attached, and unless she rejects the child, she continues to exert an affectionate, understanding and sometimes yielding influence on the child. The father usually is a more dominating figure with whom the child may come in conflict and who may react to the child more aggressively and punitively than the mother (Cavan and Ferdinand, 1975). The findings of this study are not apart from this. Adolescents seldom get chance to express their opinion before their parents. Rahat (14), an accused of rape case has shared his experience in the following way:

"My parents questioned about my level of understanding. They think, I am too small to express my opinion regarding myself, let alone family matter."

To support his claimed, Rahat's mother told:

"If I could understand that something was wrong with my son and if I wanted to be sure that he did not engage in any risky behavior and if I taught the moral teaching, then my son never be in CDC."

Nature of disciplinary measures

Parents can adopt either enmesh or lax discipline style with the delinquent adolescent (Snyder and Patterson, 1987). Parents, who adopt enmesh discipline style, react sharply for any misbehavior of their children. They shape their misbehaved children by using the measures like, scold, verbal threat or cajole. On the other hand, parents who engage in the lax style tend to be very under inclusive in what they define as excessive or antisocial behavior (Regoli and Hewitt, 2000). Some Parents tried to establish and maintain order and social control in home by adopting such measure which is oppressive for the children. They physically punish and neglect their children. Various studies showed that few boys, delinquent or otherwise, had parents who consistently mistreated them in the name of discipline (McCord and McCord, 1959; Glueck and Glueck, 1962; Smith and Thornberry, 1995). The findings of this study indicated that parents adopted harsh measure to ensure discipline to their adolescents. Razu (15) an accused of explosion has described his parental oppression as follows:

"I was kicked out from my home. From my early childhood I had to witness as well experiencing domestic violence from my parents. It is worth mentioning that I had to live with my step- mother."

Numerous studies suggested that physical violence leads to child aggression, impaired parent-child relationship, and poorer child mental health. In 2013, by reviewing more

than 150 studies, Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children, showed the associations between corporal punishment and a wide range of negative outcomes, including anti-social behavior and damaged family relationship. One of the guardians narrated:

"My son is 16 years of old. He was very dynamic and arrogant. He did not listen to what she said. For this, I firstly ended up shouting at him, but it did not work. Then I used to punish him corporally". [Mother of Rajib, (16)]

Previous study of Akhter and Khan (2000) also suggested that harsh punishment made the situation more complicated.

Status of monitoring

Parental monitoring is one of the significant areas to measure the parent-adolescent relationship. Parents generally wanted to know the whereabouts of the adolescents, with whom they spend their times, which activities they get involved. The study of Stattin and Kerr (2000) suggested that actual monitoring by parents is probably limited, because adolescents spend less time with their parents and are relatively autonomous. In this study it was revealed that adolescents involved with criminal activities experienced in lower parental monitoring. In very few cases parents actually verified the narratives of their children. They blindly believe their children. If anyone complained against their children, they did not believe that, rather they castigated the complaint. Imrul (17) describes his parental monitoring as follows:

"Three years ago I hit a boy in my neighborhood. His father came to my house and asked me whether I hit his son. I replied in the negative. Then they complained against me to my father. My father did not believe, rather used filthy words against them."

Another respondents Sujana (15) said:

"Initially I was introduced into cigarette. At a point I also introduced to heroin and pathedin. At the beginning, to meet this cost I asked my father in the name of purchasing reading materials. Without any question he provided it. After sometimes he stopped giving me money. But over time I became addicted. Initially I sold household valuables with the help of my friends. Gradually I became a drug peddler to meet the expenses."

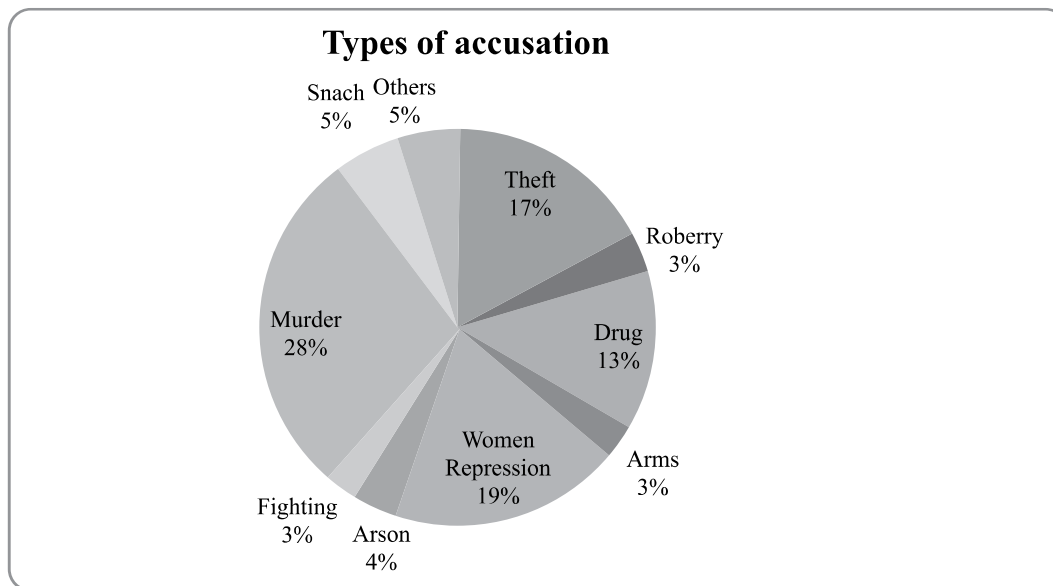
When monitoring became invasive adolescent tried to conceal from their parents. They tend to be fearful and most of the cases they reject their parental monitoring and their advices also. So, poor parental monitoring was also clearly linked to delinquency.

Types of delinquent behavior are brought against the adolescents

In adolescence youth possess the high risk of getting involved with various anti-social activities. The adolescents in CDC were between 9 and 18 years of old. More specifically, thirty adolescents were between 9 to 12 years of old and rest 210 adolescents were between 12 to 18 years of old. This is the peak period for an adolescent to be inquisitive and to build himself for future role. Naturally adolescents like to experience and enjoy prohibited things. Their curiosity and stimulation to new things, innovations and circumstances led them to a number of delinquent behaviors in their unconscious mind.

If the parents fail to play the watchdog role, the chances to develop anti-social behavior among the adolescents increase. This study revealed the spectrums of delinquency in Bangladesh and it can be characterized and categorized by murder, women and child repression, theft, drug related crime, robbery, hijacking, fighting, carrying or trading arms, human trafficking, and abduction. These findings are good examples to understand the nature of delinquent behavior by the adolescent in Bangladesh. Murder (28%) was the highest form of indictment that the adolescents faced the most. It is a matter of great concern that our adolescents are accused of this extreme form of crime in their tender age. Women repression that means sexual harassment related activities (19%) were by far the most frequent form of accusation for which the adolescent are arrested. Theft (17%) and drug (13%) are other major types of cases that our adolescents were faced. Snach/hijack (5%) and robbery (3%) are other types of crime which took a leading position. There were some others types of crime such as, information-technology, abduction, human trafficking and cutting down trees. But their number was very insignificant. These types are prepared on the basis of the information provided by the CDCs documents in 2015. The following chart demonstrates the types of allegation that our adolescents were faced:

Chart 1: Types of accusation has brought against adolescents



Source: Official document provided by CDC authority, Tongi, Gazipur

In earlier findings (Akhter and Khan, 2000; Sarker, 2001; Ferdoushi, 2012) reported that the most frequent forms of crimes committed by the adolescents were theft, drug business and fighting. But at present, adolescents are much more prone to commit murder and women repression including forcible rape. The superintendent of the CDC opined:

"The adolescents are committing more violent crime today. The boys are very much immoral. It becomes difficult for us to tackle their aggressive behavior."

From the above chart and opinions it can be said that the nature of youth delinquencies in Bangladesh is becoming more complicated, violent and dynamics. It covered from petty theft to murder. So the nature and gravity of the offences committed by the adolescent are frustrating and it gradually transforms into a serious social problem in Bangladesh. The adolescents are increasingly involved in violent crime and it is due to their inability in coping with the changing pattern of society, moral degradation of the youths, and degradation of societal values.

Parenting, parent-adolescent relationship and delinquent behavior

Parents are the first persons who nurture their adolescents at the very beginning and they are the responsible one in shaping the character and attitude of their children. So to find out the root cause of delinquent behavior of the adolescents, it is a necessarily to uncover the nature of parent-adolescent relationship and its impact on deviant behavior. Hirschi and Gottfredson (1990) argued that people with 'Low self-control' may commit crime and the origin of low self-control laid in the socialization. If early socialization was faulty, child-rearing became ineffective there will be a chance of low self-control. They argued that self-control determines whether people will become criminal or not. People with high self-control will be significantly less likely involving criminal acts. They found that offences such as alcohol abuse, drug use and illicit sex are committed at a higher rate by people with low self-control. The finding of this study is not apart from that. Tamim (14) illustrated:

"I did the rape, the heinous crime because of my parents' indifferent attitude which created the ground of getting the favorable chance and the whole situations permitted me to commit that".

The loving relationship between parents and adolescent makes a feeling in the adolescent that he is accepted and cared by his parents. Conversely, neglecting as well as lax discipline oriented parent-adolescent relationship is likely to produce delinquent adolescent. Mizan (16) is an accused of sexual harassment narrated:

"I was involved in various anti-social activities in my locality. I liked to spend time with friends and my political mentor. My political mentor provided some money in a regular basis. So I needed not to maintain a good relationship with my parents. As I was involved in politics, no body dared to implicate me. But misfortune came when I irritated the girl who was a relative of my political baro vai."

Derzon and Lipsey (2000) had opined that poor parent-adolescent relationship is a risk factor for juvenile delinquency. Nye (1958) argued that parents exercise direct control by keeping children indoors, promising and delivering punishment and by denying children certain privileges for infraction of parental rules and in this way they internalize norms and values to the children. If an adolescent is not attached to parental values he will not learn or have moral values and will not develop a conscience or the super-ego (Hindelang, 1973). Sometimes, interactions between the adolescent and parents can lead to conflict (Steinberg, 1990). Laursen et al. (1998) revealed that, among adolescents, early adolescence (ages 10-15) has been associated with higher levels of conflict with parents and adolescent-parent relationships may be transformed dramatically during this

period. To find the effect of parents-adolescent relationship, Inge et al. (2006) argued that, conflicting quality of parent-adolescent relationships leads to adolescent maladjustment. The adolescent who is deprived of sympathy and affectionate attention from his parents misses his first example and training in good fellowship, kindness and consideration for others. He develops little caring sense for others. Finally, he may turn in to a delinquent adolescent. Zubaer (15) an accused of murder described his relationship with his parents:

"My physical and material needs were met and not mal treated but my emotional need was not pay any attention from the side of my parents. My relationship with parents was superficial and not wholly satisfactory. I get pleasure with my friends rather my family members and this association with bad peers led me to this center."

Rohner (2004) argued that extremely negative behaviors such as rejection, neglect and hostility were linked to delinquency. Youngsters who experience rejection by significant others such as parents are at risk to develop distorted mental representations of themselves and their environment, which may explain why these youngsters are more likely to show delinquent behavior.

In the present study, it has been noticed that a considerable amount of respondents mentioned that they commit crime due to the lack of parental supervision and the case study of Imtiaz (17), an accused of drug trade, expressed:

"If my parent has taken good care of me, supervised properly I would never get involved in drug consume and trade."

According to Loeber (1986), lack of parental support, supervision, no discipline and rejection are the worst significant factors in predicting delinquency in adolescent. Agnew (2001) argued that strain within the family context can be a result of problematic parent-child relationships, which can include mistreatment such as parental rejection, child abuse, and neglect. Maltreatment like child abuse and neglect, are believed to be a source of strain in the daily lives of adolescents and may be conducive to the development of delinquency for a number of reasons. He added that criminal behavior is related to the anger and frustration that result when an individual is treated in a way he or she does not want to be treated in a family relationship. Adolescent feels pressure or strain to maintain relationship as they have to rely on their parents for their basic necessities of life; they are in a sense powerless to do anything to decide or escape maltreatment. This feelings lead them into anger, frustration and finally into delinquency. Not only that, maltreatment is harmful to the development of the parent-child bond.

Another respondent Moshiur (14) uttered:

"I lost my mother at the age of 8 and my father was not as supportive. Though he did not remarry after my mother's death, he spent his time with other women in our locality. So I had nobody to support, monitor and taken care of me in times of any need."

The above narratives articulate the connection between parents-adolescents interaction and delinquent behavior. These adolescents did not get parental support in their depression, get proper guidance in the time of emotional change, emotional sympathy was nightmare in their difficulties and not well monitored by their parents. So when they got favorable circumstances, they get involved with anti-social activities.

Discussion and Conclusion

The aims of this study were to investigate the nature of parenting, parent-adolescent relationship, and its relationship with delinquent behavior. The findings of this study revealed that most of the parents followed authoritarian and indifferent parenting style. They adopted punitive disciplinary measures. They knew little about their children's activities. They failed to provide emotional supports to their children. The narratives of interviewed adolescents exposed that nearly all of them had experienced harsh treatment, physical and mental exploitation and neglect from their early childhood.

Parent-adolescent interaction and their relationship is a critical aspect to determine the nature of adolescent's behavior. An adolescent may be a conformist or delinquent. Affectionate parent-adolescent relationship is a prerequisite for the development of children and it ensures the children to be conformist. On the other hand, parents who maintain distance and cold relationship with their adolescent sons or daughters, they themselves lay the foundation for delinquency of their children. In adolescence, youths are vulnerable to the societal expectations. They are vulnerable from their own side also. They are skeptical about their own peculiar demands. So in adolescence parents are the key persons to build the moral character of the adolescents. In this period parents should meet their rational needs. Adolescents want recognition and being valued. They need support from their parents for new experiences and need to establish acquaintances and a philosophy of life. In this juncture satisfactory parent-adolescent relationship provide emotional support and proper guidance to the adolescents. But this study found the relationships as distance, blameworthy, misunderstand and antagonism.

It is exhibited from this study that the adolescents' delinquent behaviors were concentrated to murder, sexual offences including rape, theft and drug offence. Other offences were scattered and had no heavy concentration (chart 1). This pattern of delinquency became one of the major social problems in Bangladesh. The adolescents who got involve in serious offences in early age, they not only destroy their own future, but also destroy the societal expectation and demands. Their anti-social activities are an obstacle for the overall development of the society.

This study revealed that most of these delinquent adolescents felt rejection by their parents; this indicated that parenting style did have some impact on adolescents' delinquent activities. This study confirmed that poorer parent-adolescent relationship contributed to delinquency. Other studies also found almost similar result; lack of intimacy, mutuality, and by more blaming and anger led to delinquent behavior (Dekovic, 1999). This study suggested that conflicting relationships between parents and adolescents and unsecured attachment led the adolescents towards the deviant acts which is supported by other findings (Inge et al., 2006; Stattin & Kerr, 2000).

Some of the adolescents were the sons of employed mothers and had bitter experience of being a child of a working mother. All of the working mothers were either garments workers or maid servants. Both of the works are very much time consuming. The adolescents narrated that their mothers had less time to spend with them and they passed their times without parental supervision. Their narratives are consistent with the

publication of the survey result of The Daily Prothom Alo; in Bangladesh, 89.1% youth articulated that, involvement of the both parents in labor market, creates a distant relationship between the children and parents (The Daily Prothom Alo, 2017).

Most of the adolescents who came from nuclear families grew up relatively in empty houses. They were not properly taken care of. In a nuclear family environment children were deprived of affection, supervision and monitoring when both parents were in work. Adolescents enjoyed more freedom without adults' supervision which was conducive to deviant behavior. Others studies also suggested that parental monitoring and supervision has a direct relationship with the delinquent behavior. For example, Hirschi and Gottfredson (1990) argued that parental monitoring and discipline were significantly negatively related to low self control. Effective parenting enhances adolescent development of strong self-control which combats delinquency. On the other hand, when adolescents are deprived of required warmth and support from their parents, their chances of getting into delinquency increased. In this study it was found that some of the juveniles did not get their requisite as a child; rather they experienced corporal punishment in their childhood, they were verbally abused by their primary care giver and most importantly rejected by their parents.

Family is the chief agency to transmit societal norms and values by introducing it to their children. Some parents had failed to do so. Adolescents of this study were involved anti-social activities out of frustration and they had little respect to the norms and values to their own family; let alone the values of the society. Almost all the narratives of this study are the vibrant examples which demonstrated that alone with other causes, poor supervision, lack of emotional support, family discipline, and rejection made the adolescents delinquent. It is supportive with the argument of Agnew (2001) and the findings of Ahkter and Khan (2000), which showed that the guardians were responsible for the involvement of the juvenile in anti-social activities. In a very recent survey report revealed that, 72.6% of our youth feel strain for their inability to cope with their parents; they hardly get any support from their family about their future goal and planning which leads gradual alienation from their families (The Prothom Alo, 2017). From this report and the studies cited above also confirmed the findings of this study where the adolescents seemed to experience the complicated web of family relationships which is predominately rejective in nature.

This study finding argued that poor and negative parenting and cold parent-adolescent relationship is a continuing threat for making the adolescents delinquent. The foundation of adolescents' personality and behaviors are laid in early childhood and the chief molder is the parents. The nature of parenting affects the behavior of children. Adolescents' anti-social behavior is the result of parenting patterns. If the parents adopt authoritative parenting style and maintain strong positive relationship with their adolescents there remain little chance to be delinquent for their adolescents. Expert opinion suggested that when parents are found to be loving, caring and supportive, periodically monitoring their peer relation and other life-style, it will be a preventing measure of delinquent behavior.

Continuous communication between parent-adolescent can overcome the stressful unpleasant emotion of the adolescent. Parents can lead their adolescent in right direction by spending quality time with compassion. It is important for the parents to maintain a warm, kind, stable, loving and caring relationship with the adolescent (Khondkar, 2017) and obviously this will prevent the adolescent from any kinds of delinquent behavior. However, adolescent deviant behavior is not only depends on his parental relations; peer groups, school, neighborhood and mass media are also important agents through which deviant behavior may internalize among adolescents. So, further research is needed to analyze other factors along with the parenting and parental relationship.

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