TEENAGE REBELLION —CURRENT STATE OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR AMONG JAPANESE ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT

The authors undertook a survey among senior high school students in an ordinary high school and delinquents in a reformatory concerning the correlation among three behaviours. Those are: 1. overt delinquency, 2. predelinquent acts (drinking and smoking in particular), 3. delinquent behaviour in fantasy. Results follow, 1. The sense of alienation is quite common among Japanese adolescents (around 80%), which might give rise to recently increasing predelinquent acts and overt delinquency. 2. Tendencies to seeking fantasy and self-destruction were more related with delinquents in the reformatory. 3. Tendencies to rebellion were more related with general high school students. 4. The delinquents tend to lack selfconfidence in behaving in constructive ways, which may give rise to some suggestions about the treatment of the delinquents.

1. Current state of juvenile delinquency in developed countries

Teenage rebellion is a worldwide problem in the sense that the number of arrested delinquents has recently been increasing all over the world. When the annual incidence of delinquency in 1975 was compared with that in 1960, the number of arrested delinquents among teenagers in 1975 was 3.6 times as much as that in 1960 in U.S.A., 2.4 times in England, and 1.2 times in Japan. The situation in France was more or less same as in England. And the situation in West Germany was more or less same as in Japan. Yet, the incidence of delinquency in Japan has recently rapidly been increasing.

According to the Japanese National Police Agency,^{2,3,5} the number of arrested delinquents in 1980 were 166,073 which was the largest figure after the World War II—the incidence was 17.2 per thousand. The incidence of delinquency in

Japan had its first peak in 1951 which was 12.1 per thousand. The next peak year was 1964—12.0, and the incidence declined since then. Yet, from 1970 onward, the incidence of delinquency in Japan has rapidly been increasing.

Fig. 1 Population ratio of the arrested criminals in Japan.
(1951-1978)

On the other hand, the incidence of adult criminals among adult population has gradually been decreasing after the World War II in Japan. Though the incidence of delinquency in Japan is still relatively low, the increasing incidence of delinquency may be a manifestation of both familial and social morbidity. Therefore, it is of urgent necessity to investigate it in order to find preventive measures.

2. Current state of juvenile delinquency in Japan

The current tendencies of delinquency in Japan are as follows:

(1) The highest incidence was found in the group of fifteen years of age, which occupied 23.9% of all delinquents. The second largest figure was found in the sixteens, and the third in the fourteens. The incidences of delinquency among these three age groups have been increasing.

(2) The incidences of delinquency among the older age groups of seventeen, eighteen and nineteen years of age have been either stationary or slightly decreasing.

(3) The commonest crime committed by female delinquents was shoplifting (90.4%).

(4) The common crimes committed by male delinquents were shoplifting (25.2%), theft of motorcycle (20.2%), and theft of bicycle (18.1%).

(5) There were 307 groups (22,500 boys) who drove in the streets vehemently in 1978 in Japan. Among them, 71.7% were teenagers. As to their academic carrer, 50.1% were working, 27% were high school students.

(6) 18.5% of junior high school graduates, 22.0% of senior high school quitters, 4.7% of senior high school graduates, and 1.7% of university students committed delinquency. It was noteworthy that the highest incidence of delinquency was found among senior high school quitters, which shows the close relation between delinquency and academic failure.

PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION

The purpose of this investigation is to know the correlation among three behaviours. Those are: 1. overt delinquency, 2. predelinquent acts (drinking and smoking in particular), 3. delinquent behaviour in fantasy (feeling of alienation and social deviance in fantasy). It is hoped that this research may contribute to both the prevention and the treatment of delinquency.

METHOD AND MATERIALS

The authors undertook a survey concerning drinking and smoking among senior high school students and delinquents in a reformatory. In Japan, both teenagers' drinking and smoking are legally prohibited. Therefore in Japanese high schools, both habits are regarded as deviant behaviours and so strictly prohibited, though many students do smoke either overtly or covertly. The authors conducted a questionnaire survey among second graders of senior high school students during ordinary lessons at school in February 1980. The school was situated in Kanagawa prefecture near Tokyo. Total students (majority of them were 17 years of age) were 450, and 420 answers (93.3%) were received (male 236, female 194). The same questionnaire survey was done among male delinquents in a reformatory situated in the same prefecture. All 80 (16-21 years of age) answers (100%) were received.

RESULTS

1. When the students who drink more than 5 times a year are called "present drinkers," the present drinkers occupy 73.3% of all high school population, whereas 96.3% of the delinquents in the reformatory were the present drinkers. The clear distinction between high school students and delinquents in the reformatory was found in the item of drinking more than 4 days. Only 2.1% of

Table 1
Alcohol use among Japanese adolescents

	High School Student			Delinquents in a Reformatory
	Male N=236	Female N=184	Total N=420	Male N=80
Everyday	1.3	—	0.7	32.5
More than 4 days/week	0.8	—	0.2	16.3
1-3 days/week	16.5	3.3	10.7	21.3
5-6 days/year	60.6	62.5	61.4	26.3
Present Drinkers, Total	79.2	65.8	73.3	96.3
Abstinence				
with 6 months	5.1	—	2.9	1.3
more than 6 months	2.1	2.3	2.6	—
Non Drinker	13.6	31.0	21.2	2.6
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2
Smoking among Japanese adolescents

	High School Students			Delinquents in a Reformatory
	Male N=236	Female N=184	Total N=420	Male N=80
Never Smoke	71.2	94.0	81.2	1.3
Nil for more than 6 months	7.2	1.1	4.5	5.0
Nil within 6 months	3.4	2.2	2.9	2.5
Occasionally a few Cigaretts	12.7	—	7.1	1.3
Smoke Everyday				
1- 9 cigaretts	3.4	0.5	1.9	3.8
10-19	0.8	—	0.6	25.0
20-29	0.4	—	0.2	36.3
30-39	—	—	—	11.3
40-	—	—	—	13.8
Unknown	0.9	2.2	1.4	—
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

high school students drink more than 4 days a week, while almost half (48.8%) of the delinquents drink more than 4 days a week.

2. 91.9% of male high school students drink less than 100 ml of alcohol

(calculated in terms of pure alcohol) per week, while 65.3% of delinquents drink more than 300 ml per week.

3. As regards smoking, 4.6% of high school students smoked everyday, while 90.2% of the delinquents in the reformatory smoked everyday. The difference of frequency of smoking between high school students and the delinquents is greater than that in the frequency of drinking, which probably reflect the fairly positive attitude toward drinking and rather negative attitude toward smoking in Japanese adolescent culture.

4. According to C.M.I., M.M.P.I. questionnaire tests, 11.1% of high school students exhibited neurotic tendency, and 3.0% exhibited deviant and impulsive tendency, while 31.1% of delinquents exhibited neurotic tendency, and 21.3%

Table 3
*Adolescent drinkers in U.S.A. (1974)**

Characteristics	Type of drinkers (%)					
	Abstainers	Infrequent-to-light	Moderate	Moderate-to-heavy	Heavy	Total
Sex						
Male	23.2	29.3	16.4	16.0	15.1	100
Female	31.1	36.4	14.6	11.5	6.3	99
Age						
13 and under	37.8	38.0	12.7	7.3	4.3	100
14	27.8	35.4	15.4	11.7	9.7	100
15	24.7	31.5	16.2	16.0	11.5	99
16	22.6	28.3	17.3	17.4	14.5	100
17	17.2	31.7	17.5	19.0	14.6	100
18 and over	20.5	22.0	16.5	20.8	2.02	100
Race						
Spanish American	31.6	32.8	13.0	11.8	10.9	100
White	24.8	33.6	16.4	14.6	10.7	100
Black	40.9	32.4	11.4	9.5	5.7	99
American Indian	27.1	29.2	15.6	11.6	16.5	100
Residence (US)						
Northeast	22.6	36.7	17.1	13.6	10.1	100
North Central	24.5	34.0	15.6	14.3	11.6	100
South	35.1	29.6	13.8	12.9	8.7	100
West	24.7	32.2	16.0	14.3	12.8	100
Metropolitan	25.1	35.3	15.9	13.4	10.3	100
Nonmetropolitan	29.2	30.8	15.1	14.0	10.9	100

* Data from Rachal *et al.*,¹¹ p. 147. Percentage sare weighted for national adolescent (in-school) population.

exhibited deviant and impulsive tendency.

Here, the authors compare these data with teenage alcohol use in U.S.A. In 1974, the Research Triangle Institute of North Carolina, under contract to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, did a nation-wide survey to determine alcohol use among junior and senior high school students in U.S.A.^{1,4} Five classifications were reported on the frequency and quantity of alcohol use. The percentage in each classification among 17 years of age group in U.S.A. follows (Table 3):

- (1) Abstainers (those who do not drink or who do so less than once a year)—17.2%
- (2) Infrequent to light drinkers (those who drink once a month at most)—31.7%
- (3) Moderate drinkers (those who drink at least once a week with small amounts per occasion or those who drink three or four times a month with medium amounts, 2 to 4 drinks, per setting)—17.5%
- (4) Moderate to heavy drinkers (those who drink at least once a week with medium amounts, 2 to 4 drinks, per typical setting or those who drink three or four times a month with large amounts, 5 to 12 drinks, per occasion)—19%
- (5) Heavy drinkers (those who drink at least once a week with large amounts 5 to 12 drinks, per occasion)—14.6%.

As regards frequency of alcohol use among 17 year age group in U.S.A. (compatible with second graders of Japanese senior high school students), 51.1% were classified as at least moderate drinkers. While only 18.6% of Japanese male high school students of 17 years of age are classified as at least moderate drinkers.

Results also indicate that more boys than girls drink and that amount and frequency of drinking increase with age.

Judging from this comparison, Japanese senior high school students drink much less than American senior high school students. Though data concerning teenage smoking in U.S.A. are not available, it would be quite likely that Japanese senior high school students smoke much less than American senior high school students.

DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN FANTASY

The authors studied sense of alienation and social deviance in fantasy among 4 groups. Those are

- (1) high school students in general (HS-G),
- (2) high school students who drink more than once a week (HS-D),
- (3) high school students who smoke at least occasionally a few cigarettes

(HS-S),

(4) delinquents in the reformatory (DR).

The authors also studied the correlation among these four groups in terms of the sense of alienation and delinquent behaviour in fantasy, thus tried to deliniate the items which most likely related to the actual delinquency.

The results follow:

1. The commonest wishes of social deviance among HS-G are

- (1) I wish I could contribute to the reformation of our society (65.7%)
- (2) I wish I could drive a car or a motorcycle as fast as possible (58.1%)
and,
- (3) I wish I could fiddle about doing nothing (51.7%).

These wishes may be popular among ordinary high school students.

2. 15 items of sense of alienation and social deviance were studied and classified into 3 categories. They were: (A) the items in which no difference was found between HC-G and DR. (B) the items in which DR scored higher than HS-G, and (C) the items in which HS-G scored higher than DR.

(A) No difference was generally found among HS-G, HS-D, HS-S, and DR, as regards the feeling of alienation. Around 80% of all teenagers feel alienated. Yet among the items of alienation, the item of "trust others" was rather different. Only a third (36%) of HS-G said "I cannot trust anybody except myself," while more than half (56.3%) of DR said so.

From these figures, we may deduce that the feeling of alienation is

Table 4
Feeling of alienation

	High School (male)			Reformatory
	HS-G* N=263 (%)	HS-D** N=44 (%)	HS-S*** N=41 (%)	DR**** N=18 (%)
1) Daily life is monotonous and uninteresting,	72.9	77.3	82.9	73.8
2) I feel discontened with the situation but cannot change it by myself.	86.4	84.1	87.8	80.0
3) I cannot trust anybody except myself.	36.0	47.1	43.9	56.3

* general high school students
** drinking high school students

*** smoking high school students
**** delinquents in a reformatory

quite common among high school students, which do not necessarily lead to actual delinquency. But DR tend to distrust others which may have been fostered during previous life experiences. In other words, the adolescents who cannot trust others are more liable to commit delinquency than those who can trust others (Table 4).

Table 5
Tendency to self-destruction

	High School (male)			Reformatory
	HS-G* N=236 (%)	HS-D** N=44 (%)	HS-S*** N=41 (%)	DR**** N=18 (%)
4) I wish I could evaporate of emancipated from daily restraints.	25.4	40.9	36.6	46.3
5) I wish to get drunk till I forget everything.	37.7	54.5	56.1	61.3
6) I wish I took sleeping pills to fall into a deep sleep.	14.0	27.3	22.0	43.8
7) I wish I could kill myself without agony of death.	17.8	20.5	12.2	30.0

* general high school students
** drinking high school students

*** smoking high school students
**** delinquents in a reformatory

Table 6
Tendency to seeking fantasy

	High School (male)			Reformatory
	HS-G* N=263 (%)	HS-D** N=44 (%)	HS-S*** N=41 (%)	DR**** N=18 (%)
8) I wish to get on marijuana or sniff glue.	7.6	11.4	17.1	58.8
9) I wish to fiddle about doing nothing.	51.7	56.8	56.1	76.3
10) I wish I might become a TV talent.	29.8	45.5	26.8	51.3
11) I wish to drive a car or a motorcycle as fast as possible.	58.1	75.0	78.0	81.3
12) I wish I might become a gangster.	5.9	4.5	14.6	40.0
13) I wish I could have free sexual relation with a girl I love.	72.0	88.6	85.4	87.7

* general high school students
** drinking high school students

*** smoking high school students
**** delinquents in a reformatory

- (B) Among the items of social deviance, the items in which DR score highest, HS-G score lowest, and HS-D and HS-S score in-between are (1) tendencies to self-destruction (or escape) and (2) tendencies to seeking fantasy (Table 5, 6).
- (1) involve
 I wish I could get drunk till I forget everything.
 I wish I could take sleeping pills to fall into a deep sleep.
 I wish I could kill myself without agony of death, etc.
- (2) involve
 I wish I could get high on marijuana or sniff glue.
 I wish I could become a TV talent.
 I wish I could become a gangster, etc. (Table 7).
- (C) Among the items of social deviance, the items in which DR score lower than HS-G are tendencies to rebellion. They are:
 I wish I could live hippie-like.
 I wish I could contribute to the reformation of our society.

Table 7
Tendency to Rebellion

	High School (male)			Reformatory
	HS-G* N=263 (%)	HS-D** N=44 (%)	HS-S*** N=41 (%)	DR**** N=18 (%)
14) I wish to live hippie-like.	26.7	38.6	34.1	16.3
15) I wish I could contribute to the reformation of our society.	65.7	70.5	61.0	35.0

* general high school students

** drinking high school students

*** smoking high school students

**** delinquents in a reformatory

This may indicate that the delinquents tend to avoid active efforts and rebellion, while they seek escape from daily stress through self destructive acts and fantasy seeking or daydreaming.

3. Among all items, two items showed the greatest discrepancy between HS-G and DR. They were
- (1) I wish I could get high on marijuana or sniff glue.
 (2) I wish I could become a gangster.

In the marijuana item, 58.8% of DR expressed the wish, whereas only 7.6% of HS-G expressed the same wish. In the gangster item, 40.0% of DR expressed

the wish, whereas only 5.9% of HS-G expressed the same wish. Therefore, these two (marijuana and gangster) wishes may have special affiliation with actual delinquency.

CONCLUSION

We may be able to summarize the data and advance some preventive measures which follow:

Fig. 2 Alienation and social deviance among different types of adolescents.

1. The sense of alienation is quite common among Japanese adolescents (around 80%), which might give rise to predelinquent acts and overt delinquency. But the sense of alienation itself does not necessarily lead to delinquency. One of inhibiting factors is whether he can trust others.

When the adolescent feels he can trust nobody except himself, he is more liable to commit delinquency.

2. Predelinquent acts such as drinking and smoking among high school students are less commonly found in Japan than in the U.S.A.

3. Tendencies to self-destruction and tendencies to seeking fantasy or day-dreaming were more related with delinquents in the reformatory.

4. Tendencies to rebellion were more related with general high school students.

5. These results may indicate that the delinquents tend to lack self-confidence in behaving in constructive ways, which give rise to some suggestions about the treatment of the delinquents.

6. Judging from these data, the following measures may be useful for prevention and treatment of delinquency.

1) The warm and healthy parents-child relation since babyhood may be essential, one obstructive factor to which is the increasing incidence of parental divorce among developed countries.

2) Adolescents should be treated so as to increase their self-confidence.

3) Generally speaking, 80% of delinquency are said to be transient phenomena and they become ordinary adults. Therefore, we should avoid labeling them as delinquents to prevent from their becoming desperate and committing further delinquency.

4) Club-activities may be useful. Because the proportion of students who take part in club-activities is 65% among general students, while only 31% among delinquents.

5) Vocational education instead of sheer academic education may be necessary, especially for those who don't like studying, since the highest incidence of delinquency was found among senior high school quitters, and second highest incidence was found among junior high school-graduates, which show the close relation between delinquency and academic failure.

6) Teachers should value their students' good characteristics and foster warm and reliable human relation with them. Since, quite often, hooligans are in fact just trying to get attention.

7) They may not be used to managing difficulties in constructive ways which should be taught.

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