

Empirical Study on the Management of Crimes Involving Minors in the Post-Epidemic Period

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Abstract:

The COVID-19 epidemic has had a significant impact on crimes related to minors. Based on 198 judgments, this paper conducted an empirical study on crimes related to minors, and found that crimes related to minors were affected by Epidemic containment measures, criminal policies and other social factors. Above reasons has led to a decrease in the number of crimes related to minors, more crimes transferred to the Internet, a decrease in joint crimes, and an increased number of personal injury crimes. It is necessary to speed up the construction of a juvenile crime prevention system with early prevention, early intervention, and prevention of reoffending. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the public security management in places such as learning and living areas for minors, hotels and Internet cafes. The mandatory reporting system will be further implemented to strengthen the traceability and management of crimes involving minors in the post-epidemic period.

Keywords:

Protection of Minors, Post-Epidemic Period, Crime Prevention

1. Introduction

The outbreak of COVID-19 has had a major impact on social operations in many ways, According to the changes in the epidemic situation, it can be divided into the pre-epidemic period, the epidemic prevention and control period, and the post-epidemic period (the post-epidemic period refers to the optimized prevention and control period after the Notice on Further Optimizing the Implementation of the Novel Coronavirus Prevention and Control Measures (namely the "New Ten Measures") issued by the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism Comprehensive Group of The State Council on December 7, 2022. Different from the pre-epidemic period and the post-epidemic prevention and control period, the post-epidemic period presents a superposition that the impact of the epidemic is still continuing and social governance is in urgent need of optimization. Therefore, it is necessary to study the changes of crimes related to minors before and after the epidemic in order to deal with the problem of crime control in the post-epidemic period. According to statistical data,

influenced by the changing situation of the epidemic, crimes involving minors have produced many unprecedented changes, such as changes in the means of crime, the number of crimes, and the areas of crime. To this end, the prevention of crimes involving minors, the care and education of delinquent minors, the governance structure and governance methods should also be optimized with the changes in the crime phenomenon. [1]

2. Empirical Study of Statistical Data

First, the research on juvenile crime cases. First, in terms of the number of crimes, from 2017 to 2022, Y District People's Court tried a total of 129 minor defendants, and the crime of minors in Y District fluctuated on the whole. In 2017, there were 33 juvenile defendants; In 2018, there were 28 juvenile defendants, down 15.2 percent from the previous year; In 2019, the number of juvenile defendants was 31, up 10.7 percent from the previous year. In 2020, the number of juvenile defendants was 13, 58.06 percent lower than the previous year; In 2021, the number of juvenile defendants was 22, which was 36% higher than the previous year. In 2022, the number of juvenile defendants was 2, a significant decrease from the previous year. Second, in terms of crimes, the top three crimes from 2017 to 2019 were theft, robbery and prostitution cases (38 cases of theft, 16 cases of robbery and 14 cases of prostitution); The top three crimes from 2020 to 2022 were larceny, intentional assault and rape (32 for larceny, 15 for intentional assault and 2 for rape). Third, in terms of accomplices, among juvenile defendants sentenced to criminal punishment from 2017 to 2019, 54 committed joint crimes and 38 committed crimes alone; Among juvenile defendants sentenced to punishment from 2020 to 2022, 13 committed joint crimes and 24 committed crimes alone. From 2017 to November 2022, 48 percent, 46 percent, 80 percent,

38 percent and 36 percent of juvenile co-criminals were tried, respectively. Fourth, in other aspects, Juvenile crimes also show a higher proportion of male juvenile defendants, a decrease in the crime rate of floating minors, a decrease in the fluctuation of juvenile recidivism rate, a younger age of juvenile delinquency, a low educational level of most juvenile delinquents, a high proportion of minors involved in crimes due to family factors, school bullying and violent crimes The number of crimes related to financial abuse and new crimes related to telecommunication network increased significantly, and so on.

Second, research on crimes against minors. First, the number of defendants. From 2017 to 2022, Y District People's Court decided criminal cases of infringement on the rights and interests of minors with a total of 75 defendants, and from 2017 to 2022, there were 11, 22, 13, 10, 17 and 2 defendants respectively. The number of criminal cases of infringement on minors is on the rise. Second, the criminal charges. From 2017 to 2022, the top six cases tried by Y District People's Court for crimes against minors' rights and interests were rape, child molestation, picking quarrels and provoking trouble, robbery, traffic accidents and theft. Among them, the number of cases of sexual assault on minors is large and increasing year by year, accounting for nearly 40 percent of all cases of infringement on minors' rights and interests. Third, the characteristics of juvenile victims. In terms of age characteristics, from 2017 to 2022, Y District People's Court tried 2, 11, 2, 4, 4 and 1 minor victims under the age of 14 respectively. More than half of the victims were under the age of 14, reflecting the most urgent need to care for children under the age of 14. In terms of educational characteristics, the dropout rate of juvenile victims is relatively high; In terms of

gender characteristics, there were 13 male juvenile victims and 37 female juvenile victims in criminal cases of infringement on the rights and interests of minors. Except that the gender of juvenile victims was not marked in some judgments, female juvenile victims accounted for 74% of the total number of juvenile victims, and female juvenile victims accounted for a relatively high proportion.

3. Data Analysis of Crimes Involving Minors

Impact of containment measures on the epidemic. First, the change of the total number of crimes: From the annual statistical data, it can be seen that the number of crimes involving minors is less in the years with relatively strict epidemic prevention and control, such as 2020 and 2022 (X City adopted relatively strict prevention and control measures in 2020 and 2022 due to the serious epidemic). Secondly, the change of criminal means: due to the need of epidemic prevention and control, the offline crime opportunity of the perpetrator has been reduced, so most of the crimes involving minors have changed from the traditional offline type to the combination of offline and online type of crime or completely online type of crime, among which sex crimes and property crimes are the most typical. Third, changes in the situation of accomplices: epidemic prevention and control measures such as setting quarantine and containment, checking travel codes and closing some passageways have indirectly strengthened regional security forces, making it more difficult to perpetrate crimes involving minors, indirectly leading to an increase in the proportion of accomplices and a decrease in crimes of floating population. Fourth, the change in the ranking of total crimes: the irregular lockdown caused by the epidemic is likely to cause negative changes in the mentality of social members, such as anxiety, irritability, impulsiveness, etc., which indirectly leads to the increase in the number and proportion of criminal cases of personal injury and sexual assault among crimes involving minors. [2]

The influence of criminal policy. In recent years, China has been implementing the criminal justice policy of "matching mercy with severity", especially the implementation of the criminal justice policy of "fewer arrests, more discretion in prosecution, more discretion in sentencing", which has reduced the number of cases entering the trial stage and the number of final convictions and sentences. [3] However, statistics are based on judgments, thus resulting in a significant decrease in the number of crimes in 2022 according to the statistics.

The influence of other social factors. With the continuous progress of law popularization, protection of minors and prevention of sexual assault, the black number of crimes once not included in statistics has been reduced, and some crimes, such as the number of cases of sexual assault on minors, have been on the rise.

4. Conclusions

4.1. Establishing a juvenile crime prevention system

The juvenile crime prevention system is guided by early prevention, early intervention and prevention of recidivism. It contains three levels of content: First, the construction of a social prevention system to solve various undesirable factors that induce juvenile crime. The participants of the social prevention system are the dual model of the state and society, and the means adopted include civil, administrative and other social policies, which is also the meaning of the broad criminal policy, and

can also be regarded as the broadest criminal policy. Second, it constructs a mechanism to intervene in minors' bad behaviors or serious bad behaviors to prevent them from deteriorating into criminal behaviors. Many empirical studies have pointed out that before juveniles commit criminal behaviors, there are often bad behaviors or serious bad behaviors that have not been effectively interfered with. Therefore, graded intervention on juveniles' bad behaviors or serious bad behaviors is the core content of juvenile crime governance system. Thirdly, the prevention system of juveniles involved in criminal justice activities should be constructed. The judicial prevention of juvenile crimes means that the idea, procedure and system of handling cases are different from those of adult offenders. For example, to establish independent criminal procedure for minors, carry out education on the rule of law, improve social investigation and criminal record sealing systems; Adopt non-criminal, non-penal, non-incarceration and other treatment methods; Improve resettlement, help and education work, so as to encourage minors involved in crimes to return to society as soon as possible and prevent them from committing crimes again. At the same time, effective protection measures should also be provided for juvenile victims, which is also an important part of the juvenile crime prevention system. In judicial practice, many minors involved in crimes have also been victims of illegal and criminal acts. If due care and protection cannot be provided to minor victims, minor victims may also turn into minor criminals.

4.2. Improving the protection system for crimes against minors

We should strengthen public security administration in places where minors study and live, hotels and Internet cafes. Although the public security deployment with communities and streets as the basic unit has been generally realized, and the public security in the central area has achieved remarkable results, there are still some blind spots in the public security management for some places frequented by minors due to the constraints of financial, material and human resources. Therefore, we should strive to obtain financial support to increase financial and material input, play the role of grid personnel, take communities and streets as the basic unit, build community and street convenience service rooms and arrange special personnel on duty, to detect and intervene in time the existence of violations against minors, so as to reduce the occurrence of violations or prevent further expansion of violations. In addition, it is also necessary to specially strengthen the monitoring arrangement of minors' learning and living areas, hotels and other places, so as to effectively achieve monitoring coverage without infringing on the privacy of relevant personnel, so that there is no place for crimes to hide. Since the activities of minors are very regular, it is possible to explore the cooperation mechanism of community and campus police, that is, the public security organs should take the lead and cooperate with communities and schools within their jurisdiction where there are more activities of minors to carry out prevention work in advance.

Strict implementation of the mandatory reporting system, through visits to understand the scope and depth of the publicity of the mandatory reporting system, education, medical, child welfare institutions and other units, schools, training institutions, hotels, hotels, entertainment venues and other places to focus on publicity and investigation, do a good job in fixed evidence, crime reporting and other aspects of the advisory work. Make the compulsory reporting system in close contact with minors in the industry deeply rooted in the people, for the prevention and fight against crime to lay the foundation.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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