
The Origin of Criminal Behavior in the Context of Developmental Risk Factors

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Abstract

Research on the complexity of human nature and crime has always captured the attention of the entire social community, constantly grappling with these challenges. Numerous scientific studies have dealt with the origins of criminal behavior and the explanation of crime. Since the beginning of the 19th century, broad scientific perspectives have ranged from considering crime as an inevitable derivative of general poverty, unemployment, and poor parenting and/or as a symptom of individual psychological deficits, to the standpoint that crime is attributed to social conditions. Today, the origins of criminal behavior are considered in the context of biological factors, learning and situational factors, and primarily developmental risk factors (risk factors of the social environment, risk factors associated with parents and family, psychological risk factors), which are the focus of this work. This paper aims to examine the implications of the complex interactions of these developmental factors and their role in the origin of criminal behavior.

Key words: Criminal behavior, developmental risk factors, family, school, social environment, psychological factors.

The Origin of Criminal Behavior in the Context of Developmental Risk Factors

Introduction

Since the existence of mankind, violence has always been present. The nature of the aggressive drive in humans has been directed by the consciousness of existence due to frequent threats, attacks, and/or other frustrating situations. Sometimes violence has been the result of fear of differences, misunderstanding of others' perspectives on the world, or culture. Throughout the history of humanity, there has been almost no period without some form of war, and violence has often been sought to gain advantage due to false beliefs, feelings of threat, or greed for others' possessions (Bjelajac & Matijašević, 2013). Human nature has been and remains highly complex, unfathomable, mystical, inconsistent, and unlimited. It has the flexible quality of shaping, building, and driving. It governs the lives of human beings, drives the course of our thoughts and activities, and guides us in everyday life situations where important decisions are made.

If the rules of behavior in society, established to guide human consciousness and will, do not allow a person to satisfy their needs, human nature tends to turn towards greed, ruthlessness, immorality, unscrupulousness, or destructiveness, and often even innate evil, leading to various criminal activities. In fact, crime arises because of the deceptive nature of human beings, which is full of inconsistency (Bjelajac, 2023: 26), as a result of those unchanging aspects of human nature that make every human act possible (Manfredi, 1985), including acts such as the barbaric removal and sale of human organs, crimes against humanity, known as human trafficking (Bjelajac, 2014a; Bjelajac, 2008). In the specific conditions of widespread alienation from humanity (Bjelajac, 2014b), scientific researchers are constantly searching for answers to what influences criminal behavior and what drives individuals to manifest unacceptable and negative behavior patterns, to be cruel and commit atrocities.

"The most natural and common question people ask about crime is: Why? This question is asked both when it comes to individual acts and their totality. In both cases, it is almost impossible to answer this question. Each individual crime is a response to a specific personality situation, which is immensely complex psychologically and emotionally, subject to endlessly complex external pressures. Crime is a million such responses. Seeking the causes of crime only in human motives risks getting lost in the impenetrable dust of the human psyche. It could be said that a gambling addiction is the cause of embezzlement, or that drug addiction is the cause of theft, or that insanity is the cause of murder, but what caused the passion, addiction, or madness?" (The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society...1967:17). Why did they manifest themselves in those ways at that moment? There are crimes so irrational, unpredictable, and explosive, so unsuitable for analysis or explanation, that they can be prevented or protected against to the same extent as earthquakes or tidal waves... The causes of crime are therefore numerous, mysterious, and intertwined. To even begin to understand the individual, we must collect data on the scope and trends of crime, determine the cost of crime, study the living conditions where it thrives, identify criminals and their victims, and determine society's stance on crime. No way of describing crime captures it well enough." (The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society...1967:17). Although it is generally accepted that crime theories have deep historical roots and have been the subject of numerous debates, current criminological research considers new perspectives and expands views on the origin of criminal behavior. Two main approaches, reflected within biological and sociological theories, imply that crime is a highly complex phenomenon that changes in different cultures and over time.

The main scientific perspectives in criminology, including sociological, psychological, and psychiatric criminology, among others, explore: the characteristics of offenders; motives - reasons why someone may have committed a criminal act; the effects of crime on victims, their families, individuals, and communities; methods of crime prevention. Ultimately, criminology has unequivocally embraced a scientific approach, acknowledging that each perpetrator of a criminal

act has their own motives due to subjective and objective circumstances and certain variables that may contribute to criminal behavior. Regarding crime, authors examine and confront various views on the impact of essential characteristics: (gender, race, age, skin color, language, ethnic and national origin, religion, sexual orientation, intelligence, disability, health status, psychopathology, and mental disorders); developmental factors (family, school, environment); social factors (unemployment, poverty, media, substance abuse); and include established patterns of sanctioning and rewarding, historical and cultural factors, etc

Methodology

In the process of conducting descriptive research, we formulated research questions in an appropriate and concise manner to examine the perspective of the impact of the factors at hand on the development of criminal behavior. We utilized qualitative research methods to conduct a deeper analysis and provide more detailed explanations, aiming to offer a comprehensive and broader picture of developmental risk factors and the origin of criminal behavior, with the intention of addressing the questions related to the purpose of this study. Through the method of comparative analysis, we discovered the potential for understanding the implications of the complex interactions of these developmental factors and their role in the origin of criminal behavior. We presented that there are pronounced capacities in terms of protective factors as positive influences that can improve the lives of individuals and the safety of the community as preventive measures.

Developmental Risk Factors

Every individual has their own developmental path, the characteristics of which can often be identified from a very early age. The developmental perspective views the life course of all individuals as following a path (or trajectory) that may be filled with risk factors. Some risk factors can be described as experiences commonly found in the background of many offenders, such as school failure, alcohol abuse,

antisocial peers, or childhood victimization. Some experts believe that the more varied and unpredictable an individual's paths are, the greater the likelihood they will engage in antisocial behavior throughout their lives (Wasserman & Seracini 2001). It is understood that the life paths and cycles of juvenile and adult offenders can be different and unpredictable. Some lead to serious delinquency with significant persistence in criminal behavior, resulting in challenges and perspectives that accompany the nature of persistent offenders whose criminal behavior begins early and reflects resistance to social control even when strict criminal sanctions are applied. Others only lead to juvenile delinquency, often as a result of imposed stereotypes in the context of avoiding conventional lifestyles, which disappear as unpleasant experiences upon exiting adolescence. The question of why some children exhibit antisocial behavior early on while others manifest it only during the transition from childhood to adulthood, known as adolescence, remains open and insufficiently clarified with all its implications.

The risk factors presented by *Webster-Stratton and Taylor* generally reflect a realistic view of the development of criminal behavior and suggest an increased likelihood that certain individuals/adolescents will be involved in crime or become victims. These are empirically based programs that have identified the most susceptible risk factors closely associated with later exposure to substance abuse, increased aggression, violence, and delinquency. It is understood that there are other risk factors that influence risky behaviors in early years. Those associated with personal vulnerabilities and predispositions, interacting with others related to family, school, or peer environments, have a pronounced synergistic effect in multiplying behavioral problems with negative outcomes and narrowing the choice of effective interventions.

Risk Factors of the Social Environment

When discussing **risk factors of the social environment**, the stereotype that a lack of material goods - **poverty**, creates a negative social environment is prevalent. While the link between growing up in

poverty and criminal behavior should not be ignored, it is understood that being poor does not automatically mean being a criminal. Indeed, every individual who commits a criminal act has their own specific reasons and life situation. Research reveals that the mere presence of criminals is not the only factor that can negatively influence our behavior in our environment. In this sense, it is useful to mention several evident factors that can contribute to criminal behavior:

- **Rejection by peers and associating with antisocial peers** indicate that children's relationships with peers are unique and essential contributions to their social and emotional development. (Bagwell, 2004; Blandon, et al., 2010; Newcomb, et al., 1993) During adolescence, there is an increase in sensitivity to peer influence and a decrease in susceptibility to parental influence (Mounts, 2002). In addition, numerous researchers have found that peer influence is a strong predictor of substance use and delinquent behavior among adolescents (Coie & Miller-Johnson, 2001; Mounts, 2002). In everyday discourse, we often hear "you are who you hang out with" or "tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are." This suggests that the people we surround ourselves with largely reflect our character and choices. On the other hand, peer rejection can have negative effects on children's socio-cognitive development. Rejected children have higher rates of anxiety, loneliness, depression, aggressive behavior, substance abuse, school failure and dropout, and even suicidality.
- **Preschool experiences** are those unwanted childhood experiences for which research has shown that aggressive tendencies in young children predict aggressive behavior later in the child's life (Padowitz, 2015). Of course, children cannot choose their genetics or upbringing. Children raised in poor and unhealthy conditions are at increased risk of antisocial behavior as adolescents and adults. Such views are supported and widely accepted in the scientific community.
- **The quality of after-school care** is a complementary activity closely linked to the development of antisocial behavior. Children who spend a lot of unsupervised time after school, without minimal parental/guardian supervision, are more likely to connect with

antisocial peers, especially those in the virtual world (Bjelajac, Matijašević & Dimitrijević, 2012; Bjelajac & Filipović, 2020), which offers numerous challenges and opportunities, including risks of involvement in criminal behavior in early adolescence.

- **Academic failure and school non-attendance** contribute to increased involvement of young people in antisocial and/or criminal behavior. On the other hand, certain research findings (Åslund, et al., 2018) suggest that staying in school reduces opportunities and/or tendencies towards criminal activities. Early educational setbacks are also linked to antisocial development and delinquency. As early as the preschool level of education, behavioral problems in children are strongly associated with failure to attend school at the primary and secondary levels of education.

Risk Factors Related to Parents and Family

Some of the **risk factors associated with the family** are static, while others are dynamic. Static risk factors, such as a criminal history, parental mental health problems, or a history of childhood abuse, are unlikely to change over time. However, dynamic risk factors, such as parental misbehavior, domestic violence, or parental drug dependency, can be modified by appropriate prevention and treatment programs (Family-Based Risk and Protective Factors..., 2008). Risk factors have cumulative and interactive effects: the more risk factors a family is exposed to, the more likely it is considered high-risk. Moreover, children and adolescents exposed to certain risk factors are also likely to embark on life paths leading to delinquent behavior (Wasserman, et al., 2003). This is because not only do the effects of risk factors accumulate, but the factors also interact with each other: the effects of one factor multiply the effects of another and so on. For example, parental alcoholism leads to family conflicts, which then increase the risk of substance abuse (Wasserman, et al., 2003). There is extensive literature in criminology suggesting that the family, as the basic building block of human society, especially the nuclear family, has a significant influence on children's development. Namely, the family home is a natural school

for children, where children internalize moral values through bonding that will likely guide their future development. Healthy and functional aspects of family life prevent antisocial behavior and/or delinquency, while the absence of adequate parental care and negative parental influences, as well as growing up in dysfunctional families, can promote their development. Some circumstances and practices can increase the likelihood of externalizing behavior in childhood, violence, aggression, and criminal behavior in later stages of development.

- **Single-parent families/households** – particularly vulnerable single motherhood, as one of the increasingly common family modalities, is symptomatic in this context, as many authors uncover data showing that violent crime in the community is more likely for children coming from homes where parents have been divorced or separated. Families with adolescent boys, the group most prone to crime, are particularly exposed and vulnerable. Therefore, the conclusion is drawn that the home of single parents—or the *broken home*, as some emphasize—can induce criminal behavior, especially when interacting with other risk factors.
- **Parenting styles and practices** refer to the ways in which parents or guardians communicate with their children. Some parenting styles and practices seem more likely than others to lead to delinquency, and thus they can be termed risk factors (Hart, et al., 1998). While parenting practices refer to patterns of parental behavior, parenting styles relate to parent-child interactions characterized by the attitudes of parents towards the child and the emotional climate in the parent-child relationship (Baumrind, 1991). The four basic parenting styles are: authoritarian, permissive, neglectful, and authoritative.
- Studies on the effects of **parental monitoring** involve different constructs of parental knowledge and ways of detecting children's activities. The level of parental knowledge achieved through parental monitoring depends on the accuracy of the information that the child discloses to the parents (Stattin & Kerr, 2000), as well as the parents' skills in recognizing overt maladaptive and harmful behaviors. Creatively monitoring peer groups and behaviors is one of the strong

protective factors for preventing the development of antisocial behavior. It was assumed that parental monitoring consisted of actively seeking information and tracking the location and activities of the child. However, it has been found to be more productive to include real knowledge about children's activities alongside parental monitoring, which entails the child's willingness and voluntariness to share information with the parent spontaneously without fear of reaction or negative bias.

- It is often said that siblings are the longest-lasting relationships for most people — from early childhood to old age. **The influences of siblings** and their roles in family dynamics can sometimes be very complex. A propensity for criminal behavior may be due to genetic factors, shared environment, or simply interpersonal influence on each other. It is widely known that siblings often mimic each other, with younger children most often imitating older siblings. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that such direct and/or indirect influences and their variations play a significant role in shaping the development of aggression and criminal behavior. In this context, it seems that same-sex siblings of similar age show the most similarities in terms of criminogenic influence and engagement in inappropriate behavior.
- We emphasized that parents likely have one of the greatest influences on a child's life. The development of children is greatly influenced by both biological and psychosocial aspects of parenting, namely **parental psychopathology** (Ollendick & Herson, 1989; Bjelajac & Merdović, 2019). In this sense, it is not surprising that parents and children exhibit similar symptoms of psychopathology. Why do we see this connection between parental and child psychopathology? The reason may be that children learn, mimic, and internalize the disturbed behaviors of parents. Children are at the greatest risk of developing the type of psychopathology demonstrated by their parents due to the influence of environmental factors and patterns such as parental modeling (Burstein, et al., 2010a; Burstein, et al., 2010b). Parental psychopathology can negatively affect a child in various ways. For example, there is a strong link between anxiety and/or depression in children and the psychopathology of their

parents. The presence of alcoholism in parents, especially fathers, can contribute to antisocial behavior and maladjustment in sons and increase the risk of various negative outcomes.

Psychological Risk Factors

Considering the fact that criminal behavior is on the rise, it is very important to understand its genesis. The role of **psychological factors** in predisposing to criminal behavior is evident. These factors include personality traits, comorbid psychiatric conditions, value judgments and cognitions, affective components, and motivation. In short, criminal behavior is viewed from a psychological perspective, focusing on the notion that crime is primarily the outcome of patterns of thinking and lifestyle habits. The interactive effect of these factors produces various levels of antisocial conditions and problematic behaviors.

- **Attachment disorders** are conditions that typically develop in childhood but can also occur in adults with clear symptomatology. Their development is linked to the inability of a child to establish adequate consistent emotional attachment to a parent or caregiver. These disorders affect mood or behavior and make it difficult for individuals to form and maintain relationships with others. They usually begin in early childhood, but attachment issues can persist into adulthood, most likely due to untreated or undiagnosed attachment disorders in childhood.
- **Empathy** is a fundamental construct that allows individuals to perceive and understand the cognitive and emotional state of others. Empathy is not only a psychological and sociological concept; it also heavily impacts our daily lives by affecting our decisions and actions. Empathy is connected to and involves specific parts of the brain which, if damaged or of reduced volume, can lead to actions that are morally unjust, aggressive, or simply denoting a lack of understanding and sensitivity (Saladino, et al., 2021). Therefore, if a child disregards the feelings of others during play or everyday activities, they demonstrate a **lack of empathy**, which can be an indicator of early warning signs

for potential delinquency, as violent and psychopathic criminals exhibit a lack or absence of empathy, moral reasoning, guilt, or shame.

- **Cognitive-communication disorders** are communication problems stemming from cognitive deficits rather than deficits in primary language or speech. These disorders arise from impaired functioning of one or more cognitive processes (What is a Cognitive-Communication Disorder, n.d.), including attention, memory, perception, insight and judgment, organization, orientation, language, processing speed, problem-solving, reasoning, executive functioning, and metacognition.
- Studies have shown that **low intelligence (IQ) and delinquency are strongly associated**. This study focuses on inhibitory deficits as the source for the association between low IQ and delinquency. Further, the authors explore whether serious delinquent boys with a low IQ are exposed to more risk factors than serious delinquent boys with an average to high IQ. They also examine the extent to which low IQ and higher IQ serious delinquents incurred contact with the juvenile court because of their delinquent behaviour (Koolhof et al., 2007). Criminal offenders with low intelligence quotient (IQ) have committed more delinquent acts compared to serious offenders with higher IQ, along with high levels of cognitive and behavioral impulsivity. It is important to note that offenders with low IQ are often exposed to multiple risk factors such as poor living conditions, dysfunctional families, school failure, depressive and anxious states, substance abuse, and others.
- **Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)** is one of the most common mental disorders affecting children. Symptoms of ADHD include inattention (difficulty in sustaining focus), hyperactivity (excessive movement that does not match the environment), and impulsivity (rash actions that occur in the moment without thinking) (Harpin, 2005). These symptoms are predominantly observed at an early age and may become more pronounced when the child starts school and when the child's circumstances change, but sometimes it is diagnosed later in childhood, or even in adulthood.

- The term **Conduct Disorder (CD)** represents a set of behaviors characterized by persistent misconduct, including: bullying, fighting, use or threat of use of weapons against others, physical cruelty to humans and animals, property destruction, chronic deceit, sexual assaults, and serious rule violations (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Over the lifespan, this disorder is also intertwined with other psychological issues. This includes mental health problems (e.g., substance abuse); legal problems (e.g., risk of arrest); educational problems (school dropout); social problems (e.g., poor marital adjustment); work-related problems (e.g., poor work performance); and physical health problems (Frick & Nigg, 2012). Some of the particularly pronounced risk factors related to CD and predicting delinquency include: described risk factors associated with dysfunctional families; impulsivity, low IQ, school failure, association with antisocial peers in high-crime environments.
- **Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)** is a type of childhood behavioral disorder that primarily involves problems with emotional and behavioral self-control. According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), the main characteristic of ODD is a persistent pattern of angry or irritable mood, argumentative or defiant behavior, or vindictiveness towards others (Aggarwal & Marwaha, 2022). The clear etiology of ODD is highly complex, as it is the product of the interaction between genetic factors; environmental factors; and psychosocial factors.

Protective Factors in Response to Risk Factors

The complex combination of risk factors in the individual – family – interpersonal relationships – society relationship contributes to the risk of youth violence. Many risk factors for violence among younger populations are strongly associated with experiencing toxic chronic stress, which negatively affects the brain development of children and youth. Toxic stress can result from numerous issues faced by young people, from poor living conditions to substance abuse and other instabilities (Bjelajac, 2023:81). We must bear in mind the fact that any

activity aimed at preventing criminal behavior will not succeed in achieving a good and lasting outcome if it attempts to address the problem without taking into account the factors that cause it. Buffers, which could provide a buffer zone between the presence of risk factors and the occurrence of delinquency, are known as protective factors (Bjelajac, 2023:82-83). Risk factors are negative influences on the lives of individuals or communities. This can increase the presence of crime, victimization, or fear of crime in the community and can also increase the likelihood of individuals engaging in crime or becoming victims. Protective factors are positive influences that can improve the lives of individuals or community safety. This can reduce the likelihood of individuals engaging in crime or becoming victims. Building on existing protective factors makes individuals and communities stronger and more capable of facing risk factors (Family-Based Risk and Protective Factors... , 2008; Kovačević-Lepojević, Merdović & Živaljević, 2022). With the recognition that the capacity for "resilience" can vary from person to person and that young people face various challenges and/or risk factors daily, the question arises as to whether the psychophysical makeup of each individual is capable of being resilient, overcoming challenges, and progressing. It seems that recognizing risk factors and building knowledge in the context of protection largely depend on ongoing education and raising collective awareness of the importance of a security culture in modern society. Previous findings suggest the need for multiple approaches to prevention and early intervention, encompassing various aspects of young people's lives, including the individual, family, community, and societal levels, all to establish an effective strategy to combat criminal behavior with sustainable and long-term implementation.

Discussion

In 2022, the violent crime rate in the United States was 369.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, with approximately 1.23 million violent crimes reported to the FBI in the same year. Of these violent crimes in 2022, there were 893,980 aggravated assaults, making this offense the

most common among violent crimes. Additionally, in 2022, the clearance rate for crimes in the U.S. was highest for murders and manslaughter, with about 52.3 percent of murders solved by investigators and suspects charged with the crime. Approximately 41.4 percent of aggravated assaults were cleared that year (Reported violent crime rate..., 2023). These data are alarming and point to the necessity of establishing proactive strategies for crime prevention in society outside the criminal justice process, with a focus on understanding the risk factors that influence the development of criminal behavior. Parents, teachers, and especially psychological and educational services in schools, should be equipped to profile minors and recognize early signs to detect delinquent behavior, which is a "guarantee" for their future and healthy upbringing.

Recently, in an effort to more clearly identify the etiology of criminal behavior and channel activities towards a proactive approach, namely preventive problem-solving, a matrix similar to that used in the medical community is being applied. For example, to assess the risk of diabetes, a disease influenced by genetic factors or environmental factors, a doctor procedurally gathers patient medical history data, including family history, lifestyle, diet, obesity, blood pressure, stress, etc., to measure the risk to their health. After considering the risks, the doctor will suggest ways for the patient to neutralize or reduce them. This mechanism can be effective in determining the type of intervention that suits the needs of young people, especially those exposed to certain risk factors for delinquency (Bjelajac, 2023: 88). Therefore, the perception of the origin of criminal behavior can be a good introduction or tool for criminal profiling. Thus, the skill of profiling and/or the concept of profiling, as a protective factor, has the potential to be an important countermeasure to risk factors.

Conclusions

Systematic consideration of developmental risk factors predicting antisocial and/or criminal behavior and persistence in criminal activities is crucial for analyzing crime and creating effective and sustainable strategies for a proactive approach to the causes that stimulate criminal behavior. Relevant studies focusing on the characteristics, processes, dynamics, and development of criminal behavior have enhanced understanding of the factors preceding or causing it. The interaction of multiple risk factors – predictors for delinquency and behavioral disorders, also explains the nature and patterns of persistence in criminal behavior.

Risk factors related to the social environment (socioeconomic status, preschool experiences, educational failure and truancy, quality of after-school care, peer rejection and association with antisocial peers, etc.) can be strong predictors of general delinquency.

Risk factors associated with parents and family (dysfunctional family, broken home, parenting styles and practices, parental supervision, parental alcohol and substance abuse, influence of siblings, parental psychopathology, neglect and abuse, etc.) indicate the crucial role of these factors in predicting criminal behavior. It is assumed that family problems not only predict criminal behavior but also play a significant role as a potential cause of later persistence in criminal acts.

The role of psychological factors in predisposing to criminal behavior is evident. These factors include personality characteristics, comorbid psychiatric conditions, values judgments and cognitions, affective component, and motivation. Their interactive effect produces different levels of antisocial conditions and problematic behaviors. Attachment disorder is a condition that affects mood or behavior and hinders people from forming and maintaining relationships with others. Risk factors for this disorder may include caregivers with poor parenting skills, parental neglect, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, parental anger, parents with psychiatric conditions, prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs. Exposed children may suffer from behavior disorders, lack or absence of empathy, which is the ability to understand and share feelings

for others. They may also have other disorders, such as cognitive-communication disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, etc.

Protective factors as predictors of risk factors should operate as part of prevention programs to assess and intervene proactively towards each of the identified risk factors.

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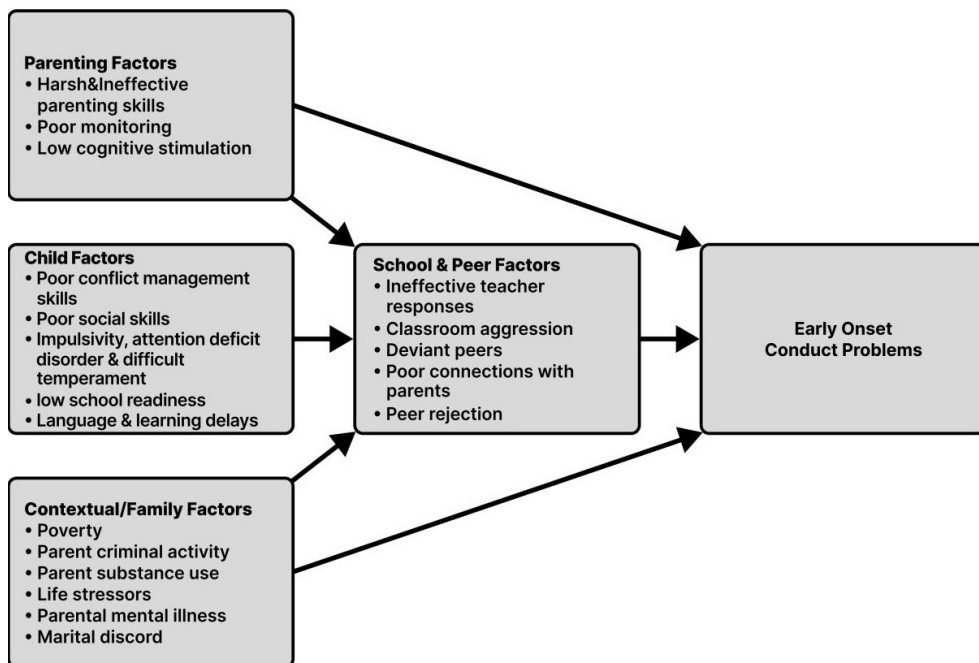
Appendix

Figure 1. The Three Major Disciplinary Perspectives in Criminology

Perspective	Influence	Focus
Sociological criminology	Sociology Anthropology	Examines relationships of demographic and group variables to crime: focuses on the structure of society and the culture of groups and how these influence criminal behavior
Psychological criminology	Psychology	Focuses on individual criminal behavior; the science of the behavior, emotional, and mental processes of the criminal
Psychiatric criminology	Psychiatry	The contemporary perspective examines the interplay between psychobiological determinants of behavior and the social environment; traditional perspectives look for the unconscious and biological determinates of criminal behavior

(Bartol & Bartol, 2017: 29)

Figure 2. Risk factors related to conduct problems.



(Webster-Stratton & Taylor, 2001)

Figure 3. Juvenile delinquency risk factors associated with family according to age of children and adolescents.

Cumulative and interactive effects of risk factors				
	6-12 years	13-17 years	18 and older	
Cumulative and interactive effects of risk factors	Family dynamic and functioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor parental practices • Parental and/or sibling criminality • Anti-social parents with attitudes that support violence • Family conflicts • Parents with substance abuse problems • Physical abuse and neglect • Family violence 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor parental practices • Parental and/or sibling criminality • Family violence • History of poor treatment
	Family characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstable family income • Broken home • Family mobility • Mental health of parents • Young mother • Number of children in the family • Single parent family • Parental past 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstable family income • Broken home • Family mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unstable family income
	Area of residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor area • Presence of young offenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor area • Crime in the area • Presence of youth gangs • Availability of drugs and firearms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Crime • Youth gangs • Drugs and firearms

(Family-Based Risk and Protective Factors..., 2008)

Figure 4. Domain-wise risk and protective factors for juvenile delinquency

Domain	Risk factors	Protective factors
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early antisocial behaviour ▪ Emotional factors such as low behavioral inhibitions ▪ Poor cognitive development ▪ Hyperactivity ▪ Poor academic performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Positive social skills ▪ Willingness to please adults ▪ High IQ ▪ Religious affiliations
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inadequate or inappropriate child rearing practices ▪ Home discord ▪ Maltreatment and abuse ▪ Large family size ▪ Parental antisocial history ▪ Poverty ▪ Exposure to repeated family violence ▪ Divorce ▪ Parental psychopathology ▪ Teenage parenthood ▪ A high level of parent-child conflict ▪ A low level of positive parental involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children's participation in shared activities with family (including siblings and parents) ▪ Providing a forum to discuss problems and issues with parents ▪ Availability of economic and other resources to help children have multiple positive experiences ▪ The presence of an adult (with a positive outlook and hope for the child) in the family/extended family who can mentor and be supportive
Peers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spending time with peers who engage in delinquent or risky behaviour ▪ Gang involvement ▪ Less exposure to positive social opportunities because of bullying and rejection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Positive and healthy friendships ▪ Engagement in healthy and safe activities with peers during leisure time (e.g., clubs, sports, other recreation)
School/ neighborhood/ Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools that are unsafe and fail to address the academic, social and emotional needs of children and youth ▪ Low educational aspirations & social disorganization in the community ▪ Living in an impoverished neighborhood ▪ High crime neighborhoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools that address not only the academic needs of youth but also their socio-emotional needs and learning ▪ Schools that provide a safe environment ▪ A community/neighborhood that promotes and fosters healthy activities for children and adolescents

(Naik, et al., 2021)

Poreklo kriminalnog ponašanja u kontekstu razvojnih faktora rizika

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Sažetak

Istraživanja složenosti ljudske prirode i zločina oduvek su pobuđivala pažnju celokupne društvene zajednice koje se permanentno nosila sa ovim izazovima. Poreklom kriminalnog ponašanja i objašnjenjem zločina bavile su se brojne naučne studije. Od početka 19. veka, široke naučne perspektive, polazile su od toga da je zločin neizbežan derivat opšteg siromaštva, nezaposlenosti i lošeg roditeljstva i/ili simptom individualnih psihičkih nedostataka, pa sve do stanovišta da se zločin pripisuje društvenim uslovima. Danas se poreklo kriminalnog ponašanja razmatra u kontekstu bioloških faktora, učenja i situacionih faktora, i prevashodno razvojnih faktora rizika (faktori rizika socijalnog okruženja, faktori rizika povezani sa roditeljima i porodicom, psihološki faktori rizika), koji su u fokusu ovog rada. Cilj ovog rada je da se sagledaju implikacije kompleksnih interakcija navedenih razvojnih faktora i njihova uloga u poreklu kriminalnog ponašanja.

Ključne reči: Kriminalno ponašanje, razvojni faktori rizika, porodica, škola, socijalno okruženje, psihološki faktori.