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Development Compilation
Vol. 17. Number 01. May 2022**POLITICS INDUCED GANG CULTURE AMONG THE YOUTHS IN
BANGLADESH: A CASE STUDY IN RAJSHAHI CITY
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Abstract: Violence is organized and used differently all over the world. The involvement of the young generation in gang culture is a burning issue. Bangladesh politics has been undergoing through a significant transmission since its independence. From very beginning Bangladesh has a history of violent political culture. Recently the activities of gang culture have increased everywhere in Bangladesh which have been traced with political affiliation. The young gangs are dominated by political parties. Recently in most of the young gang related cases we found 'borovai' (senior local political leader) has been suspected but not directly examined. In Bangladesh, violent figures often referred to as 'borovai' in the content has been portrayed as dominated and powerful influence specially embedded among the poor communities. Youths from this walk of lives are deeply connected to party politics and found extremely passionate about it. We tried to figure out how they organized and what kind of roles young generation plays in such cases. We also tried to find what kinds of role political party's play and how this young gang can be identified within the society. The connection of gang culture and political community helps each other to achieve their aims. In pointing to this transition this article argues that we need to give much attention to how the violence of the gang culture changes the society.

Keywords: Youth Gang, Violence, Political Leader, Juvenile Delinquency, Politics.

Introduction

New generation is the cornerstone of the future. One day they will be regarded as the leader of tomorrow. There are 32 million adolescents in Bangladesh and they are almost 21% of total populations (UNICEF, 2018). Even few days ago the appearance of the teenagers is usually seen in the playground but now the situation is completely diverted into

different spheres. Sexual assault, political violence, extortion, robbery, kidnapping, acid throwing and murder are among activities in which the younger generations are becoming involved. Such criminal acts are carried out not only by the children from aristocratic and wealthy families but also from impoverished families. Society did not support these heinous activities (Chowdhury & Fahim, 2019). The family or society never expects to lose their children in the dark world. In this circumstance there has been found evidence of selfish political connection in purpose of gang violence.

It's a matter of anxiety that, this kind of little accident turned to social violence and encourages them to commit desperate crime activities. The worst thing is that due to political influence it's very difficult for families to know when their children are getting involved in gang culture. So it's very easy to say every kind of technical support has been provided by political party to establish young gang culture for fulfilling the interest of dirty politics. The new generations are trying to find out a different life style from our traditional life accommodation which is highly contradiction between two generations. Their behavior, language, culture, thoughtless are changing and transform to western culture. This kind of indecent culture behavior are known to them as modern fashion. All the members of the gang groups are under the age of 18 (Eshita, Mehjabin & Muniruzzaman, 2020). Their representative group have different symbolic names. They involve in local domination, bothering to girls, drugs and alcoholic, speedily bike riders even involve to murder. They also aggravate to girls and no one can pluck to octets against them. According to experts the demand of money encourages them to involve in violence (Massey, 2001). In such kinds of cases they have to work as a team. For this reason, almost everywhere young gangs have ascended as group of alarmism. Conflicts between two or more groups of gangs' cases also found to dominate their gang activities. They are organizing and communicating by social networks. Political offices or local tea stall is their favorite place to meet up. Their vocal presence in meetings and processions can be highly noticed. Politicians are always trying to prove themselves as a dedicated sole for the young gang but when their interests become complete they throw them out. Political parties are the one who organized the teenagers and influence those too violent by forming huge groups (Morselli, 2010). This initiative was dedicated on this target.

The consequences of this teen gang culture that developed for social, political, economic reasons are going to destroy the future of teenagers. Every kind of crime like extortion, fights, rape, drugs, murder, and harassment of women are being considered as a routine activities of the young gang groups (Alam, 1996). Young generation has no sufficient knowledge about right and wrong. They do not have much idea about the juvenile act and jurisdiction. Most of the cases the young violence get rid

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of punishment considering their ages. The meaning full party politics takes this as an advantage (Paul W Tappan, Ivan Nicolle, 1962). The way this gang activities is developing across the country will have a terrible effect on the society as well as families. The task of organizing children and adolescents is politically motivated. If children have committed a crime the political party help them to protect from the rules of law. Even after committing a crime, they get political support to escape from the hands of law. Sometimes family doesn't even know that their children arrested for committing a crime cause these political person bring them out of the jail before their families know it (Ahmad, 2017). This kind of support helps young people to commit big crimes in next. Now it's time to work as a unity of organization to prevent teen gang culture.

In general sense Boys and girls who are 13-18 years old are called adolescents (WHO, 2022). The term adolescent refers to young people who are no longer children but have not yet reached adulthood. It's also refers how they act. Individuals between the ages of 10 and 24 are considered adolescents (Csikszentmihalyi 2021). Children below the age of 18 are considered as adolescents or young people (National Children Policy, 2011). Bangladesh is a home to a sizable teenage population. According to BBS reports, teens made up more than a fifth of the entire population of 30.68 million people (BBS, 2011).

Juvenile delinquency refers to property destruction and other illegal behavior performed by minors who are not yet legal age to be considered adults. Over and above it known as juvenile offending an engaging in unlawful behavior by a person who is under the age of majority (Siegel, Welsh & Brandon 2011). Juvenile delinquency is a crime committed by adolescents against the existing values and norms in the society. It's a kind of behavior of children or youth that is identified as violation of rules, anti-social behavior and disobedience. Juvenile delinquency is more an urban than a rural phenomenon (Eadie & Morley, 2007).

Young gang is a group of children and adolescents involved in various kind of crime and anti-social activities to fulfill their party objectives and goals. Youth gangs is a group of young people or adults in jurisdiction who you and other responsible people in your agency or community are ready to label as a 'gang'. Their actions create fear in the society and cause moral decay. The current generation has embraced gang culture as a tradition that is known to them as a step towards of modernity. Youth violence has been linked to children who grew up in high crime areas (Krug, Dahlberg & Mercy 2002). The behaviors and characteristics of young gang members are: a) they are often found creating groups among themselves and these groups act against each other; b) there activities are often organized using social media platform; c) every group seem to have a leader who cast a big shadow over the group; d) they like to keep themselves organized under a symbol or name which are often arrogant in

kind; e) they like to have frequent meeting which often leads to the planning of illegal activities; f) above all these over enthusiastic gangs are often found committing act of violence in a regular basis which are mostly, street robbery, drug trafficking, harassing women. However, the crimes and conflicts between two or more groups reach to the highest pick even by committing murder for spearing influence over each other. Besides politics add an extra fuel to youth violence. It's a matter of concern that political parties patronizes this youth gang for propagating their ideologies. As we know a political party is loosely organized group of persons who function as a political entity and seek to dominate the government and implements its basic ideas through the use of their voting power.

In general scenes politics is a conflict of power. Political influence on the rise of juvenile gangs attempts have been made to explain that juvenile gang culture juvenile delinquency in the political attachment and harmful regulatory measures to organize the society.

The political parties was highlighted because they encourage the young people to involve in anti-social behaviors and desire of money that helps them to organize and maintain their affiliation. Furthermore this political party ensure that they have responsibility to protect young gang from the punishment of law if they commit a crime but when this young people encourage to commit a major crime the politicians ignore to protect them.

The purpose of our research is to find out all the political factors that have formed gang culture so reckless and plays an important role to find the right way. It's very important to know how the political relationship did with the teenager's gang being developed and what kinds of benefit they achieved by connecting with gang culture. The study portrayed political interference, influence and reason of their involvement in gang culture. This study considered several aspects of politics induced gang culture among the youth. The motives and goals of the youths which works as a determiners for leading them to engage in the gangs are also the query of this study.

Research Methodology

This is qualitative study based on survey method. Both primary and secondary resources were important but we focused more on primary data. We interviewed 137 guardians¹ for seeking primary data. In order to understand the situation of Rajshahi City Corporation, the study focused on different guardians of the city and conducted a questionnaire survey with a structured questionnaire. The study focused on the interview and experience of political parties, guardians, civil society and related more as well for additional findings. The secondary resource were collected from trusted newspapers, Journals, website, related books, articles etc. The questions of the survey was chosen accidentally. Inductive reasoning mechanism was applied to find out accurate results.

Data processing and Result

Political Affiliation Activates (137)	yes		No	
	f	%	f	%
Do you think, your call in your children's involvement in Politics is diminishing day by day?	109	79.56	28	20.44
Do you think, Over involvement, reckless and aggressive political participation among the youths?	111	81.02	26	18.98
Do you think, Trend of heroism among teenagers induced by political affiliation?	118	86.13	19	13.87
Do you think, Teenagers get away with crimes after committing crimes due to their political identity?	113	82.48	24	17.52
Do you think, political involvement makes your children get involved with violent gangs?	121	88.32	16	11.68
Do you think it is responsibility as a guardians to make your children aware of getting involved in politics?	131	95.62	06	4.38
Do you think due to youth's political involvement young gang crime is increasing in society?	123	89.78	14	10.22
Do you think, Children are getting addicted to drugs because of political affiliation?	106	77.37	31	22.63
Do you think due to political involvement your children is not paying heed to your opinion?	98	71.53	39	28.47
Do you think, as patrons of gang, political leader are less likely to face trial?	124	90.51	13	9.49

Source: Field Survey, 2021

While children's guardians were asked as to the control over children's involvement in politics is diminishing day by day. Almost 79.56% of people agreed and they said it's getting hard to control children. They also said the situation is under getting day by day. On the other hand, 20.44% of people said the situation is under control and children are subordinate to their parents. On the answer of the question, do they think, is there excessive involvement, reckless and aggressive political participation among the youths, 81.02% of people replied yes and they think if such situation continues, this young gang will become irresistible. Contrary to 18.98% of people think young people has involvement in the set types of jobs. They think teenagers have the trend to accept praiseworthy deeds and avoid defeatist deeds. They also said few teenagers may have involvement in such kinds of activities but shouldn't impose blame to all the teenagers. If we do it, they will discourage to participate in politics. As per the reply of the question, trend of heroism among teenagers induced by political affiliation, 86.13% of people think trend of heroism among teenagers are highly focused by political persons and political affiliation can be easily identified in such condition. They uplift young to become a hero of society by joining gang. 13.87% of people anticipate that it's just a personal choice and none can get involved without his own desire. Apart from that, 82.48% of the people think, teenagers get away with crimes due to their political identity. They said political asylum plays a major role in

spread of juvenile delinquency. They also think after committing crimes political group patronizes them. 17.52% of people's perspective is fatalistic as to this issue. They said no political asylum but other reasons are involved in this crime such as social degradation. For more in-depth understanding, guardians were asked as to the political involvement makes their children get involved with violent gangs. 88.32% of people think, in the primary stage of crime they use their political ranks. In most of the cases, they prefer to seek political asylum rather than family help. 11.68% of people think children have less political awareness and less opportunity to participate in political processes. So there is no chance to involve in politics that makes them violent. 95.62% of the guardian are positive to their duties and conscious to fulfill responsibility as a guardians. Some of the people think they should be more responsible to fulfill their duties. Some of the people are highly positive and they are very serious about their duties. They think it is not possible to prevent gang culture without taking positive steps from the family. Family and social awareness is also important to stop juvenile delinquency. On the other hand, 4.38% of people did not make aware their children about the issues. In some cases, guardians cannot pay full attention and this opportunity is used by some gang leader to promote their gang activities. 89.78% of people think that youth's political involvement in gang crime is increasing in our society. They also think if we fail to control this gang culture, our future generation will obstinate in the case of violence. 10.22% of people's thinking is negative. They think our Govt. has success to decrease the activities of young gang culture and the situation is under control. We tried to highlight do they think, children are getting addicted to drugs because of political affiliation. 77.37% of the people think yes. They think the power of politics doesn't hesitate to take the society to the brink of ruin if necessary to satisfy the political ambitions. Almost 32% of people informed their children are conscious about the negative sides of drugs and it's not a political issue but it's very important to have idea about the worst effect of drugs so that children can avoid drugs and no one gets addicted to drugs through friends. Every member of teen gangs is addicted with drugs and cigarettes. In fact, they enter in gang to earn money for using drugs. We asked do they think due to political involvement your children are not paying heed to your opinion. Nearly 71.53% of the people agreed to this proposal. In social media, we notice many of the young people are addressing political leaders as their main guardians and they are ignoring to their parents. On the other hand, 28.47% of people think their children are paying much attention on this issue. On the question, do they think, as patrons of gang, political leader are less likely to face trial. In this case, most of the people about 90.51% think that they should face trial as their alleged involvement in gang culture. 9.49% of people think there is no connection between politics and gang culture so there is no scope to punish the political person.

Findings

It is true that teenagers are interested in politics but it is also important to pay attention to whether it is matching with political genre yes or not. According to the opinion adolescents are getting involved in politics to show patriotism but in the case the question remains whether well-educated youth can play a role in building the country whether a teenager who has dropped out of school level or attached with violence will never to play the same role. An educated person importance in politics can easily identified but a young boy who have no knowledge about politics cannot play such a role. The development of our country will ensure when teenagers will think only about their future plane. Through our research we have realized that children and adolescents are getting political asylum and unbridled, political indulgence is making them violent. Teen gangs have become the right tool of dishonest politicians. The work of educating children and adolescents in school and colleges is being done in the same way that children and adolescents are being turned into violence beasts in politics. Teenagers are adorable in playgrounds and educational institutions they are repugnant in political area. We hope that political positive thinking will be able to save the future generation of this country by stopping the spread of teen gangs.

Recommendation

- a) Guardian should be aware of their duties and responsibilities.
- b) Shredded teenagers need to be rehabilitated.
- c) Counseling system for juveniles who involved in crime need to be improved and modernized.
- d) Take legal action against the patron of teenagers.
- e) To build a healthy environment for mental development of children and adolescents.
- f) Adolescents interest in politics need to maintain very carefully.

Conclusion

Above all the failure to hold the reins of the juvenile gangs, which has been severely hampered by the moral degradation of adolescents, will pose an extreme threat to our social life. The way teen gang culture is developing across the country will have a terrible effect on the society. So from now every organization have to work in unison to prevent teen gang's culture. It would be extremely foolish to give any kind of concession to eradicate this social poison. Adolescents must be refrain from being used for political gain. All sorts of steps are needed to stop this teen gangs. No negligence is at all desirable in realizing the meaning of this demand. Family, social, political leaders the strong commitment of the state administration can be only tool to suppress the young gang culture. If the roots of this teenage gang culture cannot be uprooted now, then we have to suffer much in future mutual sympathy and respect must be aroused by establishing justice in the society. At all of use in society have to work together to prevent the activities of young gang culture.

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¹ Calculate using sample size determination formula of R. A. Fisher (unknown population) where Confidence Level: 90%; Margin of Error: 7%; and Population Proportion: 50.