

Prediction of the Possibility of Recidivism: A Case Study of Finland

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Abstract: The recidivism rate among prisoners in Finland slowly decreased as their age increased. We can see that the most extreme example in the year 2014, the rate of young prisoners from the age group of 15 to 20 the rate started at 91% and dropped to 66% as the age group changed to 21 to 29, then dropped to 59% as the age group changed into 30 to 39 years old then the rate dropped to 51 percent faster age group reached to 40 to 49 years old, and finally, the rate prisoner that is 50 years or older there rate of recidivism dropped to 35 percent. Finland has a high recidivism rate. According to a theory, the high rate of recidivism is due to Finland's penal policy. Finland has a very soft penal policy, which can be the main reason why Finland has a high recidivism rate. Finland has high research value as one of the countries with a high recidivism rate. The analysis and comparison of the recidivism situation between Finland and other countries have important implications for the global security and anti-crime system.

Keywords: recidivism, genetic differences, acquired factors

1. Introduction

Up to now, experts and scholars have done much research on recidivism. Some studies break down males and females by sex, some by age, juveniles and adults, and some by type, such as violent recidivism, sexual recidivism, and drunk driving recidivism.

Finland has a high crime rate and a lot of data. Although Finland's recidivism rate fell by six percentage points between 2006 and 2016, as many as 59 percent of offenders returned to prison within five years after they were released [1]. In the year of 2014, the rate of young prisoners from the age group of 15 to 20 the rate started at 91% and dropped to 66% as the age group changed to 21 to 29, then dropped to 59% as the age group changed to 30 to 39 years old then the rate dropped to 51 percent faster age group reached to 40 to 49 years old. Finally, the recidivism rate of prisoners 50 years or older dropped to 35 percent [2].

Finland's prisons are well-built, with a strong focus on rehabilitation. Finnish prisons are all six and seven-star prisons. Not only do prisoners live in three-bedroom houses, but they are equipped with computers, televisions, and everything else. There are dozens of recreational and fitness facilities, exceptional hospitals, and learning facilities. Finland places a high value on protecting human rights, which is significant in studying contemporary recidivism.

Studying the causes of recidivism helps correct criminals. Since the causes of crime are various, studying and analyzing the causes of recidivism helps correct the behaviours of criminals [3]. The behavior correction, is mainly aimed at some members of society who deviate from the law and minor crimes to educate, influence and save, preventing their behavior from further causing social corrosion and social contagion. In recent years, the main measures taken worldwide include establishing help and education groups and setting up work-study schools. At the same time, we can learn from the experience of "community correction" through professional social workers to correct people with problems in the community and solve the recidivism problem in the bud.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Connotation

2.1.1. Definition

Recidivism means habitual relapse into crime. In Chinese criminal law, if a criminal sentenced to a fixed term imprisonment or even a harsher criminal penalty commits a crime punishable by fixed-term imprisonment, life imprisonment or death penalty five years after the execution of his sentence or after a reduction of penalty, he becomes a recidivist and ought to be given a stricter punishment, unless he commits negligent crimes or he is under the age of 18. For those who have been granted parole, the time stipulated in the preceding paragraph shall be retrospect from the date on which the parole ends. If a criminal who commits a crime imperilling national security and social security, a crime named terrorist activities or an organized crime which is put into effect by a gangdom recommit any of the above crimes at any time after the execution of his punishment has been completed or after he has been pardoned, he shall be treated as recidivism.

2.1.2. Finnish Policy

Finland has a high recidivism rate. According to a theory, the high rate of recidivism is due to Finland's penal policy. Finland has a very soft penal policy, which can be the main reason why Finland has a high recidivism rate. For instance, a special imprisonment mode in Finland is called open prison. Open prison means no 24-hour monitoring; prisoners can live in the community with other citizens. Open prison is a system for offenders with minor offences in general or offenders coming to the end of their prison life if the government thinks they lack risk, even if he was a sexual criminal. Offenders in open prisons earn money and can even go back to town; they can also decide to get a university degree by studying in prison instead of working. The Finnish government claimed this way could help people integrate into society and will not feel different when they finish their punishment.

2.2. Reasons for Recidivism

2.2.1. Genetic Influence on Recidivism

Finnish scientists have found that 5 to 10 per cent of serious violent crimes are blamed on two genes, each of which modifies brain activity.

American researchers found a variant of a gene type named monoamine oxidase (MAOA). MAOA is more ubiquitous among prisoners who have ten or more violent behaviours. Tiihonen, a professor of medicine use and safety, claims this discovery shows that the gene plays a pivotal role in determining or controlling extreme violence [4]. A second gene, cadherin 13 (CDH13), which participates in communication from the brain to cells and has been connected to the command of impulsive behavior, also has something to do with high violent crime in that study. The study

summarized that a conservative projection of 5 to 10 percent of severe violent crimes in Finland could be ascribed to special MAOA and CDH13 genes.

Experts say the results of more than 100 studies have confirmed another genetic link to recidivism. A study of adoption found that children whose parents were criminals recommitted crimes at much higher rates than those whose parents were not. This is because some genes suppress the production of serotonin, the happiness hormone [5]. People who get the gene are more aggressive and impulsive. So many researchers have focused on whether this innate impulsivity can be suppressed through self-control.

According to a long-term follow-up study of 1, 000 children in a village that began in 1972, 20 percent of children assessed as having poor self-control at age three were found to have a crime rate of 43 percent as adults. Among the 20 percent with more self-control, only 13 percent committed crimes when they grew up.

2.2.2. Childhood Experiences Influence Recidivism

A study suggests that people who experienced extreme difficulty in childhood are more likely to commit crimes as adults than those who did not. The report discovered that childhood experiences such as poverty, school exclusion and abuse were related to severe crime and continual criminal offences in adulthood.

Researchers tracked over 4, 300 people, examining their participation in crime and anti-social behavior from 12 to 35 years old [6].

About 1,075 participants were convicted of at least one criminal offence by age 35. Adverse childhood experiences and adult traumas, such as the death of a person he loved, the breakdown of a relationship and the occurrence of a bad accident or illness, also affect people's ability to keep from recidivism.

Since 1998, researchers have been documenting young people's pathways into and out of crime from secondary school [7]. Surprisingly, people who come into contact with the criminal justice system are not exactly more likely to stop committing crimes than those who do not.

In fact, for some people, access to the criminal justice system may become a blasting fuse for continuing to commit crimes into adulthood.

Research has shown that justice system interventions effectively prevent crime and conviction only when they work in tandem with other measures, such as decreasing child poverty, enhancing adolescent health and well-being, properly addressing child abuse and improving educational quality [8].

For more than two decades, research has provided those who make policies and legal practitioners with a precious source of information on the drivers and results of juvenile delinquency [9]. This latest report provided further insight into the sustaining effects of the adverse situation experienced in childhood and young adulthood. It emphasized the need for a combined way to reduce crimes.

2.2.3. Upbringing Influence on Recidivism

Finland has also seen a sharp increase in juvenile homicides, armed robberies and serious brawls resulting in mutilation. There has been a marked increase in juvenile delinquency in criminal cases throughout Finland. Finnish legal experts believe that the main reasons for the rise in juvenile crime in Finland, apart from outside influences, are that parents are not as strict with their children as before, parents are divorced, and families have poor economic conditions.

Family influence is the original influence of family circumstances on an individual's personality progress. It contains an enormous influence on the formation of the whole personality, the wicked personality, and even the criminal personality. The growth of teenagers is based on family education.

It is not all consistent with the social requirements of the code of conduct to carry out; each family is not the same, and the content and ways of family education are different, but from the character and effect of only good and evil two categories, bad family education is a reason for teenagers to embark on the road to crime again.

Parents busy doing business to make money, busy dancing, busy gambling, busy working or divorced have no time to look after the children carefully because of improper education methods, resulting in adolescents' character as solitary, introverted, lousy communication, hate males or females and other abnormal mentality leading to recidivism [10]. Because of the new problems brought by the one-child, some parent's family conditions are better; the more they spoil their children, some only attach importance to the child's intelligence factors and ignore the child's moral character and other aspects of education, family education is not normative and biased, leading to gambling, drug abuse and other crimes [11].

Parents' words and behaviours impact their children, and their warm and honest conduct will lay the foundation for their children to take shape a good personality [12]. In contrast, the parent's treacherous, impolite, brutal character will let their children learn, imitate and set about the road of recidivism.

2.2.4. External Environment Influence on Recidivism

Different geographical locations will lead to different effects and the frequency of crimes. Recidivism is most prevalent in the city centre, the urban fringe, and the dead end of the city. The downtown of a city is often a prosperous business district of the city, the mobility of the population is excellent, and gathered a significant number of the property, so in this type of circumstance, pickpocketing, fraud, and robbery type cases happen frequently.

Due to the vacuum zone of urban management in the area combining urban and rural areas, violent crimes such as robbery, kidnapping, gun-toting, and homicide are prominent due to the violent conflicts between modern urban culture and criminal subculture and the interweaving between the gap of wealth and the contradiction of public resources.

The dead corners of the city refer to the Spaces or places beyond the reach of the control of society, such as souterrain, elevators, back alleys, etc. Many blind angles in the city provide natural hidden barriers for criminals keen on robbing, stealing, murdering and other illegal activities against police.

2.2.5. Moral Cognition Influence on Recidivism

First, the high population squeezes the space of moral education resources. Cultural identity plays a significant role on the road to national development, and unified moral standards can continue to promote a country's stability and long-term development. Finland's population has grown in recent years due to several factors. The increasing population and the complexity of population composition make the space of education resources constantly shrink, resulting in many problems, including the teachers cannot keep up with the growth rate of students, the more challenging to carry out teaching activities, the fewer attention teachers pay to students, and the extra expenditure on moral education requires more funds from the state.

Second, personality education overload deviates from the regular track of moral cultivation. Finland's education system focuses on the personalized training of students, giving students unlimited choices in course selection, learning channels, learning years and other aspects. However, unrestrained laissez-faire has brought about unavoidable problems in moral education. Many students are minors; their minds are not mature enough to adapt to the new learning stage through completely independent activities, and may even accelerate to a state of loss of control so that the psychology of delay and escape limits the further development of morality. Individualized education can stimulate

students' creativity to a certain extent. Still, moral education loses directional guidance and eliminates artificial constraints on ideas and behaviors. In that case, it won't be easy to maintain correct value judgment by controlling their thoughts. Therefore, it is necessary to balance respecting people's free development and cultivating good moral qualities.

Third, infiltration thinking and lack of fundamental value orientation guidance. Finland's moral education is embodied in the whole education process, from family to school, and then extended to society. It is a long-term and gentle guidance with humanistic care, which not only helps maintain the overall moral standard of society but also helps students with outstanding personalities to understand moral rules to a certain extent better.

3. Future Implication

This paper summarizes the current research results of recidivism through related research. First of all, there is no doubt that resin means to offend again. Different countries and regions have different regulations and punishment measures for recidivism. Finland's policy is relatively loose, and more studies on recidivism exist. Secondly, this paper collects the causes of recidivism, including genes, childhood experience, family upbringing and external environment. There is no discussion of correctional education in this paper because there is little description of prison execution [13]. It is hoped that more scholars will continue to explore other deeper reasons in the future and that this paper will be helpful to the prediction of reoffending and the management of crimes.

4. Conclusion

According to the material searched on the internet, Finland has an open prison system, which might lead to a high recidivism rate. The Finnish government should reduce the number of open prisons to reduce the high rate. In the research, Finland has 11 open prisons. Furthermore, the government should promote the education of risk of crime to inform citizens that all illegal behavior should be punished and how they punish the offenders.

Recidivists of violent crime often have MAOA and CDH13 genes, and different genes in children can cause them to commit crimes as adults. Adverse childhood experiences will lead to their revenge on society and challenge judicial psychology. Low-income family upbringing is also an essential reason for recidivism; parents have bad habits, and children often learn these terrible behaviours and commit crimes again. External environments such as inner cities, suburbs, and poor areas all contribute to higher recidivism rates, and urban areas can lead to increased robbery, kidnapping, gun-toting and homicide.

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