

An Analysis on Deviant Behavior of Vulnerable Groups

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Abstract: How to recognize the vulnerable groups and prevent their deviant behavior in China currently will be directly related to the social stability and economic sustainable development in the future. Especially at the present stage, whether the vulnerable groups can be correctly treated and the causes for deviant behavior can be profoundly analyzed to prevent the occurrence of tragic events indicates the political and institutional mature of the society. In this paper, the connotation of the vulnerable groups currently in our country is explained in details, and the causes for deviant behavior of them are deeply analyzed, which helps China to improve institutionally in dealing with issues concerning vulnerable groups.

Introduction

At present, our society has entered a period of profound social transformation which is a process of redistribution of interests in social changes. In this process, the emergence of a large number of social vulnerable groups has become a major practical problem that we must properly solve. How to recognize the vulnerable groups and understand the changes in their negative mentality to prevent their deviant behavior is directly related to the social stability of China in the future. If a society cannot effectively prevent the generation of the deviant behavior of the vulnerable groups, the whole society's benign operation and development will encounter great obstacles.

Organization of the Text:

I. The definition of deviant behavior of vulnerable groups

The vulnerable group is a social group which is composed of people who are disadvantaged in the process of social resource distribution. In a broad sense, there are politically vulnerable, legally vulnerable, economically vulnerable and culturally vulnerable groups. In a narrow sense, the so-called vulnerable groups mainly refer to helpless crowd in the social and economic life who cannot compete normally with other groups, suffering from a much stronger probability of social exclusion than that of healthy group. They have to withdraw from the mainstream and are increasingly marginalized, thus forming the underlying social groups with common characteristics.

The deviant behavior of the vulnerable groups refers to the behavior which deviates from the established social moral and legal norms, and therefore is subject to the social criticism and negative evaluation. When a person has had some kind of deviant behavior, then he will be discriminated, condemned by other members of the community until punished by law becoming a person different from "the normal". As mentioned in *Stigma* written by Erving Goffman, a famous sociologist: "In our minds, he (she) has fallen from a normal and perfect man to a tainted and unreliable person". Even worse, serious deviations are often fatal to society.

The deviant behavior of the vulnerable groups is a manifestation of the social disorder in the transition period, and it has become a serious social problem at present. The deviant behaviors of vulnerable groups in China refer to behaviors of some of the

vulnerable groups in violation of the code of ethics, social public order and legal norms, with certain social harmfulness in social activities. Besides, many of these actions are caused by their negative mentality, mainly including: violations of discipline, conventions and ethics, unlawful acts and crime, seriously harmful to the society. Deviant behavior is a departure from the mainstream culture of the society which is a threat and challenge to the existing social order and social norms, and thus often becomes the object of social correction.

II. Vulnerable groups' deviant behavioral expression

The so-called vulnerable groups' deviant behavior is resulted from social security system lags and unfair social reality in the reform process. Vulnerable groups are difficult to survive or their deserved interests suffer from a loss, forcing them to secure their ends through other social mechanism or illegal channels. The vulnerable groups' deviant behavior is presented in two types, one is active, such as violent resistance against law, illegal criminal activity, or even revolution; another is negative, mainly reflected in giving up on themselves and ignoring the society.

(I) Strong negative mentality and inferiority mentality

With the further development of reform and opening up, people's living standard and way of life have changed dramatically. The generation of vulnerable groups and the change of position happened almost overnight. Such a huge contrast makes it difficult for the vulnerable groups to adapt to, so the negative mood arises spontaneously, with strong inferiority mentality. Faced with survival and life pressure much more than those of other classes, the poor are prone to have a sense of frustration, depression, fickleness, boredom, negative world-weary social mentality, and easy to produce all kinds of aggression and retaliation, as well as other anti-society mentalities.

(II) Crime is the most common form of deviant behavior

When people are helpless in the normal social environment, they tend to go to the improper way of life. Since the ancient times, thinkers think that poverty does not necessarily lead to crime, but poverty is undoubtedly one of the important factors that lead to crime, and it is especially true when poverty encounters injustice. Marx and Engels had deeply pointed out that crime was a form of isolated individuals against the social rule, "the most obvious and the most extreme manifestation of contempt for the social order is crime." Under special circumstances, theft, robbery, prostitution, etc., have become a choice of vulnerable groups to live. In contemporary China, the crime rate of the vulnerable groups has been high. In particular, the floating population has become the main subject of the criminal offence in cities, accounting for over 50%, or even 70% in some cities.

(III) Individual or organized violence against the law

In recent years, there has been a rapid growth trend in the spontaneous and organized protest activities of the vulnerable groups in our country. Increase in the number of cases of collective petition and the rise in violent anti-demolition incidents have been the threat to social stability. For the past few years, the number of criminal gangs with the nature of gangsterdom in our country is rising. In these evil gangs, the members of the social vulnerable groups have a large proportion. At the present stage, the rising trend of organized violence against the law in our country has aroused the great attention of the party and the government.

(IV) Taking revenge on society, forming a social cancer

As a result of slim hopes to the upper social class, many people from vulnerable groups joined the cult gangs, MLM organizations, beggar gangs, prostitution gangs

and so on. They have no personality, abandon their dignities, and are completely divorced from the social category of the normal people, give themselves up as hopeless and abandon themselves to vice, cruelly take revenge on the society. In recent years, China's criminal cases show an upward trend in which the vulnerable groups occupy a large proportion. The victims and victimizers are from the special group, forming a vicious circle of the society.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the deviant behavior of vulnerable groups has become one of the risk factors that affect social stability and development in transition.

III. The causes for the deviant behavior of vulnerable groups

Vulnerable groups are the groups that can easily lead to deviant behavior. From the perspective of social power structure and the distribution of social interests, due to the long-term experience in vulnerability, dissatisfaction with the causes and process resulting in vulnerability and all kinds of results caused by vulnerability, the vulnerable groups "ferment" against the society in helplessness and desperation, with the destructive force and impact.

(I) Unfair distribution caused by the incomplete system and policy

At present, China is still in the process of system reform and social transformation. The mechanism of the socialist market economic system has yet to be further improved. The imperfect system will inevitably result in unfair distribution. At the same time, since different regions, fields and industries carry on reforms at different times with different intensities, the opportunities enjoyed and resources occupied are also different, which often result in differences in profit distribution. In addition, the policies are not perfect and many fields are involved in the fairness problem. For example, due to limitations of household registration system and public service policy, rural migrant workers still face many problems in the process of blending in the city life. The labor rights and interests are not fully guaranteed, and the basic social security is deficient.

(II) Low social authority recognition

Vulnerable groups disagree with the social authority. Social stability in the final analysis reflects the status of the structure of social authority. When the social vulnerable groups fight against the social authority structure in illegal means, social instability will occur. If the social authority structure loses the identity of the dominant, regardless of whether there is force, the authority structure will lose its stability, and even tend to collapse. Whether the dominant participate in the illegal struggle of the society is determined by the comparison between his or their expected return on their actions and the expected cost, both of which are influenced by many complex factors. In most cases, the vulnerable groups "struggle" strongly due to their vulnerability, and the more they are vulnerable, the stronger they will "struggle". The "struggle" of the vulnerable groups is a kind of presentation that they do not agree with the authority of the society. The restriction of law is the balance between rights and obligations, but to those who would not have a variety of rights, the law is not binding. This is a terrible state that the legal society does not expect.

(III) The poverty of life makes the vulnerable groups prone to have deviant behavior.

The core characteristic of survival state of the vulnerable groups is poverty, and there are absolute poverty and relative poverty. On the one hand, the vulnerable groups are close to the edge of survival since their basic life demands are not met necessarily; on the other hand, the satisfaction degree of the basic living and the development opportunities of vulnerable groups are far lower than or less than the

social average. Although poverty does not necessarily lead to crime, but there is a close relationship between poverty and crime. Poverty, as a direct cause of crime, exists objectively. The absolute poverty brings the poor not only very scarce material life but also isolation to the social activities, depression and fickleness. As a result, they have an emotional confrontation with the government. Though relative poverty is not to such an extent as not to be unable to meet the needs of the minimum living, it is easy to make people lose their psychological balance to a greater extent and have a sense of deprivation because its main cause is unfair economic and social resource distribution. Under certain conditions, dissatisfaction and disappointment will evolve into a social centrifugal force, even antisocial tendencies.

(IV) Vulnerable groups are susceptible to the use of illegal organizations causing deviant behavior

The lack of economic security is a very obvious living condition of the vulnerable groups in the transition period. Many disadvantaged people are really struggling to survive and improve their own circumstances, but some people, no matter how hard they work, still cannot get rid of the status of vulnerability. Due to the individuals' inability to make any change on itself, when they feel pain for the reality, in order to seek the relief of spirit and vent the pressure of life, it is easy for them to turn to irrational religion complex, and then form a fatalistic point of view, in order to escape from reality, which gives some illegal organizations and the cult organizations opportunities for spoofing, provoking the relationship between these vulnerable people and the party, the government, in order to continue to build and expand their illegal organization. With the banner of salvation, dark psychology and extremely hostile stance, the illegal organizations wantonly exaggerate the seriousness of the social problems to attack the society and government and incite hostility of vulnerable groups.

Summary

At present, China's social security system is lagging behind, and vulnerable groups have limited social assistance, so they are eager to get care for their material and spiritual life. Raising the sense of economic security has become the main political requirement of the groups. The deviant behavior of the social members will be slowed down or eliminated through the adjustment of the system, the reform of the policy implementation mechanism and the adjustment of the public policy, as well as the way of social correction. Correcting social vulnerable groups' deviant behavior helps to fundamentally reduce vulnerable groups formation scale and speed, resolve the contradiction between vulnerable groups and the society, the government, also for creating conditions and channels for existing vulnerable groups to get rid of their status of vulnerability.

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