

## REMORSELESS PROGENIES ACTIVE IN CRIMES: A MEDICO-LEGAL PERSPECTIVE ON JUVENILE PSYCHOPATHS

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The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

Justice Kagan in Miller's case has identified that the developments in psychology and brain science show fundamental differences in juvenile and adult minds. The human mind has a direct influence on conduct. Delinquency is a product of strain and anomie, and is basically a learned process. An abnormality in mind simultaneously influences the conduct of a human being which has a tendency to do harm to society as a whole. A 'psychopath' is a human with a personality disorder in which all the emotional and cognitive faculties are impaired and continued in anti-social behaviour. In the general sense, psychopaths are adults but in rare instances juvenile psychopaths are in existence. A juvenile psychopath is a different disposition from average children of the same age, being estranged from the natural playfulness and coyness in youth, and lacking emotions, empathy, moral rationality, and conscience. 'Juvenile psychopathy' is a result of sociological, biological and neurological factors but basically psychopaths emerge due to social drawbacks. Defects in parenting, parental insensitivity, harsh maternal intrusions, lack of facilities and weak family relations have been identified as the basis for juvenile psychopathy. It has generally been accepted by the law that there is a justification for punishing the psychopaths but scholars' arguments state that psychopaths, having no moral rationality, are possessed only by the shame and guilt for their failure in anti-social conduct and not for their inability to comply with the standards of human society. Simply, they are not members of the moral community. The author has adopted a literature review involving primary and secondary sources of law. The study has aimed to examine the traits of juvenile psychopaths and the applicability of criminal law principles. The author's proposition is that the punishment is not the solution in the issue of juvenile psychopathy but the positivity that deals with the social reconstruction around him/her.

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