

Kishor (Youth) Gang Culture: A Threat to the Erosion of Social Values

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Abstract – This paper tries to study about the kishor gang culture in Bangladesh. As we know that kishor (youth) is the future generation of the country. But, at present time, they become destroyed by using the gang culture. This paper focuses the noticeable incident of the kishor gang culture of the past year. Try to find out the reasons for the kishor gang culture of the country. And looking after what laws is the main stakeholder to regulate the kishor activities. And finally, present some ways to combat the kishor gang culture from the society. Moreover, this study may be helped the country to take appropriate policy for combating kishor gang culture.

Keywords – Kishor Gang, Teenager, Family, Children, Society, Law, Social Values.

I. INTRODUCTION

From the last few years, a new issue is threatening us. And this issue is increased at an alarming rate. The concerned issue is “Kishor Gang or Youth Gang”. The Kishor Gang or Youth Gang, whatever we may say, is misleading our teenagers day-by-day. They are committing various crimes through their gang at different times, which is making us think about their future. The proliferation of teenage / youth gangs since 1980 has fueled the public’s fear and magnified possible misconceptions about youth gangs. Teen gang series delves into many of the key issues such as gang migration, gang growth, drugs and violence, Social degradation related to teen gangs (Howel, 2010).

A teenagers or teen is a person who falls within the ages of 13 to 18 years (Khan D. M., 2013). In our society teenagers are the most disregarded or misunderstood generation. Besides, every human being undergoes rapid psychological changes as natural hormonal changes kick in between the ages of 13-14, that he really does not understand properly. Due to various psychological disorders, depression, violence

and all that, the most vulnerable period for any human is the teenage years. This is also the age of experiencing a great deal of new sensation, understanding and creativity. They become somewhat distant from their parents suddenly as their friends become more important in their lives. The teen Gang culture is a new trend in Bangladesh crime and a cause of serious concern. In recent years teenagers and young men in urban areas have been forming gangs and committing crimes like mugging, drug consumption, sexual harassment and murders (Rozari, 2019). They act like a crime syndicate, so people believe they have godfathers or influential political patrons and nothing can be said or done against them (Rozari, 2019).

But in the past, the number of gangs was small. Their activities were befitting with their times. From the sixties up to the eighties, we have witnessed or heard of gang fights we have had gangs at the bottom-tier of the society all along. They used to threaten each other via phones or in person because there was no social media till a decade back. Street kids who buy and sell drugs and get involved with all sorts of lower level crimes ran various. But they remain under-reported. Gang culture has always been about domination; the

gang members we knew in our childhood in the early eighties were poor students and had low self-esteem. By becoming a gang member or gang leader they could become 'someone' others feared. The actual reason why some teens chose to become a gang member is psychological and it is due to the social conditions surrounding them (Khan, 2017).

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The research has a broad objective that is:

1. To know and perception about the kishor gang or youth gang.
2. To know the laws regulating the activities of the youth.
3. To know about the reasons of kishor or youth gang.
4. To know about the ways to combat the kishor or youth gang.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, descriptive research design has been followed so that it would be able to know and analyze the perception about kishor or youth gang.

Some Noticeable Incident of Kishor Gang

Recently, widely discussed kishor gang incident is that the incident of "tiktok celebrity Opu Bhai". **Police arrested popular TikTok video maker Yasin Arafat Opu, better known as "Opu Bhai" on social media, along with an accomplice, on charges of assaulting, harassing and beating people in Uttara area of the capital** (The Daily Star, 2020). **The charged before is that Opo Bhai and his gang (60-70 teenagers) beat a passers-by when they block a entire road of Sector-6 of Uttara at the time of making a vedio.**

Gang culture had got more importance following the murder of a teen-gang member Adnan Kabir in early 2017. Adnan, member of the gang "Nine Star" and Uttara resident, was hacked to death by the members of his rival group "Disco Boys" in the area on January 6 that year (The Daily Star, 2017). Several murders have been committed by the teenagers in the last 5 years and it is hackle-tingling.

A named of kishor gang "Star Bond" consisted of 17 teenagers are also arrested by RAB in 2019. They are caught in red handed with 90 pieces of yaba and also seized with local weapons (Dhaka Tribune, 2019). The Star Bond gang has been done various criminal activities in the Dhaka's Rayer Bazar area.

We also know about the gang of 007 which is headed by Nayon Bond of Barguna. The 007 gang members are come to light when they killed a young named Rifat in the day light in front of peoples (Khan P. P., 2019). They possessed criminal habits in the town of Barguna.

On January 20, 2018 seventh grader Fawmid Tanvir Rajim was stabbed to death during a concert at Khulna Public College in Khulna. Rajim had protested against the bullying of two of his classmates by members of 'Golden Boys' gang. Danger Boys and TSP are another two gangs of Khulna (Islam, 2018).

Like the above stated five (5) gangs, thousands of gangs are scattered in the country. Every gang has a unique name, like: Power Boys, Disco Boys, Big Boss, Nine Star, Nine MM Boys, Love Lane, Lara Dee, Voyankar, Eagle, Rax, X CMHS, LRN, etc. And sometimes the gang name is called upon the name of the gang leader. Such as, Jehadi Group, Jishan Group, Laden Group, Shamim Group, Ratan group etc.

Reasons for Kishor Gang

Dhaka University Social Science Faculty Professor, Sadeka Halim said, breakdown of society and the tendency to go to the centre of power is the main reason for the kishor gang culture. She thinks political parties actually patronize them. She added that textbook education is now incomplete and due to this, hatred towards other religions and humiliation of women are increasing. It is open said that, unlimited use of internet and mobile phones, decay of the family and social bonds, addiction of porn videos, disobeying of the social norms and values, earning of the black money of the parents etc are the main reasons for the spread of kishor gang among the society.

As there are any factors which intend to increase the kishor gang among the society. Some of them are as follows:

1. **Hormonal Transformation:** For every human being hormonal transformation is natural. This time is very sensitive and emotional, so teenagers with hormonal changes start to think sensitively about their status in the world where they lives in. If they are feeling too small, discarded and underpowered, they seek refuge in the gang with the false thought of being honored. It is a country that thinks of nobody; our cities do not offer proper platforms for teenagers or children. When we see teen gangs killing teens or, a teen militant fighting it was surprise us (Khan S. , 2017).
2. **Mental & health problems:** Some physical and mental problems worsen the thinking of teenagers. They begin

to think of everyone around them as enemies. Good advice often seems unbearable to them and they start thinking themselves as inanimate objects. Addicted to various drugs to get rid of mental exhaustion and this puts them at risk of joining a gang. These problems include conduct disorders, externalizing behaviors, hyperactivity, and depression (James C & Arten Egley, 2005). Gang members often are admitted with histories of substance abuse, physical and sexual abuse, psychiatric disturbances, posttraumatic stress disorder, cognitive deficits, poor self-esteem, and other problems (Power, 2012). Teenage who are victims of abuse or neglect is more likely to join gangs. Forms of violent victimization outside the home, such as assaults, also increase youth's risk of joining a gang.

3. Gang Cohesion, Culture and Lifestyle: Gang cohesion, culture and lifestyle are also important considerations. A Montréal study showed that gang members display higher rates of delinquent behaviors and drug use than non-gang members (Gatti, 2005). Now it is often seen that teenagers follow the western culture and their lifestyle is gradually changing. Intoxication, domination of others and even killing someone if it is against one's will has become a culture. It is difficult to keep them involved with these activities because they lived with their family in a community. Then they get busy for joining a gang. Many times the family is not saved from the terrible clutches of these teen gang members as they came to know about their bad company and drug use.

4. Popularity, Status, or Respect: Gang membership can enhance prestige or status among friends especially girls (for boys) and provide opportunities to be with them (Juvenile Justice Bulletin, 1998). Gangs provide other attractive opportunities such as the chance for excitement by selling drugs and making money. Thus many teen see them as making personal advantages to gang membership. Social, economic, and cultural forces push many teen in the direction of gangs. Protection from other gangs and perceived general well-being are key factors.

Now-a-days, In most of the cases, teen gangsters have been identified as potential actors, closely linked to politicians for ensuring their popularity in society, status for dominating others or gaining respect and protection from other gangs and perceived exhaustive well-being.

5. Emotional and hormonal changes: As natural hormonal changes kick in between the ages of 13-14, it

may be very difficult if they do not find their surrounding supportive. It is possible to channel their emotional and hormonal changes to good use. But someone like a guardian or a friend has to stand by the side of that teen. Otherwise, that teenager may become a gang member or any other unwanted thing (Khan S. , 2017).

6. Lack of Recreational Activities: The youth and teen gang culture is a cause of serious concern. Academics and right activists condemned Lack of recreational activities such as social degradation, weakening roles of the family, unlimited access to internet and misconduct of android phones like porn addiction, clash of clan games, lack of moral lessons in the family and the school as well as the stagnant political situation as reasons for growing teenage gang culture (Das, 2019). They also said that pornography attachment and misconduct of android phones were, also contributing to the criminal activities at a time when the state was not prepared to spend time performing its responsibility in its future generation.

Md Kamal Uddin, Psychology professor of Dhaka University said that a gang is created when a set of perverse psychological factors became active among the teenagers and youths, especially unemployed ones and those having nothing to do, by getting financial or other 'benefits' from external sources or from their own family and they thought that the group's strength was their own strength.

7. Constructive Conduct: Another predicts for joining a gang is Constructive conduct, alcohol and drug use. These two early problem behaviors comprehend engaged in scandalous act, aggressive ferocity (without a weapon) and impertinent sexual activity. These two early problem behaviors increase the likelihood of later gang involvement, particularly when alcohol or drug use is extensive and involves marijuana (Howel, 2010).

8. Need for Support and Protection: Youth who are abused or neglected and also failed to get the support and protection from their family devoted to join gangs and hold a bad reputation , something that follows the gang members into their adulthood, significantly hurting their chances of leading a normal life. They considered gangs a safe heaven, as gang members protect each other in the time of need. Being an active part of a gang gives teens a physical as well as an emotional security, not just against bullies and other gangs, but also against all those negative things

happening in their lives (Juvenile Delinquency, 2017). These feelings are particularly common among neglected kids who fail to get the support and protection from their family. Victims of bullying and abuse also consider gangs a safe haven, as gang members protect each other in the time of need.

- 9. Lack of education, Poor parenting skills etc:** Lack of moral education, need for parent's attention, mental support during hormonal transformation and favors also make teen vulnerable to the strong pull of joining gangs. Nowadays most of the parents are doing professional works that is why they don't get enough time to take care of their children, divert some quality time with children and teaching them to inculcate moral values. Teenage who experience those life events are more likely to join gang (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), 2003).

Laws Regulates the Activities of the Kishor

As we know that Bangladesh is a signatory state of the Convention on the Children's Right, 1989 (Al-Mamun, 2020). And the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh also provides rights and responsibilities of the children as a future citizen of the country. As the activities of the kishor or youth are considered as crime in the eye of law, so that activities should be controlled under the provision of various criminal laws, which are existing in the country.

As stated earlier that the all kishor or youth gangs is the under below of 18 years. In this regards, it should be stated that there are special law for the kishor or youth, i.e., The Children Act 2013. So in this concerned, the Children Act, 2013 is applicable.

Section 34 of the Children Act- 2103 (Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, 2013), provides the punishment for committing crimes of the offender who are known child in the eye of law. But an interesting matter is that no law permitted to gives capital punishment for the kishor or youth offender. Rather, they are sent in the juvenile correctional institution or child development centre.

Ways to Combat Kishor Gang

It is known to all that kishor are driven by emotion. Hardly, they can distinguish between right and wrong. So, it may be very easy to refrain themselves from the kishor gang, if they are properly counseling and trained about danger of the gang culture. Some ways to combat the kishor gang are given below:

1. Just only 'western culture' and misuse of the internet is not accountable for growing teen gang culture, diverse reasons such as lack of moral and religious education, deficiency of corroboration and protection, absence of strict conductor etc are also responsible. If we researched how to prevent such destructive teen gang culture, stop blaming just a few hard and fast invariants. A survey must be arranged for finding out the reasons and trying to solve these.
2. Offer kids from childhood an environment of prospect, admiration and encouragement, give them cultural platforms to practice various forms of creativity, engaged with different social activities that are so attractive that even a kid from an unstable family would try to find happiness there. Such kind of environment offer teen a sound and invulnerable world and put them away from antisocial and sluggish conduct by joining with gang culture. Until depositing foresaid environment for teen, expect more teens to go down the drain (Rozari, 2019).
3. Prevention is better than heavy and ponderous crackdown against the gang culture. Communal and domestic awareness, faith association based life skills program, effective support system restraining teen from joining gangs. A conference may organize in educational institution, religious places and community levels for enhancing moralities and upholding outrageous side of gang in front of teen.
4. The family and school should take the responsibility to teach inculcate moral values among children, involving students in extra-curricular activities, giving the children adequate quality time by the family, can provide associative advantage that detach a teens time and attention from the gang lifestyle and ensured that they should not be allowed to go beyond control (Das, 2019).
5. The state should ensure healthy correction centre for correcting teen offenders and ensure the environment of correction centre to be humane, arranged teen recreation, should be given access to proper moral education, trying to interpret the negative side of gang culture and bring them back to normal life.
6. Law enforcing agency and police has campaigned for communal awareness to prevent the expansion of teen gang culture, decrease duration period of membership for teenage and to provide appropriate services like drug treatment, decrease social degradation, provide employment and educational opportunities because

unemployment, poverty is responsible for growing gangster, rehabilitate themselves in the society once they leave the gang, apart from arresting teen gang members.

7. Parents must assure children's corporal, mental and emotional security during hormonal transformation because the period is too sensitive, protect teens from physical and sexual abuse, most of the teens are sexually abused by their own remote relatives, treatment and support must be ensured, if any teen suffer psychiatric disturbances, posttraumatic stress disorder, cognitive deficits, poor self-esteem, and other problems.
8. For suppressing teen gang culture, the family and society need to take effective action and also structural improvement is required. In absence of quality time and moral formation from their parents, occasionally teens seek pleasures in 'mesh power, dominating others and hazardous recreations. Certain evil joy turns into crime like abduction, mugging and drug addiction. Parents should play a strong role to change this mindset of teens.

IV. CONCLUSION

Some recent incidents of crime and violence in the country involving mostly teenagers and young adults have shed light on a new cause of concern for the society- the spread of teenage gang culture (Kishor Gang) (Bosu, 2019). The nation was stunned watching the horrific scene of various criminal activities of the kishor gang among the country. Now it is time to looking after this concern, to reduce the kishor gang culture. Because, gang culture threaten the erosion of the social values. From the begging of the kishor gang, it has been seen that there is a tendency to dis-obey the social norms and values among the gang members. They also create various disorder into the society, which is very harmful for the society. They also take various drugs for whom they are becoming addicted into the alcohol. It is open seen that if any member of a gang has any fight with anyone else, the entire gang teams up to help him out. They become so perverse that they even get delighted when they beat someone (Abdullah-Al-Helal, 2019). For this result, it brings a big violence into the society. Because the beaten gang always try to beat the gangs by whom they got beaten.

When a activities of a kishor gang was raised, the law enforcing agency arresting the members of the gang and sending them to jail or to the correction centre. But, this is not the real solution, because we know that kishor or teens are driven by emotion. They can hardly chose the wrong or right. So, they need counseling and this is the best medium for combat the kishor gang culture. Here, parents can play the

pioneer role to prevent kishor gang violence by spending sufficient time with their children. In addition, children should be educated morally in family and educational institutions. Moreover, recreational activities should be increased (Abdullah-Al-Helal, 2019). And furthermore, they should not be politically patronized.

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