

Teenagers Delinquency Motivation and Prevention

-- Take the case of Wu Xieyu's matricide case

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Abstract. This paper summarizes the characteristics of teenager delinquency by reading literature and analyzes the characteristics of Wu Xieyu's matricide case. Finally, measures to reduce teenagers delinquency are proposed from the perspectives of improving family relationships, managing the network environment, and providing psychological treatment.

Keywords: Teenager Delinquency; Psychotherapy; Wu Xieyu's Matricide Case.

1. Introduction

Teenagers are the future of a country; teenager crime commitment problems influence the development of both teenager and society, hence it's a topic being concerned. Teenagers are people whose age is within the range of 15 to 24 years old, according to WHO. Teenager delinquency is a criminal category divided according to the criminals' age. The concept of teenager delinquency in a narrow sense refers to the definition of teenager delinquency in terms of the perspective of criminal jurisprudence, which generally refers to "the behavior of 14-25 years old people who should be subject to criminal punishment according to law".

The teenager stage has more prominent physiological and psychological characteristics. During adolescence, hormones secreted by the anterior pituitary gland that promote the development of physical functions put the brain in an excited state, making emotions more impulsive, so teenager often cannot control their negative emotions due to external stimulation, leading to criminal behavior. In addition, the muscles, bones, and brain nervous system of teenagers are mature and energetic, but their anti-frustration ability, self-control and other psychological levels develop slowly, so under the influence of other adverse factors, it is easy to produce violent tendencies. This explains why teenagers are more likely to commit crimes. Since 2010, the number of teenager offenders in China has been increasing. From 2017 to 2021, the number of teenager offenders investigated and arrested by procuratorial organs was 42,413, 44,901, 48,275, 37,681 and 55,379, respectively[1]. With the increase in the number of teenager delinquents, the characteristics of teenager delinquency are as follows: 1. The age of teenager delinquency is younger. By 2012, the average age of teenager delinquency was only 15.7 years old. 2. Criminal behavior becomes violent and adult. In 2015, because of the over-control of parents, a pair of 15-year-old twin sisters poisoned their biological parents to death at home by mixing 6 bottles of highly toxic rat poison into porridge. Putting such a large amount of doses is violent, and 15-year-old teens are supposed to be too young to conduct such a cruel case. 3. Technicalization and networking of means. For example, teenager use network technology to commit network fraud. 4. The subject of crime is complicated: the subject of crime develops from the low level of education, weak legal awareness, lack of social experience of idle people into a higher education of the youth. Ma Jiajue, a student in Yunnan University, for instance, is an example of highly-educated offenders conducting crime. 5. The type of teenager delinquency develops in an expanding way. Until the end of 2003, the number of teenager crimes has increased to 120 types, and new types of crime such as drug, gun, gambling, prostitution and human trafficking have also emerged in recent. 6. The rate of 'crimes of passion' has risen. Some teenager will even kill people over trivial matters. Gao Han Middle School Zou, for example, originally borrowed 160 yuan from classmates Zhao Youjia, when the classmate asked for the 100 yuan still owed, they fought. Zou stunned Zhao with a wooden stick when he was not paying attention, and dragged him to the manure

pool to drown. There is an increase in cases where there is no clear premeditation or motive for the crime.

This essay aims to find methods of reeducating teenager offenders. A real domestic example, the case of Wu Xieyu Matricide would be pictured. The formation process of his crime motive would then be analyzed in terms of criminal psychology, including both the offender's psychological factor and social factors to find out the cause of the crime commitment. Next, this case would be put into the social context and be used to find the universality of Chinese teenager crime. In the end, psychological strategies would be suggested to prevent and reform the crime of high intelligence.

2. Research on Criminal Psychology of Wu Xieyu's Matricide Case

2.1. The Case History of Wu Xie Yu's Matricide Case

Wu Xieyu, Han Chinese, born in Fujian 1994. He was raised with high hopes by his parents and indeed entered Peking University eventually. In 2010, Wu Xieyu's father died because of liver cancer. After that, because he was often ill when he was young, Wu Xieyu continued suspecting himself to be ill or even would eventually die as his father did. He'd tried suicide for ages but had never succeeded. His mother Xie Tianqin, apart from taking over his life, has high self-esteem. So after his father was ill, Xie Tianqin didn't accept the assistance from relatives. Her behavior caused the death of Wu Xieyu's father indirectly. Wu Xieyu loved his father very much, so he unavoidably generated hatred towards his mom. Apart from that, he also thought his mom was extremely stressed. Wu Xieyu's got complex emotions about Xie Tianqin, so one day in 2015, being aware of dying together with his mother could bring her extrication, he began to plan matricide.

Wu Xieyu chose July 10th, the opposite date of his birthday, to carry out the matricide. He bought cutting tools, plastic cloth and other tools in advance. On July 10th, at the moment his mother got home and bent to get slippers, Wu Xieyu lifted the dumbbell and hit the back of his mother's head and face, causing Xie Tianqin to lose the ability to resist. He tried to cut its head down but failed. He then wrapped its head and face with tape. After seeing the horror of his mother's death, Wu Xieyu gave up committing suicide. He cleaned the house, and wrapped the body with 75 layers of coverings, including sheets, plastic wrap, and prepared activated carbon packs as well as refrigerator deodorant.

On the night of July 10th, Wu Xieyu checked into a hotel about two kilometers away from home so that he could clean up the crime scene. He stayed in the hotel for later 21 days, commuting from home and hotel everyday. Wu Xieyu installed all kinds of surveillance devices to keep an eye on the dead body. He did not report but bought a number of fake identity cards online for escape. On July 31, 2015, after leaving Fuzhou, he forged his mother's handwriting and asked for leave from the school where Xie Tianqin taught. Pretending to be his mother, Wu Xieyu cheated his relatives and friends of 1.44 million yuan for the excuse of going to the United States for study, but mostly spent on prostitution and lottery tickets later. Three years after, he eventually decided to live incognito in Chongqing, taking the pseudonym Xiao Long, turning into a male model and hanging out in nightclubs until he was arrested on April 21, 2019.

2.2. Criminal Characteristics of Wu Xieyu's Matricide Case

The matricide carried by Wu Xieyu distinguished crime cases for several aspects. First, he himself has high intelligence. Wu Xieyu entered Peking University, a top university desired by all students, through independent recruitment. During the crime commission, thorough preparation can be seen. Wu Xieyu began to buy tools in early June; he knew exactly that chemicals like activated carbon would hide the odor of the dead body, and that's why he bought them in advance. Also, he didn't kill his mother by impulse. Instead, he planned very much in detail before his crime commission. Therefore, the case is covert. Moreover, in order not to be discovered, Wu Xieyu planned a play about studying abroad with his mother. He chose one day of summer vacation to commit the crime, which matches his mother's status as a teacher: teachers wouldn't appear during vacations. Wu Xieyu even

did self-hypnosis, telling himself he did go to America for education together with his mom, just to keep the scam undetected. He escaped successfully for months. Even his uncle found out Wu Xieyu's mom was missing because he sent him a text message requiring him to pick them up. People wouldn't know his mother was missing unless he mentioned it on his own initiative. Second, the cold-bloodedness of the offender and the crime was murderous. Wu Xieyu was cold-blooded in the way he dealt with the dead body. Up to 75 layers of charcoal are wrapped around the body by him to cover up the crime. Third, the motive for the offender's crime commission isn't clear. There was no blasting fuse for this case. There's no sudden change in the way he was treated by his mother. It wasn't an impulsive crime. People like Wu Xieyu with high intelligence wouldn't be controlled by their own emotions. It must be the accumulated emotions in his heart over the years that led to his psychological distortion and therefore make this big mistake. What's more, it is also said that Wu Xieyu's aunt has a history of mental illness, so he has the possibility of having mental problems as well. Last, the offender behaved extremely differently before and after the crime. In others' cognition, Wu Xieyu used to be a perfect person who performed well in both life and study. He was always the top student in class, and he treated people politely. However, after committing the crime, he created the hoax, drinking and whoring with borrowed money.

2.3. Motives of Wu Xieyu Matricide

In this paper, according to the feature presented by the matricide case committed by Wu Xieyu, it can be deduced that his crime motive is dangers narrow-minded. Dangers narrow-minded refers to the psychological trauma formed after people experience certain external stimuli in the psychological process, and results in the phenomenon of attachment to psychological trauma. The motivation of offenders in some cases originated from psychological states of inhibition, paranoia and stagnation, which were caused by life stimulation, psychological trauma, bad mood, and so on, hence behaved abnormally and even threat society. In other words, what determines the crime motive is not high intelligence, but the indulgence and accumulation of negative emotions. Dangerous narrow-minded crime refers to the phenomenon that people do not know part of their mental content when having consciousness or have difficulty in realizing their mental content because of the conflict between their different consciousness when they are awake and have no serious mental illness. This kind of case has the characteristics of a vague crime motive, or the perpetrator avoids expressing the real crime motive, the case plot is violent, and the crime is secret, planned and with high intelligence. The perpetrators of this type of crime have normal mental and sociality, and can clearly recognize their behavior. In addition, this type of perpetrator has two sides, one side is conservative, the other side is the subconscious of resistance, attack and revenge, and this two-sided character makes the perpetrators produce different behaviors from their usual.

Based on the analysis of the above characteristics, this paper combines the process of Wu Xieyu's matricide and the behavior analysis of his daily life, and deduces that he is in line with the danger knot motive. First of all. In the case of Wu Xieyu's matricide, the case has a clear criminal object as well as a selected time and place to commit the crime. Besides, Wu Xieyu plans the process of the case and the way to escape from legal sanctions. More importantly, as can be seen from the video of Wu Xieyu's trial, Wu Xieyu was able to clearly explain the process and behavior of the crime but the motive of the crime. This avoidance may be to avoid responsibility, or it may be difficult for the perpetrator to face the true thoughts in his heart, which is an escape from his inner thoughts. Secondly, from Wu Xieyu's daily life and study, he has a normal mind, a normal moral judgment and crime detection ability. From primary school to high school, Wu Xieyu's academic performance has always been among the best. Wu Xieyu studied economics at Peking University. According to his classmates and neighbors, Wu Xieyu is optimistic, low-key, good at helping others, and maintains a close and friendly relationship with the people around him. It can be seen that Wu Xieyu is a very excellent student with strong social skills and high IQ. Being able to be admitted to Peking University also shows his normal moral judgment ability. Judging from his actions such as installing cameras after killing his mother and forging his mother's resignation letter, he has the ability to know the crime. This means that he did not generate the idea of murdering because of impulse. At the same time, he

knew that murdering was against morality and law, but he still chose to murder his mother by cruel means, which indicates that the urgency and importance of making up for the heart knot led him to behave differently than usual. In addition, after his escape, he maintained the habit of reading news and studying, but on the other hand, he fell in love with prostitutes, or worked as a model in nightclubs. These actions contradict each other and differ from his very good image. This also shows that his subconscious wants to resist his mother's control, though he has been trying to suppress himself from acting imperfect. He didn't want Xie Tianqin to be disappointed about him because he loved his mom so much, not wishing to break her heart. The source of Wu Xieyu's knot of intention comes from his subconscious's high-pressure situation towards his mother, that is to say, his mother's control over him is an obstacle in his heart, which makes him dare not face up to his heart and desires. After he kills his mother, he feels that the obstacle to control himself is gone, and he is finally free. Without this knot, he revealed his true face, showing his own repressed inner world and extravagance.

3. Commission Reason of Wu Xieyu Matricide

As mentioned above, the crime motive of Wu Xieyu's matricide is dangers narrow-minded. This section will discuss the cause of his dangers narrow-minded from his family factors. Wu Xieyu grew up in a strict family. According to Xie Tianqin's former colleague and Wu Xieyu's ex-girlfriend, Xie Tianqin, as a teacher, always maintained a consistent rigorous style in life and work. The discipline of her son was also extremely strict. According to the Wu Xieyu's ex-girlfriend, the mother had a great control over him invisibly [2]. Xie Tianqin made detailed daily schedule for Wu Xieyu, not allowing him to sleep until 12 o'clock, and asked him to get up at 5 for study. After entering Peking University, Wu Xieyu was asked to call his mom for daily report. Besides, Xie Tianqin didn't allow him to have his free time or to have a relationship: in her mind, these were frivolous things that would occupy his son's study time[3]. She also didn't allow Wu Xieyu to go abroad for study, even if he passed the GRE with a high score[4]. Wu Xieyu had no liberty in front of his mom, but he didn't fight against Xie Tianqin for once, probably for he didn't want to break his perfect image.

Though Wu Xieyu usually showed his obedience to his mother in front of others, he also revealed his depressed state of mind. The repressive and inflexible education ways restrain Wu Xieyu's growth, forming his rebellious attitude. Moreover, Wu Xieyu changed after entering Peking University. The new environment brought him new recognition. He was stimulated to be self-abased due to the gap between his own family and others.

4. Precaution and Rectification Means

Wu Xieyu's matricide case is a typical case among teenager matricide cases. According to the literature, this essay concludes that the reasons that lead to teenager matricide cases are both family factors and teenager's psychological factors.

As for the family factor, many parents adopt strict and impersonal education way nowadays. They only focus on the achievements acquired by children but their mental issues. What's worse, parents' dominant control over children may make them dare not to express their inner thoughts. Children tend to suppress their thoughts, leading to an unhealthy family relationship. All these factors together with the sense of self-abasement brought by poverty of teenagers' original family would finally result in their commitment. Towards the family factor, Satya family model is applied. By understanding the family situation of the teenager and assessing the potential problems in the family, the awareness of family members can be corrected, to reconstruct the relationship between family members, promote the communication between families, and establish a harmonious family relationship and parent-child relationship.[5].

When it comes to social factors, it seems that the Internet affects teenagers a lot. Online media is filled with vicious comments, including those about the teens' original family. Those teens would be mentally hurt when seeing those comments, and hence generate the sense of self-abasement, or even detest their original families. Moreover, some videos involve scenes of bloody violence posted online.

In that case, teenagers would inevitably see these videos, and they may memorize the scenes subconsciously. This may become the source of teens' crime. Operators of those platforms have to apply strict audits on the posts to ensure high quality of posts.

In terms of teenagers' mental factors, an impatient personality or temperament would mostly lead to crime commitments. If teenagers are unable to adjust their emotions or can't control it well, then they may commit crimes of passion. When dealing with this factor, systematic desensitization is used. Systematic desensitization is mainly to induce the patients to slowly exposure the situation that leads to their neurotic anxiety, and to fight against this anxiety using the psychological relaxation state, so that it could help to eliminate the patients' anxiety of fear[6]. If a teen is found to be in an unhealthy temperament, he or she would be treated with systematic desensitization. The first is relaxation training. The teenager patient is asked to have their eyes closed and to take a few deep breaths in a quiet and peaceful environment. Meanwhile, they experience and maintain the feeling of relaxation during the alternating training of muscle tension and relaxation. Second, the difficult situation would be arranged from weak to strong, so that the teenager patients could gradually approach the hardest situation in relaxation. In such an increasingly challenging process, teenager patients can handle without being stimulated, to eliminate sensitive emotions. The third is the implementation of imaginary desensitization or reality desensitization. By the principle of easy to hard, the teenager patients are then asked to face sensitive situations step by step and overcome their emotions.

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