

Criminal Liability of a Juvenile in India: A Critical Analysis

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I. INTRODUCTION

“A nation’s children are its supremely important asset and nation’s future lies in their proper development. An investment in children is indeed an investment in future. A healthy and educated child of today is the active and intelligent citizen of tomorrow”

Rabindra Nath Tagore

Childhood is a universal human experience and has vital stakes. The future development and stability of a society depend on the quality of its children. Child welfare is of supreme importance to mankind. At present time the child is considered as an important social unit and is held to be entitled to all that requires for healthy living, sufficient recreation, schooling adopted to his natural living methods, intelligent home care and the right to develop his abilities to their fullest extent.

The Supreme Court of India in *Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India and others* observed that: “A child of today cannot develop to be a responsible and productive member of tomorrow’s society unless an environment which is conducive to his social and physical health is assured to him. Every nation developed or developing links its future with the status of the child. Childhood holds the potential and also sets the limit to the future development of the society. Children are the greatest gift to humanity. The parents themselves live for them. Neglecting children means loss to the society as a whole. If children are deprived of their childhood socially, economically, physically and mentally the nation gets deprived of the potential human resources for social progress, economic empowerment, peace and order, social stability and good citizenry.”

“Children are the greatest gift that has been bestowed upon humanity as they are the pillars on which the foundation of tomorrow is laid as it constitutes the useful human resources that can lead to the progress and development of a country. A healthy and educated child of today is the active and intelligent citizen of tomorrow. Therefore, an important duty on the part of the State is to provide proper care and protection to children because the future of a nation depends on the physical and mental well-being of the children.