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Child Endangerment and Abuse and Application of the Learning Theory

Name

School

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Abstract

Child endangerment is a social vice in any circumstance. It involves the exposure of minors to dangerous situations or to situations that are a risk to their life either emotionally or physically. In fact in most countries it is a criminal offence that is punishable by the prevailing laws. In this regard various states try as much as possible to make stringent laws that not only act as a watchdog of the people trying to commit this vice but also as a reprimand for people committing this kind of offence.

Child abuse on the other hand is however different from child endangerment and is more serious. It can be defined as the psychological or emotional mistreatment of a child and may take various forms. These forms include sexual abuse, physical abuse or even emotional abuse. Physical abuses include battering while psychological abuses include neglect. Emotional abuse is the hardest to define of all this and may take the form of ridicule or degradation.

To curb this situation, various jurisdictions adopt various policies or counter measures to discipline those involved. Some of the policies involved here include the removal of children from their homes. This is to make sure that parents caught with this offence get to learn a lesson and are able to refrain from the vice of child abuse and endangerment.

The benefits of adoption of this kind of policy are far reaching and are a relief to many children who are abused or endangered by their parents or guardians in one way or another. The biggest benefit is that a child is able to grow without fear. One of the common characteristic exhibited by abused children is fear. This kind of fear makes the child dull all the times and therefore if eliminated the child can grow to a better person in the future.

Another major advantage of this kind of policy is that children get a chance for emotional and psychological support from these state institutions. One of the vital elements for the growth and development of a child is the presence of emotional and psychological support. In the state facilities there exist trained personnel who are able to provide such kind of care.

This policy would also go a far way in teaching those who aspire to commit the offence of child abuse and endangerment a lesson. In this regard cases of child endangerment are likely to reduce and therefore an advantage to the children. In this regard responsible parenthood is enhanced in the best way possible.

On the other hand this kind of policy has its own disadvantages or drawbacks since not all kinds of this policies are likely to be perfect. One of the major disadvantages is that children are not able to experience the parental love they would have experienced if they were with their real parents or guardians. In this regard, children end up in emotional distress due to lack of this parental love and care

This policy would also have the disadvantage of the same child abuse and endangerment in these state facilities. This is due to the fact that not all care takers employed in the state facilities are trained or are there for a good cause. In fact child sexual abuse is prevalent in state facilities than in homes and therefore this creates a negative impact in the life of these children.

This policy also has the disadvantage of bias. Sometimes it is difficult to define emotional or psychological mistreatment or abuse. Due to this many of the children taken away from their home presumed to be emotionally abused do not deserve this and therefore parents end up being denied the right to take care of their children out of utter bias and ignorance.

This kind of policy could also have far reaching effects on the morals of children in the society. This is because children are so much protected by the state and end up at liberty to do anything they want since their parents are prohibited from exercising any kind of reprimand on their children. In this regard the generation raised from such a scenario is that of children who are drug addicts and thieves as a result of too much state protection.

The psychological growth of children is very sensitive and once they are let loose the chances that they will reform when they grow up is very minimal. One major fact is that children will always blame their guardians for neglect in reprimanding them when they were young. In this regard neglect in the moral obligation of parents in disciplining their children impacts negatively in the adult life of these children.

The prevailing situation in the different societies is that parents stand a chance to discipline their children in the case and manner in which they desire. In this regard children presumed to be endangered are not taken away from their homes at all and instead parents are just forewarned.

Although social learning theory is based on the principle of punishment the, department of job and family services misinterpreted it as it is also based on the principles of observation and modeling. The fact that a child was removed out of their home from the first case of endangerment does not allow for modeling or observation at all.

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