

APPENDIX G

A FEW CASE HISTORIES

(Collected from Remand Homes)

A

Problem :

A middle aged widow came to the Superintendent with her son, and complained that her son was in the habit of stealing things, coming late at night, wondering in the company of vagabonds, quarreling with the family members, running away from the school and smoking excessively. Thus he was completely out of control. She sorrowfully declared that though she tried to improve him, she failed.

History :

The boy was twelve years old, with 4' high and having a weight of 54 lbs. He belonged to a poor family and consequently was undersized, dirty, and he was also suffering from skin disease. He was stammerer. He was studying in a primary school, but he was not interested in it. He was fond of smoking and visiting theaters. At

times he was also found gambling. He was the last child of his parents. He was often moving with vagabonds and sometimes did not return to home for tow or three days at a time. Occasionally he worked in the hotels also.

His father was an electrician, who died in an accident. The boy was seven years old at that time. He being the youngest in the family, his father was fondling him too much. The boy had two brothers and one sister with whom he always quarrelled. His eldest brother had separated himself from the family. There was none who could be called educated in that family. After the death of his father the whole burden of maintaining the family fell on his mother. His mother was serving in a hospital and had to remain away from home for the whole day and occasionally for the whole night also.

They lived in a small unventilated room for which they used to pay a rent of Rs.5/- per month. There was no provision for the family group recreation or some such thing in the house. The neighbours were poor, and they were people coming from various castes.

As no body was to guide him and to look after him at home, he lost interest in the family. The father

who fondled him was dead and the mother was away on duty. When she returned from work, she was completely exhausted and so she could not take interest in his activity. On the contrary she used to punish him sometimes. He was spoiled by his friends. He lacked training and guidance both at school and at home.

Office report :

In the Remand Home, it was found that he was normal in his behaviour with all. He did not quarrel with anybody. He had started to take interest in school work. Yet, he pined for the family life, and often desired to go home.

B

Problem :

A boy was quarrelling with the other children at the railway station, and so he was caught by the police and was handed over to the Superintendent of the Remand Home. During the investigation it was traced that he had a grand father.

History :

The boy was 15 years old with a height of 3'-9" and a weight of 50 lbs. His health was weak. He used to run away from the school as well as from the home. He was interested in visiting theatres off and on. He belonged to a Brahmin family and was found begging at the market as well as on the railway platforms and in trains also. He was one and the only child of his parents. But he was neglected by his parents. His old and weak grand father was unable to look after him.

His father was haughty and used to beat his wife unnecessarily for trivial matters. There was a

constant tug-of war between them. Ultimately she was tired of her husband as she was not allowed by her husband to lead a peaceful life. So she left the house. But he chased her wherever she went. The father reported that she had run away with another man, and since then nothing was heard about her. The father loved the boy, but being hot-tempered and of unstable mind, often punished him severely. So the boy also did not like to stay with him. His father was a railway servant, but was dismissed from service, on being found involved in a bribery case. Moreover he used to keep concubine.

The boy was afraid of his father and so did not like to stay with him. He wanted to stay with his grand- father who gave him all sorts of freedom. But the grandfather was unable to maintain him. His grand father was working as a family priest and was sitting near the river both in the morning and in the evening. There he used to perform some kind of religious ceremonies, and thus he earned his livelihood. During his absence from the home, the boy wandered for the whole day, as there was none to look after him and help him.

Office report :

The Superintendent of the Remand Home gave the opinion that his behaviour in the institution was satisfactory. But occasionally he used to pick up quarrels with other children. He was emotionally much disturbed. He craved more and more for mother's love. His life was spoiled because he was the victim of a broken home he had merciless beating from the father and his grand father was unable to maintain him.

C

Problem :

A police man caught a boy who was travelling from Ahmedabad to Baroda without ticket. It was traced that he had a sister. She complained that he was habituated to steal from the house and to run away from the house as well as the school. He was simply uncontrollable. When he was 12 years old, he was undersized, having 3'-8" height and a weight of 54 lbs. He was fond of eating tasteful things and to satisfy his tastes, he used to steal money from the home. His grand father somehow used to tolerate his behaviour, but after his death, there was none to take care of this boy.

His father was a police-man who used to drink beer heavily and was also a regular gambler. He fell in love with a Muslim woman of a low character, married her and left the job. After that nothing was heard about him. His mother lived with his uncle who was also sentenced for 6 months jail. His mother used to lead an immoral life with a man who often beat the boy.

The boy had two sisters who were both married and lived with their husbands. He had also a brother who lived with the mother.

The boy had nobody to look after him after his grand father's death. He did not like the behaviour of his father and mother. He was conscious of the immoral aspects of his parents' characters. His sisters and grand father had cut off the relation with his mother. The boy was devoid of parental love and family life. He liked to study, but he was disturbed because of the broken home and parental neglect. He loved his grand father, but after his death, he lost his last support and became a vagabond.

Office report :

He improved to a large extent in the institution. His behaviour in the certified school was quite satisfactory. He showed a keen interest in study. He was not interested in games. He did not speak much with the other children in the institution. He was quiet and obedient by nature.

D

Problem :

A police man caught one boy who was quarrelling in the market. He used to beg. His maternal uncle was traced after investigation. He complained that nobody was there to look after the boy, while he himself was not in a position to maintain him. The boy was not interested in study as well as him home. He was totally out of control for him.

History :

The boy was ugly and dirty. He was 12 years old, his height was 3'-6" and his weight was 68 lbs. He was a black-smith by cast. He suffered from ear and throat defects. He was not interested in study. He was smoking occasionally and was often quarrelling with other children. He was born illegitimately and was begging and wandering for many hours, even upto late at night.

His father was a casual worker in a factory. He was a gambler, and also a drunkard. He neglected his family. He was caught by the police for drinking and was sentenced. He was quarrelling with his wife and often came late at home. Sometimes he did not return home at all. Finally he deserted his wife. His wife was leading an immoral life with a Parsi. She also occasionally used to drink and gamble. She served as a domestic servant in a Parsi family. She died during pregnancy, perhaps in act of abortion. Her brother was poor and unable to maintain his nephew. They lived in a mud hut near the houses of the lower strata of society.

He was illegitimately born and so none was interested in his welfare. He was totally neglected by all. He was passively allowed to grow into a vagrant child. He took the advantage of his speech defect in begging. He was unable to adjust himself with the other children in the school and in the street, because they were teasing and abusing him.

Office Report :

He was quiet by nature according to the superintendent. His maternal uncle pretended to be a poor man, though he was able enough to look after him. He was completely devoid of parental love. He was emotionally disturbed. He showed interest in craft-work and in games.

E

Problem :

A middle-aged mother brought her step-son to the Superintendent and complained that the son often threatened her with knife, and was beyond her control. He often ran away from the home after stealing money from home. He off and on brought quarrels for his mother to be settled.

History :

The boy was 14 years old, his height was 4' - 6" and weight was 60 lbs. His one eye was defective. He was not interested in study and so he left the school and served in a small factory or occasionally served as a hotel-boy. He was fond of seeing pictures and gambling. He was a regular smoker. He was the third child of his mother who died when he was ten years old. His father died when he was twelve years old.

He belonged to a middle class family and was financially not so sound. His father was an owner of a flour-mill. Though he was weak innhealth, smoking, gambling and drinking were his common vices.

The father married again a young widow after the death of his first wife. His second wife has two children by her former husband. His second wife had illicit relation with another man and she herself used to drink occasionally. After two years of his second marriage he died.

The family lived in an area where quarrelling and fighting were a normal feature. People from various castes lived together in that area. They had their own houses. In part of the house of this family, there was a flour-mill, and the other part was used as their residence. After the death of her husband, the boy's step-mother beat him very often unnecessarily. Often she turned him out of the house.

He had strong complaints to make against his step-mother. He reported that she treated him very badly, beat him severely, and showed preference for her own sons. Her complaints about him were totally baseless, as he said. On the contrary he alleged that she had no intention to give him his share of his father's property. Moreover, he

hated the man who had illicit relations with her. From his point of view, that man was the root cause of trouble, for him in the house. So he wanted to take revenge.

Office Report :

He ran away twice from the institution, but on both the occasions he returned. He worked well under supervision. He liked to attend laundry work. He was hard-working and obedient.