

Case 1

S is a 15 year old boy from low socio-economic background. Father has severe alcohol abuse due to which there is domestic violence and parental marital conflict at home; the child was also continually physically abused by his father. The child was regular at school until 8th grade. Then he came in contact with a group of boys in the neighbourhood/ school, he started missing school to hang out with his peers. They would steal wires from newly constructed buildings and use the money for food; they also engaged in substance abuse, mainly beedi-smoking and solution. Eventually, the child came into conflict with the law when he, along with his group of friends were caught stealing a vehicle.

Case 2:

V is a 16 year old boy from a low socio-economic background. His father passed away when he was 12 years old and his mother is a rag-picker, living off the streets. Despite severe deprivation and difficulties at home, the child was given whatever he asked for, especially by his father, because he was a male child. After his father's death, V discontinued school, and started hanging out with a group of older boys in his neighbourhood and was involved in gambling, cannabis smoking and use of solution. He also had anger/ aggression issues, usually under the influence of substance. On one of these occasions, he assaulted another person with a knife, due to which he came into conflict with law.

Case 3

T came into conflict with the law for stealing (mobile phone theft) —this is his 4th time in the observation home. He is a school drop-out, having attended school until 6th grade, after which he was at home for 2 years, not gainfully occupied. Since then, he has been working occasionally, when he 'needed money' but not on regular or continuous basis. He has various long-standing behaviour problems-- substance abuse, lack of motivation, inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity, (thus confirming the ADHD diagnosis). They caused him to get into trouble at school and at home, wherein his father has often physically abused him. All attempts at 'disciplining' at home did not work. About 1.5 years ago, his mother passed away (child is unaware what type of illness she suffered) and the loss and grief he experienced caused him to re-start alcohol use (which he had temporarily quit).

Case 4

S is a 16-year old boy from a low socio-economic background, and very difficult financial circumstances. His father has a heart problem. The child dropped out of school to work as a day labourer in construction, and support the family. The child happened to tell one of his friends that his father was very ill and the mother was exceedingly anxious about gathering resources to arrange for the necessary medical treatments. His friend asked him to meet with him later that day, saying he would be able to help with some money. When the child went to the place of meeting, he was not aware of his friend's plans and was at first shocked when his friend took him to an empty house and broke into it. However, the child then helped his friend search the house for money and valuables which they split between them. The child went home and gave his mother the money for his father's treatment. Later, the police, who had caught the friend, also came and arrested the child for robbery.

Case 5

P is a 14 year old child from a single parent family. He never went to school and was a child labourer. He usually spent time with his neighbourhood friends who were mostly older than him. One time, they had shown him pornographic videos after which the child was curious about sexual relationships. The next day, the child took one of the young boys in his neighbourhood, an 8 year old, to an abandoned building nearby and touched the young child inappropriately in his genitals, following which he came into conflict with the law when the young child complained to his parents.

Case 6

B was a 17 year old boy who was one of 6 people who gang-raped a female student in a private bus in which she was travelling with a male friend. The woman died from her injuries thirteen days later while undergoing emergency treatment. The Delhi Police described the juvenile as the most brutal of the six accused. Bhura was ten or eleven when he left. It's a family of seven, with Bhura being the oldest child. The father is a psychiatric patient. The daughters earn Rs 50 a day as farm labourers when there is work. Bhura's mother saw him briefly twice or thrice in the last six-seven years after he went to the city, as a boy, to find work. His mother remembers the time he was born only vaguely. A village elder strains to remember him. Bhura was a good boy says another villager by which he seems to mean he remembers nothing particularly bad about him. The man who owned the dhaba remembers him as a boy who didn't have a mobile phone, was not into girls or cricket or movies. His jobs were the jobs of a poor boy with no education – bus cleaner, dishwasher, helper to a milkman, dhaba assistant.

Case 7

H is a 15 year old boy from an upper middle class family. He went to an expensive private school where he was in romantic relationship with his classmate. After some months, the girl no longer wanted to be with him, told him so and started going out with another boy. H was very angry. He hacked into the girl's e-mail account wherein he found that she had some nude photographs of herself (that she was sending to her new boyfriend). The child sent those photographs to everyone in his class (including the girl). The girl's parents lodged a complaint to the school and police after which the child was charged under POCSO.

Case 8

M is a 17 year old boy from middle socio-economic family. He had completed 10th standard and started working in a garage. He was in a mutually consenting, romantic relationship with a 16 year old girl who lived in his neighbourhood. The two families however opposed the relationship and fearing that they would be separated, they ran away to another town and 'got married' in a temple and lived together for 6 months (the boy was working in someone's estate). The parents lodged a police complaint and when the boy and girl were found, the boy was charged with kidnap and rape (POCSO).

Case 9

N is a 16 year old boy in a mutually consenting romantic relationship with a girl in his class. They had already made long term plans of marriage. The girl told N that she was afraid that her parents may get her married to someone else later. So, she suggested to him to take nude pictures together and send them to their parents—so that 'they will have to get us married'. N was not sure this was the right thing to do. But when he refused, the girl said: 'if you love me, and you really want to

marry me, you would do this...else, it means you don't...and I will commit suicide'. So, N finally gave in and took nude pictures and sent them to their parents, following which the girl's parents complained and he was charged under POCSO.

Case 10

Y is a 15 year old child from a single-parent family; his father (who died) was an alcoholic and there was domestic violence at home, also directed at the child. He decided to drop out of school and started to engage heavily in substance abuse—mainly alcohol and solution. He started to steal, along with his peers, in order to procure substances. He had a system with his peers, of sharing the substances they managed to procure. During one of these times, there was a conflict. The child overheard his two peers plotting to kill him; so, when they fell asleep, he decided to hurt them really badly so that they would fear him. But in doing so, he ended up killing them. He came into conflict with the law for murder.

Case 11

V is from a middle class family with no significant family problems (i.e. no domestic violence/parental marital conflict/financial stress). The child has no intellectual or developmental disabilities nor does he have any emotional problems; he has had no difficult experiences of abuse and trauma either. He has a long history of behaviour problems relating to stealing, aggression, truancy and other rule breaking behaviours as well as substance abuse (namely alcohol, tobacco and cannabis). He had been bothered frequently by an older adolescent—who was known for bullying children and youth in the neighbourhood. Thus, V decided to 'finish him' and one day, under influence of alcohol (which he drank in order to have 'more courage'), killed the adolescent, following which he came into conflict with the law.