

Psychosocial & Mental Health of Children in Conflict with the Law (Age 16 to 18 Years)
Preliminary Individual Assessment Report for Juvenile Justice Board

Community Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service Project
Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS-DWCD

As per the JJ Act 2015, the objective of the preliminary assessment of a child, is to 'evaluate the role of the child in the alleged offence, as well as his mental condition and background'. In keeping with this, the psychosocial and mental health assessment report provides information on the child's mental condition and background, namely the developmental level of the child, family history and relationships, school and education, involvement in child labour, peer relationships and experiences of trauma and abuse; it also provides information on any mental health disorders and developmental disabilities that the child may have. Finally, the report makes recommendations for treatment and rehabilitation interventions for the child. The report presents the above-said information using the framework proposed by JJ Act 2015 i.e. whether the child has the mental and physical capacity to commit the offence, the circumstances of the offence committed, whether the child knew the consequences of the offence.

This assessment report is dated:

Name of Child: K

Age: 17 years

Sex: Male

Place of Origin:

A. Mental & Physical Capacity to Commit Offence

The child's ability to make social decisions and judgments are compromised due to:

Life skills deficits (emotional dysregulation/ difficulty coping with peer pressure/ assertiveness & negotiation skills/problem-solving/ conflict-resolution/ decision-making)	✓ (gap in Assertive skills)
Neglect and poor supervision by family	NA
Experiences of abuse and trauma	NA
Substance abuse problems	NA
Intellectual disability	NA
Mental health disorder/ developmental disability	NA
Any other (specify):	NA
No treatment/ interventions provided so far to address the above issues	✓

B. Circumstances of Offence

Family History:

No history of parental marital conflict/ domestic violence/illness/alcoholism in the family context.

No significant family issues were identified. Child is happy at home and has good relationship with his parents.

School History:

His school attendance has been regular and his academic performance average; currently studying 2nd PUC, commerce. Child is keen to peruse his education

Child Labour:

Alongside school, he worked for few months on railway platform supplying water out of his own interest. There were no significant problems in his work place.

Peer Relationships:

He is a child who spends most of his time at home with his siblings, all of whom he enjoys close relationships with. He has few friends and there is no evidence of adverse peer influence (with regard to substance use/ rule-breaking/inappropriate sexual behaviour); he also likes interacting with younger children/ his siblings and tends to be nurturing of them.

Abuse and Trauma:

None

Mental Health Disorder/ Developmental Disability:

None

Based on the above, the assessment concluded that the child has no developmental delays and disabilities, nor any other psychiatric problems that indicate lack of sensitivity or prosocial skills.

C. Child's Knowledge of Consequences of Committing the Offence

Child's Understanding of Social/ Interpersonal and Legal Consequences of Committing Offence:

The child has no anger/ aggression issues; in fact, he is observed to be very gentle and soft-spoken, of a serious nature and largely concerned about his mother's/ family's socio-economic situation and his academics. The child also reported that he would never consider an act of violence on anyone.

D. Other Observations & Issues

He has been of easy and friendly/ social temperament since early childhood.

The child has no anger/ aggression issues; in fact, he is observed to be very gentle and soft-spoken, of a serious nature and largely concerned about his mother's/ family's socio-economic situation and his academics. The child is highly motivated and has clear future orientation/ plans

E. Recommendations

Given that there is no particular vulnerability in terms of temperament and personality or developmental disability/ psychopathology, there appears to also be no grounds for counselling or mental health interventions.

However, some discussions were had with the child regarding assertive skills (life skill issues) which was deficient in the child. Thus, it may be in the child's best interest to return to his family and continue his education(especially as he is in the 2nd PUC and is a motivated student).

Again, thank you for your referral; we are, as always, happy to assist vulnerable children, in particular children in conflict with the law, and the systems working with them.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

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