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Gang Violence and Gang Culture in Bangladesh: A Phenomenon Dangerous for the Youth Group

HOMAIRA NOWSHIN URMI¹ AND AHMAD RAJIB CHOWDHURY²

ABSTRACT

Modern-day gangs have become a pervasive menace to social communities throughout the nation. Gang culture has become a challenge that viciously strains local resources by gradual growth in smaller communities which was once considered mostly an urban phenomenon. Now-a-days it has been reported that many crimes in large cities as well as in rural areas has been conducted by youth gangs which is a great concern for the promising youth. So, this article presents an assembling of existing research on youth gangs, including the reasons behind increasing the tendency of youth joining gangs and the risk factors. The author also scrutinizes how the members of the society can begin to consider their problems related to youth gangs and make available solutions by preventive activities and intervention. This article also tries to find out effective measures to get rid of this gang violence and youth delinquency.

Keywords: Phenomenon, Youth Gang, Gang Violence, Gang Culture, Delinquency.

I. INTRODUCTION

Gang violence in Bangladesh has become widespread since the mid-20th century. Contemporary gangs which are variously known as youth or delinquent gangs and street or criminal gangs have become a prevalent threat to communities generally local in nature.³ Most gangs are integrally local whether engrained in our localities or access to economic opportunity.⁴ Even most of the time large-scale gangs with reputed nationwide networks fascinate local youth and take gain of local opportunities to carry out gang activities.⁵ Therefore it is badly necessary to take some effective initiatives in order to eradicate this kind of issue.

The spread of teenage gang culture in society has become a new cause of concern among all. Some recent incidents of crime and violence in the country involving mostly teenagers and

¹ Author is an Assistant Professor at Department of law, Premier University, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

² Author is an Assistant Professor at Department of law, Premier University, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

³ Velarde Albertj, *Do Delinquents Really Drift?*, 18 The British Journal of Criminology 23-29 (1978).

⁴ The Bureau of Justice Assistance, *Addressing Community Gang Problems: A Practical Guide* (US Department of Justice, May 1998).

⁵ *Id.*

young adults is becoming an emerging problem of the society. Besides large cities in Bangladesh like Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, many small cities, towns, and rural areas are undergoing gang related problems now-a-days. Over the time, many teenage gangs have become active in different parts of the country who are mostly involved in various crimes like eve-teasing, mugging, drug abuse etc. and most of the members are between the age of 14 to 19. Some recent murder incidents and gang fights by several gangs shed light a new concern of our society —following the form of the western cultures, teenage and youth gangs are taking shape in Bangladesh. At least 50-60 gangs are active now in the capital city of Bangladesh and 70-90 gangs are active over the country according to the law enforcing agencies and these gang members usually use same type of haircuts, same type of clothing or same tattoos in a particular part of their bodies, ride motorbikes, paint graffiti in walls of their locality. They involve in fights in the name of seniority and sometimes these clashes turn into major issues. This culture has become an international phenomenon now and tendency to attend the center of power attracts youth to join gangs. Breakdown of the society and lack of entertainments drive youths to anti-social activities.

Controllers such as guardians or supervisors, who are acting in the best interest of potential offenders, ought to attempt to preclude them from committing offences. To reduce and prevent future gang related problems from society it is necessary to categorize the people responsible for victims, offenders, and places and involving them in the expansion of plans and programs.

This article is based on both primary and secondary literatures including books, scholarly articles, statutes, rules, periodicals, reports, other internet sources etc. Part II of this article deals with the concept of gang culture and gang violence and their causes. Part III sheds lights on the consequences of joining of gangs by youths. Part IV emphasizes on the legal provisions available in Bangladesh regarding gang violence. Part V discusses some case studies where youth gangs got involved. Part VI offers recommendations for prevention of gang violence in Bangladesh. Finally, a brief conclusion wraps up the discussion.

II. CONCEPT OF GANG CULTURE AND GANG VIOLENCE

Gang is regarded as an act of antisocial behavior, which effects the quality of life of the individual, his or her community and society at large.⁶ The term ‘Gang’ is not strictly defined by law which literally indicates misdeed, guilt or neglect of duty. This term is repeatedly used to embrace an extensive range of behaviour, from minor and sporadically more severe crime.⁷

⁶ Md. Abidur Rahman, *Juvenile Delinquency in the Judicial System of Bangladesh*, ‘Child Delinquency in Bangladesh’ (July 27, 2022, 10:44 AM) https://www.academia.edu/8141532/child_delinquency_in_bangladesh.

⁷ *Id.*

It signifies those behavior which contradicts to the legal or moral values of society.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, “Gang, also called street gang or youth gang, a group of persons, usually youths, who share a common identity and who generally engage in criminal behaviour. In contrast to the criminal behaviour of other youths, the activities of gangs are characterized by some level of organization and continuity over time. There is no consensus on the exact definition of a gang, however, and scholars have debated whether the definition should expressly include involvement in crime. Some gangs, but not all, have strong leadership, formalized rules, and extensive use of common identifying symbols. Many gangs associate themselves with a particular geographic area or type of crime, and some use graffiti as a form of nonverbal communication.”⁸

The most common features of gang members are 98% of them are male, they are aged between 12 to 25 years of age, majority of them are usually concentrated in large cities, most of them are absentees or have been left out from school, they tend to be engaged in a wide range of criminal activities, highest prevalence of gangs found in areas with high levels of deprivation, unemployment and lone parent families.⁹ In simpler words it may be said that gang culture and gang violence is a form of behaviour or rather misbehaviour or deviation from the generally accepted norms of conduct in the society.¹⁰

(A) Different types of Gangs

There exists several types of youth gangs. The Japanese Yakuza, The Chinese Triads, the Italian Mafia are organised criminal gangs, which have youth street-gang affiliates and aspirants.¹¹ Among them the most ill-reputed criminal gangs are Mafias mainly deal with racketeering, overseeing illicit agreements and activities like gambling, loan sharking, drug-trafficking, prostitution, fraud etc.¹² Latin American gangs are known as Narcos and they mainly deal with drug trade.¹³ Another form of gangs are Street gangs which are mainly known for their aggressiveness and street fighting formed by young group of people in city areas.¹⁴ Biker gangs refer to motorcycle clubs who conduct several illegal activities like drug dealing, extortion, eve teasing, robbery, carrying and using firearms etc. Such gang members often fight with

⁸ Glen D Curry & Scott H. Decker, *Gang*, Britannica (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc 2020) (July 27, 2022, 9:05 PM), <https://www.britannica.com/topic/gang-crime>.

⁹ Ahmed M.B. & M.R. Islam, *Treatment of Juvenile Offender: Bangladesh Perspective*, 4 ASA University Review 274-285 (2010).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Irving A Spergel, *Youth Gangs: Continuity and Change*, 12 Crime and Justice 171-275 (1990).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Curry, *supra* note 8.

¹⁴ *Id.*

formidable weapons and ride motorbikes recklessly to demonstrate their muscle power and strength in the area. Inside prisons and correctional facilities prison gangs are made for common defense and entrenchment.¹⁵

(B) Reasons for joining Gangs

There are many reasons for what children and young people join gangs. Children and young people associated with gangs are in general extremely vulnerable. Children may join gangs for protection from other gangs, groups or peers, to feel accepted or a sense of belonging, for a sense of identity, for respect, because of siblings, family members or partners are gang members, for excitement, for status amongst peers and others, because they feel like it's the 'norm', for friends and acceptance, for potential sexual partners, for financial gain and other rewards, out of fear, intimidation or threats, as a result of being groomed or recruited by gang leaders.

The negative consequences of social and economic development, in particular economic crisis, political instability, and the weakening of major institutions are the major reasons behind the gang culture and gang violence in the society. The chance of involvement in criminal activity among the young people of the society increases because of socio-economic instability, unemployment and low incomes.

The development of delinquent behavior in the young people are associated with consistent pattern of family risk factors. Lack of proper parental supervision, ongoing parental conflict, neglect and several types of abuse i.e. physical or emotional are considered as family risk factors. Children likely to not have respect for law and social norms whose parents think similarly. Children who have weak attachment with parents and families tends to get engage in delinquent activities. Children who are victims of abuse or neglect are more likely to join gangs.¹⁶ Forms of violent victimization outside the home, such as assaults, also increase youth's risk of joining a gang.¹⁷ Youth, particularly boys, who experience negative life events also are more likely to join gangs.¹⁸ These events include failing a course at school, being suspended from school, breaking up with a boyfriend/girlfriend, having a fight or problem with a friend, and the death of someone close.

A person's peer group strongly influences a decision to commit crime. Children of poor families

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Terence P Thornberry & M D. Krohn (eds), *Taking Stock of Delinquency: An Overview of Findings from Contemporary Longitudinal Studies*, 4(2) QUT Law Review 332 (2003).

¹⁷ Terrance J Taylor, *The Boulevard Ain't Safe for Your Kids . . . Youth Gang Membership and Violent Victimization* 24 Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice 125 (2008).

¹⁸ Terence *supra* note 16.

fall into the trap of criminal gangs to earn status and material gain. Delinquent behavior often occurs in social settings in which the norms for acceptable behavior have broken down. Under such circumstances many of the common rules that deter people from committing socially unacceptable acts may lose their relevance for some members of society. A minor who has a lower intellect and who does not receive a proper education is more susceptible to become involved in delinquent conduct. The growing industrialization and urbanization gave rise to the problem of gang culture and gang violence. Movies and TV dramas have popularized the techniques of heroes which promotes justice through the physical elimination of enemies. By this way media plays a role to promote gang culture among young people. Young people who watch violence tend to behave more aggressively or violently, particularly when provoked.

People who migrate to cities and take shelter in slum areas, pavements and streets remain deprived of basic necessities. While parents go out to earn their living, leaving their children uncared and unattended, politicians and many other people may use these children (popularly known as tokai) in dawn to dusk strike, and the children either picket or ransack cars or glasses of shops.¹⁹

III. CONSEQUENCES OF JOINING GANGS

Several studies revealed that gangs tend to cluster in high-crime areas and economically deprived regions²⁰ and the community conditions have a greater influence over the children of these areas. In this situation the criminal activities, illegal behavior, use of firearms and drugs among youths may arise in these neighborhoods.²¹

Unfortunately, in most distressed neighborhoods, schools, churches, and other community agencies and institutions do not provide adequate gang prevention and intervention services.²²

In the worst conditions, “collective efficacy” may be lacking.²³

Because of their tender age sometimes the member of gangs commit different kinds of criminal activities like consuming drugs, going to brothel etc. These type of activities happens due to surrounding atmosphere of slum area, and smuggling zone and they cannot even understand the

¹⁹ Kamrul H. Nazmul, *Mainstreaming Restorative Justice System: Bangladesh Perspective*, Academia.edu (July 15, 2022, 7:08 PM), https://www.academia.edu/37203528/Mainstreaming_Restorative_Justice_System_Bangladesh_Perspective.

²⁰ David C Pyrooz, A. M. Fox & S. H. Decker, *Racial and Ethnic Heterogeneity, Economic Disadvantage, and Gangs: A Macro-Level Study of Gang Membership in Urban America*, 27 *Justice Quarterly* 867, (2010).

²¹ James C Howell & A Egley, *Moving Risk Factors into Developmental Theories of Gang Membership*, 3 *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* 334, (2005).

²² Frederic M Thrasher, *The Gang: A Study of 1,313 Gangs in Chicago*, University of Chicago Press (2d ed. 2013).

²³ Jeffrey D Morenoff, R J Sampson & S W Raudenbush, *Neighborhood Inequality, Collective Efficacy, and the Spatial Dynamics of Urban Violence*, 39 *Criminology* 517 (2001).

extensive significances of their activities due to their young age.

With the impact of modernity, technological development and global connectivity Bangladesh is passing a transitional phase from a sociological point of view. The society of Bangladesh is experiencing numerous bizarre situations in this transitional period which are far-off to its traditional nature. Some major issues in this transitional phase are use of narcotics by youth, non-traditional sexual relationship, passion for pornography, increasing rape, particularly of children, murder by family members etc.

The dimensions of crime and deviant behavior in many areas are also seeing change, with one alarming issue being the rise of gang culture among the urban youth. Recently in different urban neighbourhoods, some gangs having over 40 to 50 members engage in various criminal activities murder, rape, assault, bullying, reckless bike racing, hooliganism and many other crime and these gangs are named as ‘Disco Boyz’, ‘Nine Star’, ‘Love Lane’, ‘Bangla Group’ etc.²⁴ There exists almost 50 gangs in Dhaka and neighbouring districts those are involved in several crimes ranging from assault, extortion, snatching, drug trade, sexual abuse, murder in fight with the opponents according to police and locals.²⁵ Four young member of teen gang were arrested on October 6, 2020 for posting a video of raping two girls online from Ashulia, Dhaka.²⁶ According to the local people there exists several active youth in Savar and Ashulia zones involved with many criminal activities but the police remains unwilling to take any action against these youth gangs.²⁷ Local alleged that the political leaders of the specific areas have been patronising these teenage gangs to establish their supremacy in the locality and for this reason youth gangs get protection from political leaders as well as from police. The former Director of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) legal and media wing mentioned about the number of arrested gang members in 2019 from various zones in Dhaka which is around 190 and legal action was taken against them.²⁸ The age range of the arrested gang members was 14/15 to 20/22.²⁹ A statistical report of Jagannath University disclosed some frightening figure about gang culture which stated that around 3,500 teen gang members had been active between the

²⁴ Desk Report, *The Menace That are Teen Gangs*, *Dhaka Tribune*, July 7 2021, at <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2021/07/07/teen-gangs-in-dhaka-how-close-you-live-to-them>.

²⁵ Shamsad Mortuza, *Street violence and gang culture 2.0*, *The Daily Star*, June 26, 2021, at <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/street-violence-and-gang-culture-20-2118065>.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Arifur R Rabbi, *Over 50 teen-gangs active in Dhaka*, *Dhaka Tribune*, August 29, 2019, at <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2019/08/29/over-50-teen-gangs-active-in-dhaka>.

²⁹ *Id.*

years of 1990 to 2000 which increased up to 4882 from 2000 to 2010.³⁰ Though the next statistics is not available a rough estimate suggests that the number of gang members may have increased between 8000 to 1000 and around 50 to 60 youth gangs are active in Dhaka zone.³¹ Around 20 to 25 youth gangs are active with their criminal activities and in Chattogam, Khulna and Sylhet and other localities. These teenagers are often exposed to violence.

IV. LEGAL PROVISION REGARDING GANG VIOLENCE IN BANGLADESH

Crime is a serious concern of contemporary societies, which results widespread effect on the peaceful existence. The law enforcement agencies are struggling with controlling and preventing the challenges of crimes. There is no law which closely defined the term 'gang' or gang crime or gang violence but there exists laws contain provisions regarding the offences committed by the gangs and about the child gang members legal protection in different statutes.

(A) The Penal Code, 1860³²

It is pertinent to mention that there is no comprehensive law regarding gang crime in Bangladesh. The Penal Code, 1860 is the main criminal substantive law that mentions the punishments for different crimes. In this code different types of punishment exist those are death penalty, life imprisonment, simple or rigorous imprisonment, fine etc. People who are the members of different gangs and commit crime under gangs, are punished under this code.

Section 34 and section 149 deals about the joint liability of several persons when a criminal act is done by a person in furtherance of common intention or common object of all. In such way the members of gangs might be liable for their criminal activities for having common intention or common object even if all the members do not participate in the act.

(B) The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012³³:

Section 7 of this Act clearly specify that if several members of a gang commit the offence of human trafficking in furtherance of the common intention of all members of that gang, every member of that gang shall be liable for committing the offence of human trafficking and shall be punished with death penalty or imprisonment for life or an imprisonment not less than 7 (seven) years of rigorous imprisonment and with fine not less than taka 5 (five) lac.

³⁰ AKM Atiqur Rahman, *Teen Gangs: Growing Threat to Society*, Daily Sun, July 2, 2021, at <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/562148/Teen-Gangs:-Growing-Threat-to-Society>.

³¹ *Id.*

³² Penal Code 1860, No. 45, Acts of Parliament, 1860 (Bangladesh).

³³ Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012, No. 3, Acts of Parliament, 2012 (Bangladesh).

(C) *The Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000/ Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000 (amended in 2003)*³⁴:

The Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000 was enacted as a safeguard for women and children from heinous crimes such as rape, grievous injury etc. This act makes penal provisions for the offence of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. It makes provisions of capital punishment for the offence of rape according to section 9 (amended in 2020). As most of the gang members are involved in committing the offences like rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment, this act could be a help to control and prevent their criminal activities against women and children.

(D) *The Narcotics Control Act 2018*³⁵:

The Narcotics Control Act, 2018 has been enacted with the provision of death sentence or imprisonment for life as punishment for producing, trading, and using 200 grams or more of yaba, or more than 25 grams of heroin and cocaine. Gangs are the primary distributors of illegal drugs and involved in drug smuggling. The trend of drug consumption is high in teenagers and young people and the most of the gang members fall in this addict section. This Act could be a help prevent the drug related activities of gangs.

(E) *The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898*³⁶

The Code of Criminal Procedure provides for the provisions for trial of juveniles which can be used for the trial of juvenile gang offenders. Section 29B of the code deals with the jurisdiction in the case of juveniles which states that any offence, other than one punishable with death or imprisonment for life, committed by any person who is under the age of 15 years may be tried by Chief Judicial Magistrate or Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or by any Magistrate specially empowered by the Government.

(F) *The Prisons Act, 1894*³⁷

Section 27 of the Prisons Act of 1894 provides that the prisoner who is under the age of 21 years shall be kept in separate prison from the other prisoners. This provision could protect youth prisoners from physical or sexual violence or psychological injuries.

(G) *The Children Act of 2013*³⁸

³⁴ Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 2000, No. 8, Acts of Parliament, 1860 (Bangladesh).

³⁵ Narcotics Control Act, 2018, No. 63, Acts of Parliament, 2018 (Bangladesh).

³⁶ Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, No. 5, Acts of Parliament, 1898 (Bangladesh).

³⁷ Prisons Act, 1894, No. 9, Acts of Parliament, 1894 (Bangladesh).

³⁸ Children Act, 2013, No. 24, Acts of Parliament, 2013 (Bangladesh).

The Children Act is a law for child gang offenders who get arrested during or after committing crimes as gang members and their treatment. It deals with both children in need of protection as well as children in conflict with the law. It deals with custody, protection and treatment of children and trial and punishment of youthful offenders.

It states that, a child shall not be sentenced to death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment.³⁹

But the court may make a judgment of imprisonment and send a child to prison if he is found to have committed serious offence and the provided punishment is not sufficient according to the court or the court thinks the child cannot be sent to a certified institute for treatment as he is disorderly or of immoral character. When a child is sentenced to imprisonment, he or she shall not be allowed to associate with any adult in the prison.⁴⁰ When the child is charged with an offence of murder, rape, dacoity, robbery or drug-dealing or any other serious offence then on his attaining the age of 18 if the case is still under trial or a child is already 18 he may be transferred by the Child Development Centre to the Central or District Jail subject to approval of the Children's Court.⁴¹

a. Arrest and Bail of Child member of gangs under Children Act, 2013

The Children Act, 2013 states that child under the age of 9 years cannot be arrested under any circumstances.⁴² This bar is made stronger in section 44(2), which specifies that a child shall not be arrested or detained under any law relating to preventive detention. After arrest, if a child is not released nor referred to diversion nor brought before any court immediately, the 'Child Affairs Police Officer' (CAPO) may release the child on bail with or without conditions or surety under the supervision of the child's parents or, in their absence, foster carer or legal guardian or members of his extended family, or probation officer. In granting bail the CAPO shall not consider whether the offence alleged is bailable or non-bailable. The child shall not be released on bail if the offence alleged is serious or heinous or to be released on bail would be contrary to the best interest of the child or if there is apprehension that upon release on bail the child might come in contact with any notorious criminal or might be exposed to moral risk, or that the ends of justice will be hampered. Where the child is not released on bail, the CAPO shall take steps to produce the child before the nearest Children's Court within 24 hours. When the child is produced before the Children's Court, the court shall either release him on bail or

³⁹ *Id.* sec 33 (1).

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.* sec 34 (3).

⁴² *Id.* sec 43.

order for his custody/detention in a safe home or a Child Development Centre.⁴³

V. SOME CASE STUDY RELATING TO GANG VIOLENCE

(A) Adnan murder case:

On January 6, 2017, the members of a local teenage gang Nine Star were attacked by another local teenage gang, Disco Boys Uttara, Dhaka. A member of the gang Nine Star Adnan was assaulted during the attack. He was critically injured during the incident and later died in the hospital while undergoing treatment.⁴⁴

(B) Rifat Sharif murder case:

On June 26, 2019, Rifat Sharif, a 25 years old internet service provider was attacked in front of Barguna Government College in broad daylight by Sabbir Hossain Nayan alias Nayan Bond and Rifat Farazi, along with some others with formidable weapons in front of his wife Aysha Siddiqa Minni. Rifat got fatally injured and after he was taken to the hospital declared dead by the doctors. A video clip of the attack went viral on social media.⁴⁵ According to locals, Nayan Bond kept committing crimes under the shelter of politically powerful leaders in Borguna district. He created a gang through social media named '007' where he used to plan various crimes including Rifat's murder with his gang members. Locals also said Rifat Farazi, who is a close relative of local political leader, used to lead a gang involved in drug trade, robbery and other crimes in the town.

(C) Murder of Mohsin Ali:

On September 4, 2019, a ninth grader schoolboy named Mohsin Ali was stabbed while two rival gang clashed in Mohammadpur, Dhaka.. Mohsid died and three of his friends named Rubel, Rakib and Sabbir got injured and were admitted in hospital after the fight.⁴⁶

(D) Arafat murder case:

Yasin Arafat, a boy of 16 years of age was killed in a fight between two gang named 'Love Lane and 'Bangla Group' on July 1, 2019 in Hajaribagh, Dhaka. Yasin was a member of 'Love

⁴³ *Id.* s 52-53.

⁴⁴ Tribune Desk, *Schoolboy Adnan murder indictment hearing July 22*, Dhaka Tribune, July 13, 2019) at <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/court/2019/06/13/schoolboy-adnan-murder-indictment-hearing-july-22>.

⁴⁵ Prothom Alo English Desk, *Verdict in Barguna Rifat murder case today*, Prothom Alo, September 30, 2020, at <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/verdict-in-barguna-rifat-murder-case-today>.

⁴⁶ A.R.Rabbi, *Student stabbed to death in Dhaka*, Dhaka Tribune, September 5, 2019 at <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2019/09/05/student-stabbed-to-death-in-dhaka>

Lane' gang.⁴⁷

(E) Adil murder case:

Another boy of 17 years of age, Anmain Adil, was attacked and stabbed brutally by four members of a local gang 'Eagle Group' in the Karnaphuli Paper House area of Safari upazilla, in Cumilla on May 14, 2019. Adil's death was caused due to the incident.⁴⁸

VI. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT GANG VIOLENCE AND GANG CULTURE IN BANGLADESH

It is challenging to prevent youth from joining local gangs and there are several aspects to this challenge. Most of the programs to prevent this challenge have not shown remarkable results. Children and youngsters try to find a place where they are accepted socially and find it in the streets and thus they join gangs. Most of them experience various risk factors. In socially and economically deprived large cities many youth join gangs as a natural process. The gang may already be there, in their neighborhood, and their friends and relatives often belong to it. The gang's promises of protection gradually envelop these youth.

Lack of awareness against gang culture among parents or community leaders or in school is another major problem of spread of teenage gang culture. According to a national study, among 10 percent of schools with the highest student gang involvement rates, only 18 percent of head teachers recognized that gangs were a problem in their schools.

Regardless of impediments, social communities can prevent youth from joining gangs by taking various measures. Primarily the prevention strategy needs to change the experiences that drive children and adolescents into gangs. The core social institutions like schools and families which sometimes let youth down in the early years of their lives need to be strengthened to prevent them from joining gangs.

Moreover, communities must provide interventions for youth at high risk for delinquency and gang involvement early in life, specifically targeting areas where gang problems are serious and more permanent.⁴⁹ For effective implementation, delinquency and crime reduction programs that target children and adolescents must follow with high fidelity to the requirements of the

⁴⁷ Saugato Bosu, *Teen gang culture new cause of concern*, The Independent, September 8, 2019, at <https://www.theindependentbd.com/post/214581>.

⁴⁸ Correspondent Report, *Teenager murdered by 'teenagers' gang' in Cumilla*, New Age, May 14, 2019 at <https://www.newagebd.net/article/72401/teenager-murdered-by-%E2%80%98teenagers%E2%80%99-gang%E2%80%99-in-cumilla>.

⁴⁹ The National Crime Prevention Centre, *Youth Gang Involvement: What Are the Risk Factors?* Public Safety Canada, (May, 13, 2022, 4:34 PM), <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/yth-gng-nvlvmnt/index-en.aspx>.

original model and target high-risk offenders.⁵⁰ Moreover, no programs have been developed specifically to prevent gangs from emerging.⁵¹ In the meantime, to prevent youth from joining gangs, communities must employ multiple strategies and services.⁵² Such as:

- To promote social and economic policies that support positive youth development.
- To address high risk factors for joining gangs.
- To produce positive social environments through community, family and service organizations.
- To make available training for parents and teachers to deal with disruptive and delinquent youth.
- To decrease conflicts among youths and to expand community-level monitoring of youth.
- To provide special care for students who perform poorly in school and to involve students in extra-curricular activities.
- To provide gang awareness programs and counselling for students

VII. CONCLUSION

It is alarming and matter of great concern that teenagers around the country are becoming gradually more uncontrolled. Though gang culture was once regarded as an urban problem, it has spread through all over the country. A significant number of young people are getting involved in wrongdoings by forming gangs in their localities. They engage in trading and consuming drugs, display their power with firearms and local weapons, frequently engage in turf wars over minor issues, even do not bother to kill the members of the opponent gang members. They are making harm to their lives as well as their families are suffering in this manner. Parents must monitor their children's activities on a regular basis. To deal with this gang related problems educational reforms are also required. Law enforcing agencies should be more watchful against the gang activities. More importantly, politicians who patronage gangs for their personal gains must be held responsible for their acts. Communities should embark on a systematic assessment of the troubling behavior that local youth display before developing a plan of action. This article has provided user-friendly tools to assist in such an assessment, on which communities can base a tailored and appropriate action plan.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *Id.*

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