The Interplay Between Social Harm and Education: Toward Preventing Societal Detriment

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ABSTRACT

The Interplay Between Social Harm and Education: Toward Preventing Societal Damages seeks the complex relationship between each other, by supporting the role of education in preventing and reducing societal problems. Social harm includes a wide vision of behaviors and conditions that cause harm to individuals, communities, and as well as to societies. It could manifest in various forms, such as violence, mental health issues, crime, substance abuse, and social exclusion. Or in a simple term, those actions which are considered both illegal and morally disgraceful in society. Education centers help as powerful tools for addressing social harm by developing personal growth, promoting social unity, and empowering individuals to make positive choices, and if we look into the triangle of home, educational institutions, and society as a fundamental component of the teaching and learning process we will discover a dynamic interplay between these three realms that shapes and boosts individual growth and collective knowledge. This study searches through the key and considerably discussed realm of social harm within the disciplines of sociology and education, with a particular focus on the interplay between these two domains. Central to these discussions are inquiries into the meaning and the nature of social harms, the educational objectives aimed at reducing social harm, and the principles, methodologies, as well as educational approaches employed in reducing these societal problems.

*Keywords***:** Educational Environments, Educational Methods**,** Injuries, Prevention Methods, Social harm

Introduction

The phenomenon of social harm represents a remarkable concern, constituting a focal point for challenges that directly impact the foundational structure of society, and mostly Issues such as addiction, marginalization, negative influences of friends, divorce, etc... contribute to its effects on the societal framework and its components (Fazli, 2016). Social pathology appears for the systematic examination and clarification of disorders, anomalies, and detriments. This

article delves into the exploration of their origins, preventative measures, and treatment conditions, as well as the comprehensive analysis of social disorders. In reality, social disorders are the scholarly dedication to unraveling the origins of societal maladies, dysfunctions, and disorders (Aflaki, 2014).

The concept of social pathology is known for emerging from the realm of biological sciences, draws upon a comparison that scientists establish between organ diseases and societal injuries. Also in the medical zone, pathology is a term that includes the systematic process of identifying the root causes of diseases. In the context of a social system, social pathology is revealed when a particular behavior runs against social norms, resulting in a clear reduction or loss of efficiency and positive performance within the affected individual, family, or social groups. This act is aptly termed as social damage, indicating the adverse consequences arising from the divergence of behavior from societal expectations (GolAfshani, 2010).

According to history, social harm has existed in all nations, and they have a unique future of growth and improvement in developing countries, this could be due to a number of factors, including high levels of poverty, inequality, weak institutions, and quick social changes (Mousavi, 2000). The outcomes of social harms are far-reaching and can have a significant impact on the development of countries as well, they can lead to a decrease in economic productivity, increased healthcare costs, reduced social connections, and increased political instability. In addition, social harms can have specific impacts on women and children. The problem of social harm is also noticeable in our country, and its outcomes have been all around, it has led to an increase in crimes, violations, incompatibility, wrongdoing, and other societal problems, and as we mentioned above these problems have a negative impact on our economy, society, and political system. It is important to address the problems of social harms in order to achieve sustainable development, there are a number of things that can be done to address this problem, including investing in social protection, improving institutions, and promoting social connections (Mohseni, 2008).

In today's society, the swift increase of social damage poses a strong threat, representing a significant challenge that cannot be easily ignored. While sociology recognizes the inevitability of social harm in all human societies, the universal nature of this issue demands careful consideration, and particularly for a nation willing to cultivate a modern and progressive Islamic civilization, any level of social damage is incongruent with the dignity that needs attention and decisive action regardless of the scale. Educational sectors in the country have consistently struggled with the task of defining the boundaries of social harms affecting teenagers. The profound impact of social issues and the harmful consequences originated from the rapid transformations in human societies have been focal points for psychologists, educational centers, sociologists, and social thinkers. Addressing these concerns becomes essential in safeguarding the societal structure and developing an environment useful to the development of a strong, value-driven community.

According to all these, this article seeks an important point such as how education plays a crucial role in preventing social harm, it shines a light on the impact of educators in society, especially in the field of education, and how they can identify and address potential harms. The idea is to share these findings with families and education professionals to bring facilities to these problems. For a better understanding of the topic, it's important to understand social harms, the significance of social harms, the educational goal of keeping important social harms, and the broader role of education in preventing them. Lately, there's also been a focus on improving students' social skills to better tackling with social harm.

Methodology

In the context of this research, a qualitative descriptive library methodology has been employed. To achieve this objective, an extensive review of printed and digital sources such as books, scholarly articles, theses, websites, and other research materials has been used.

What is Social Harm?

Social pathology is an emerging concept inspired by the sciences, that delves into the study of the underlying causes of dysfunctional societal behaviors. According to scientists it's based on a comparison between organic diseases and social injuries, it shows that if the accepted principles of society are ignored by people and when these principles are neglected, misbehavior emerges, manifesting in actions and behaviors that resemble the appearance of disease (Sotuda, 2010). In other words: Social harms include a vision of behavioral disorders and diversities among individuals or groups within a society. These disorders are grounded in the irregularities and dysfunctions of social facts, leading to undesirable consequences. The resultant damages frequently show up as mental, physical, and material resentment within specific strata, which may cause harm to the wide societal structure. It is relevant to note that any form of individual or collective action conflicting with moral, Islamic principles, and overarching societal norms is deemed to be socially harmful. Such actions, by virtue of their misalignment with established moral and collective standards, may cause legal prohibition or be met with moral and social criticism (Nezhad, 2008).

What is Prevention in Social Harm?

In the Moin Persian dictionary, "Prevention" is defined as taking proactive measures to stop the start of disease, and according to the context of social harm, prevention includes a range of actions designed to safeguard individuals and the general social environment from potential risks and disorders. Prevention, specifically, refers to interventions aimed at maintaining the health of healthy individuals and preventing the start of a disease. It includes measures that raise public health, well-being, and quality of life, ultimately aiming to prevent disease by controlling its underlying causes and risk factors. If Social damage isn't taken in control, it can show up at various levels, its harmful impact will affect all members of society, leaving a trail of unfortunate economic, cultural, social, and political consequences. Our country is also not immune to the occurrence of social harm and crime; it has struggled with these issues in the past and has put into practice some measures to control and reduce them. However, the persistence and growth of these facts necessitate a renewed focus on general planning to effectively stop social damage. The time has come to face social damage with the seriousness it demands. We must know that it is not merely a consequence of individual failings but a complex phenomenon deeply rooted in societal structures and dynamics. Addressing social damage requires a general approach that should cover intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation. We must invest in education centers, growing awareness in Masjid's, Social Programs, and Community Development Inventions that empower individuals and communities to break free from the shackles of social harm, (Milosevic Soso, 2018).Some of the important factors that can cause an increase in Social damage are listed below which has to be prevented timely:

- Engaging with Unfaithful or wicked friends who do not share common affiliations.
- Increase and enlargement of underprivileged communities.

- Rapid Increase of societal issues stemming from the lack of education among the younger population.
- Insufficient and untimely intervention by educators in educational Centers.
- Poor family environments with ignorance.
- Deviation from adherence to religious principles, etc.

In today's complex world, we are face to face with a growing lineup of social harms and challenges. These include drug and substance abuse, increasing sexual deviations, rising divorce rates, and high misuse of new technologies, etc... which makes it urgent to address these issues, particularly those that have deep impacts on our mental health and well-being. Among these concerns, researchers have explored the potential role of religion and religious practices in developing and promoting mental health in a better way, Studies have shown that individuals who are more involved in religious activities and have a stronger faith tend to experience lower rates of mental disorders, particularly depression, compared to those with weaker religious dependency. The protective effects of religion are connected to several factors. Every Religious belief can provide a sense of meaning, purpose, and hope in life, helping individuals to fight against difficult circumstances and maintain a positive opinion, additionally, religious communities can offer social support, friendship, and opportunities for meaningful engagement, further contributing to mental well-being (Salehi, 2011).Studies have consistently proven a strong correlation between religious engagement and improved mental health results, leading to a reduction in social harm. Regular involvement in religious activities, particularly at mosques and holy places, has been associated with a significant 40-50% decrease in depression rates. Additionally, religious societies show lower suicide rates, provide effective support mechanisms for individuals in conflict with substance abuse, and encourage them to stop using alcohol and drugs (Bakhtiaripour, 2015).

The study by Steward and Joe (1998) involving 121 students revealed a remarkable correlation and adaptability between religious worship and mental well-being, people who identified as highly religious showed greater adaptability and achieved superior academic performance. Another study by Ilkhani and Bahraini's research on prayer, a hallmark of Islamic adherence, highlighted the importance of prayer in preventing sinful acts, particularly suicide. Their findings further revealed prayer's positive and impactful influence on the positive personality development of young individuals in social interactions, pleasant demeanor, self-awareness, law-abiding behavior, conscientiousness, etc... (Bakhtiaripour, 2015).

In today's increasingly mobility world, poor families or dual-income households, have caused reduced parental involvement, and many children are facing social, emotional, and developmental challenges. To address these issues, we must start by reconsidering the principles, methods, models, and basis of our education, because education is the most important cornerstone of human development, shaping student's ability to direct life's complexities and contribute positively to society, any deviation from this core principle can have far-reaching consequences, impacting a young personality's overall well-being and success (Farahani, 2020).

In a general overview, we can analyze social harms from these perspectives:

1. Human Aspect: Humanity's nature overcomes the boundaries of religion, ethnicity, politics, and language, so there has to be compassion and mutual respect between people. This natural human quality is essential for developing a harmonious

and supportive society. We must teach our youth the values of mutual aid and respect for diversity to cultivate a truly humane society.

2. Social Aspect: Failure to address social harms promptly can lead to a rapid increase in crime, interrupting social order and causing far-reaching harm. Social relations are crucial for a stable and successful society. We must proactively address the root causes of social harms to prevent them from festering and causing damage to youths.

3. Political Aspect: Ignoring social harms can damage a nation's sovereignty, allowing foreign influence to replace local cultural norms, this can weaken the religious and cultural identity of a nation, leaving it at risk of exploitation by external forces. Social harms can also provide important grounds for injustice and propaganda, as a result weakening any society's resilience. In Islamic societies, social harms can serve as fodder for negative propaganda against Islam. It is essential to identify the underlying causes of social issues and address them with targeted solutions. As we mentioned before while addressing social harms, societies must stand against the blind temptation of foreign traditions.

By recognizing all these three aspects of human, social, and political harms, we can collectively combat social harms and build a more just, peaceful, and successful world.

Importance of social pathology

Every society, shaped by its unique conditions, culture, and path of growth and decline, struggles with challenges that prevent its progress, understanding these obstacles is crucial for directing the path toward development and interaction, by figuring out their root causes and implementing strategies to address them, we can help society and steer it toward a healthier, more productive direction, furthermore, Social pathology deals with a series of social harms, unlike medical pathology where research can only be conducted in operating rooms, social pathology deals with society with its focus on the influence of social relations and states, not just individual organisms, but the entire social community, because of this, it's an important issue to deal with it in advance (Stampar, 2006). For example, the most dangerous issue in social disorders can be addiction, a complex problem that shows up both as an individual struggle and a societal concern, at the societal level, addiction drains the collective energy and productivity that drive progress, and at the individual level, we already mentioned a lot so, by identifying and addressing the underlying causes of addiction, we can regain those lost resources and guide society towards a healthier, more effective future. This approach to social challenges develops a deeper understanding of their nature and impact, empowering us to find skillful solutions that address both individual and collective well-being (Golpour, 2011).

Let's outline the goals and objectives of social pathology as follows:

1. Understanding and identifying the nature of social Harms, the motivations behind them and their origin causes, along with tracking the profiles of perpetrators and their psychological, physical, cultural, and social nature, is decisive. So accurate identification of social harm is the basis of finding effective solutions; it is, in fact, more than half the treatment, without a proper discovery, treatment cannot be effective. Building without understanding is similar to shooting an arrow in the dark.

2. Prevention method, Improving the well-being of societies and increasing the overall family experience depends on the proactive prevention of social harm. Prioritizing

prevention is not only simpler but also more effective and low-cost compared to delayed treatment, underscoring its super importance.

3. Scientific methods, speaking about the consequences of societal perspectives involves employing scientific methodologies and starting with suitable approaches to eliminate their underlying causes and motivations. Failing to address these issues in time effectively may cause for another disaster.

In a world fighting with misbehavior for societal reform, prevention stands as a superior policy to treatment, and most researcher believes that in order to fight against misbehaviors, it is necessary to limit their social context, and to achieve this goal, it is necessary to observe these two factors (Wasidi, 2010)

In individual factors, we can refer to the following limitations:
A. **Individual factors**
- Elevated aspirations.
- Pursuit of joy and gratification.
- Resilience, autonomy, and physical well-being.
- Ambition and drive.
- Absence of procrastination and extravagance.
- Lack of a clear sense of purpose and identity in life.

In Social factors, we can refer to the following limitations: (Taliban,2001).
B. **Social Factors**
- lack of ability in families to be in alignment with religious principles.
- Weakening of family ties.
- Inequality in economic and social systems.
- High economic stability within the family.
- Material instability experienced by the family.
- fast growth of industries and technological progress.
- Conflict among parents.
- Joblessness.
- Lack of parental education.
- Interaction with bad friends.

The Crucial Role of Education on Preventing Social Harms:

Education, besides Religion, Economy, Family, and Politics, stands as one of the five fundamental pillars upon which any community is built. It holds the key responsibility of representing scientific knowledge, culture, religious, moral, and spiritual values. It also plays a fundamental role in equipping individuals with social life skills. This process of knowledge transfers and skill development is a continuous and long-term endeavor, passing over generations (Grattet, 2011). Despite its extreme importance, the institution of education faces a large number of internal and external challenges, most importantly known as social damage. Schools and educational centers are known as the primary social environments where children and teenagers begin to navigate the complexities of rules and regulations. These centers are inherently more formal than the familiar bounds of the family, and in this period, they should understand, or making them to understand would be the most important lessons by teachers that

education is not merely a personal pursuit but a fundamental requirement for the functioning as well as order of society.

The challenges faced by educational centers are multi-aspect and require great effort from educators, policymakers, and even the whole society. By recognizing the transformative power of education and addressing the problems it confronts, we can empower future generations to become responsible and good citizens, ready to shape a brighter and more justice future (Suri, 2018). The fast rise of social problems among students, including school dropout, substance abuse, gang formation, robbery, barbarism, and open and covert corruption, demands great attention and effective solutions. The absolute spread of these issues among our youth and teenagers makes necessary comprehensive prevention strategies, it's for sure that complete prevention may not be possible, but we can strive to significantly reduce of these harmful behaviors. Social harms have a natural desire to spread, and structured prevention efforts can bring positive outcomes. Therefore, we must start multi-aspect approaches as we mentioned in the previous topic as prevention to minimize social harm among teenagers. Reducing social harm not only increases societal well-being but also improves the education system by reducing the financial burden, dropout, and truancy. In addressing these issues, we must have a gentle and understanding approach, recognizing the underlying factors that contribute to these behaviors. We must develop a supportive environment that empowers youth to make positive choices and provides them with the necessary assistance to navigate social harm challenges effectively (Rahimi, Fanus News).

It is noteworthy, as we mentioned before, that a significant section of students' vulnerabilities also origins from their lack of disposal to basic social skills, such as self-awareness, empathy, being far from religion, decision-making, etc… this gap in time can prevent the formation of well-rounded and socially adept persons. In simple meaning, many young people today struggle to fully understand their own strengths and potential, often focusing solely on the negative aspects of their circumstances, this lack of self-belief can further prevent their ability to navigate social situations effectively. Therefore, it is important to recognize the effectiveness of social skills trainings in preventing social harm within educational centers (Grosi). Some of important educational methods to prevent social damage can be:

1. **Increasing Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs:** Starting wide SEL programs that develop social skills, empathy, conflict resolution, etc. among students.
2. **Adding Social Skills into Teaching Curriculums:** Carefully weaving social skills programs into core curriculum subjects, providing opportunities to apply these skills in real-world contexts by students.
3. **Directing Students towards Healthy Friendships:** Teaching the detrimental impact of unhealthy friendships and empowering students to identify and break free from toxic friendships.
4. **Empowering Student Voice and Responsibility:** Providing opportunities for students to express their opinions, take responsibility, and contribute to school decisions to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility.
5. **Self-Esteem and Respect:** Providing opportunities to develop a school environment that promotes self-respect, mutual respect, and appreciation for diverse ideas.
6. **Supporting Religious Values:** Motivating students to explore their religious values for fostering spiritual growth and personal development in society.

7. **Making Strong Family Bonds:** Improving open communication and positive support within families will emphasize the importance of self-discovery, respectful relationships, and in future healthy decision-making.

8. **Giving Chance for Self-Expressions:** Developing a culture of self-expression and opinion-sharing from childhood, as well as teaching them to say No to unwanted things, will improve the confidence of children to express their thoughts and feelings.

9. **Updating Educational Programs:** Regularly reviewing and updating educational programs will help them to remain relevant, delightful, and responsive to the changing needs of society and students. effectively (Rahimi, Fanus News).

In general, as a conclusion, while teaching life skills to young personalities it should always be considered as a positive way, it could potentially lead to harmful outcomes if not implemented thoughtfully. Instead of imposing only to academic education, it would be wonderful to teach them social behavior as well, it is important to teach life skills education to the specific needs of the different individuals in society, this personalized approach can effectively reduce social harm.

Findings

A significant factor contributing to the social vulnerabilities of students or young human beings stems from their unfamiliarity with required social skills. This insufficiency of social skills creates a blind spot in the development of their desired and socially adept personalities. Unfortunately, today's youth often lack self-awareness and fail to recognize their inherent strengths and capabilities, which can cause them to not fully understand their social standing and the implications of their actions. Should be reminded that despite the growing attention to education and social life training among teenagers in schools and educational centers, instructions on navigating social harms are often being neglected and this aspect of education requires greater attention. So, in the end by understanding the role of social skills training in reducing social harm, educational centers can effectively empower young people to navigate social interactions with confidence, empathy, and responsibility.

Conclusion

In conclusion, addressing social challenges requires thoughtful attention from educational Centers, implementation of well-devised plans and programs is the key to developing a healthy society (Fatehi, 2012).Successful societies always recognized the fundamental role of the education system in preventing and mitigating social harm, furthermore education, as a fundamental aspect of human life, holds the power to influence emotional, cognitive, and behavioral dimensions, as we said education is not only limited to the learning of knowledge, but educational centers also serve as hubs for instilling essential skills, including crucial and effective communication as well as teaching protective behaviors in the society of tomorrow (Hydari, 2011).

Teaching protective behaviors involves understanding the message of self-care and attention to possible risks. This behavior beyond aligning youths towards social norms guides them toward a bright and beneficial future and also discourages harmful situations that contribute to the creation of a healthy environment. Notably, the recent waves of social challenges underscore the importance of identifying their roots and addressing them through education, starting appropriate training, logical limitations, and accurate information can serve

as a long-lasting strategy to prevent these issues to a certain extent. Recognizing the importance of education and combating social harms is essential for proactively preventing social problems of our time (Esmailzadeh, 2016).

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