



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Psychology

A STUDY ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: CAUSES, CHALLENGES AND REHABILITATION

KEY WORDS: Juvenile, Juvenile delinquency, rehabilitation and justice system

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ABSTRACT

Juveniles are children below the age of 18 years. The term “Juvenile Delinquency” is used to describe the criminal acts of the offender who is below 18 years of age. When a juvenile commits crime then he comes in contact with the Juvenile Justice System and is punished according to the then existing law. During the trial of the case and after conviction delinquent juvenile is being kept in Child Care Institutions, Observation Homes, Special Homes, Place of Safety etc and the Government has made provision for inspection of these institutions registered under this Act on regular basis but the reality is opposite Juvenile delinquency refers to illegal or antisocial behavior performed by adolescents. The study was conducted in Hyderabad district in telangan state .This research project focuses on the causes behind juvenile misconduct, the social and psychological factors influencing them, and the role of family, school, and society in preventing juvenile crimes. The study also highlights rehabilitation measures and government programs for juvenile justice.

INTRODUCTION:

Juvenile problems have become a growing concern in modern society. Many children and adolescents are exposed to poverty, family conflict, peer pressure, and lack of proper guidance. As a result, some juveniles get involved in crimes such as theft, drug abuse, violence, and cybercrime. Juvenile justice aims not only to punish but also to reform and rehabilitate young offenders.

Juvenile crime has been an ongoing issue for quite some time. It happens in both basic and sophisticated cultures. The rate of juvenile delinquency in India is relatively low but, on the rise, as is the case in many other developing countries. Even more concerning is the fact that the share of crimes perpetrated by children relative to the total number of crimes reported in the country has been increasing over the last several years. According to the data, there is a complex web of interconnected socioeconomic and psychological elements that contribute to juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency can be attributed to a number of factors, including economic hardship, family strife, emotional abuse, rural-to-urban migration, the breakdown of social values and the joint family system, atrocities and abuse by parents or guardians, a subpar educational system, the corrupt media, the unsanitary conditions of slums, and so on. In the Indian setting, most of the causes that contribute to criminal behavior are locally rooted, therefore any effort to avoid and regulate these elements might have positive social outcomes. Children, after all, stand in for the country and its future. Notable international examples, Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (1985) have established the worldwide agreement on giving children who are in dispute with the law particular consideration.

MEANING OF JUVENILE

A juvenile is a person who has not yet reached adulthood. According to Indian law, anyone below 18 years is considered a juvenile.

Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency means behavior by a minor that violates legal or social norms.

Examples: Theft, Fighting and violence, Drug addiction, Truancy (school dropout) ,Cyber bullying, and Sexual offences.

Need For The Study:

Increasing juvenile crime rates Impact of social media and peer influence Need for awareness among parents and

teachers Importance of rehabilitation over punishment.

Objectives OfThe Study

- To understand the concept of juveniles and delinquency
- To identify the major causes of juvenile crimes
- To study psychological and social problems of juveniles
- To analyze rehabilitation methods and juvenile justice system
- To suggest preventive measures

Research Type: Descriptive Study

During my research, I visited several observation schools and homes and after interview session with officials of observation homes and inmates I reached on conclusion that the present Act [JJ Act, 2015] provides that if the juvenile between the age of 16-18 commits heinous offence, he shall be tried and punished as an adult but it does not focus on the juveniles who come within the age group of 14 to 16 years. The juveniles between the age group of 16 to 18 very well know their act and the consequences thereof. But, the condition is not same for the age group of 14-16 years. This age group is very sensitive, because at this stage of growth and development the juvenile feel many physical, mental, hormonal as well as other changes in their body and due to these changes they want to do new experiments, sexual activities are more common among the juveniles of this age group. One other important matter of worry is that juveniles of age group of 14-16 years are on high risk now, because after the enactment of the JJ Act, 2015 they are the softest target of the mastermind criminals. So, in my opinion the parents, guardians, members of civil societies and every person should try to provide special care and protection of the juveniles of this age group.

Sample: 60 juveniles / students from different area Hyderabad GHMC in telangana states.

Tools Used: Questionnaire, Interview, Observation

RESULT AND ANALYSIS:

Survey Tables On Juvenile Delinquency (Sample Size = 60 Respondents)

Table 1: Educational Status Of Respondents Education Level

Types of Respondents	School Student	School Dropout	Observation Home	Total
No of Respondents	30	18	12	60
Percentage	50%	30%	20%	100%

Interpretation: Half of the respondents are school students, while 30% are dropouts, showing education plays a major role

in delinquency prevention.

H1: There Is No Significant Relationship Between Family And School Environment And Juvenile Delinquency.

Table 2: Role Of Parents In Child Behavior

Influence Juvenile Behavior.	Positive Responses	Negative	Total
No of Respondents	52	8	60
Percentage	86.7%	13.3%	100%

Interpretation: Most respondents believe parents strongly influence juvenile behavior.

Table 3: School Environment Satisfaction

Opinion	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied
No of Respondents	24	20	16
Percentage	40%	33.3%	26.7%

Interpretation: About 26.7% juveniles are unsatisfied with school environment, which may lead to dropout and delinquency.

Table 4: Exposure To Violence In Society

Responses	Often	Sometimes	Never
No of Respondents	26	22	12
Percentage	43.3%	36.7%	20%

Interpretation: A large number of juveniles have experienced violence, influencing aggressive behavior.

H2: Peer pressure, Media and other factor has no influence on juvenile criminal behavior

Table 5: Influence Of Social Media

Responses	High Influence	Moderate	Low Influence
No of Respondents	34	18	8
Percentage	56.7%	30%	13.3%

Interpretation: More than half of juveniles agree that social media highly affects youth behavior.

Table 6: Drug/Alcohol Usage Among Juveniles

Responses	Yes	No	Total
No of Respondents	28	32	60
Percentage	46.7%	53.3%	13.3%

Interpretation: Nearly 46.7% respondents reported drug/alcohol exposure, which is a serious risk factor.

H3: Rehabilitation Programs Do Not Significantly Reduce Juvenile Delinquency

Table 9: Need For Rehabilitation Programs

Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree
No of Respondents	36	18	6
Percentage	56.7%	30%	13.3%

Interpretation: 90% juveniles support rehabilitation programs instead of strict punishment.

Table 8: Can Juveniles Reform With Support?

Responses	Yes	No	Agree
No of Respondents	54	6	60
Percentage	90%	10%	100%

Interpretation: A majority believe juveniles can return to normal life with proper support and care.

Table 9: Awareness Of Counseling Services

Responses	Yes	No	Agree
No of Respondents	20	40	60
Percentage	33.3%	66.7%	100%

Interpretation: Most juveniles are not aware of counseling support, highlighting the need for guidance programs.

Table 10: Participation In Criminal Activities

Responses	Yes	No	Agree
No of Respondents	18	42	60
Percentage	30%	70%	100%

Interpretation: 30% juveniles admitted involvement in delinquent activities, which is a significant concern.

Causes Of Juvenile Delinquency

- Family Problems Broken families, Domestic violence and Lack of parental supervision
- Poverty and Unemployment Children from poor backgrounds may turn to crime for survival.
- Peer Pressure Bad company and gang involvement influence juveniles negatively.
- School Failure Dropouts and low academic achievement increase delinquency risk.
- Substance Abuse Alcohol and drug addiction is a major reason.
- Media Influence Violent movies, games, and social media exposure affect behavior.

Effects Of Juvenile Delinquency

- Loss of education
- Mental health issues
- Social rejection
- Criminal mindset development
- Threat to society's peace

Rehabilitation And Prevention

Rehabilitation Measures: Counseling services Skill development training Educational support Family therapy Preventive Steps: Strong parenting School guidance programs Community awareness Sports and youth engagement activities

Findings Of The Study

- Most juveniles involved in delinquency come from disturbed family backgrounds Peer influence is a major factor Rehabilitation programs reduce repeat offences Education and counseling play a key role.
- Family conflict is the major cause of delinquency Peer pressure strongly influences juvenile behavior Most respondents support rehabilitation over punishment Awareness of juvenile laws is low Counseling programs are necessary in schools.

Suggestions

- Government should strengthen juvenile rehabilitation centers Awareness programs seduction and school environment matter a lot Peer pressure + social media are major influences Counseling awareness is low Rehabilitation is strongly supported
- Most juveniles can reform with guidance.
- Parents should provide emotional support: Parents must spend quality time with children Schools should provide counseling services
- Schools must conduct counseling sessions
- Government should strengthen rehabilitation centers
- Awareness programs should be organized regularly
- Juveniles should be treated with care, not harsh punishment

CONCLUSION

Juvenile delinquency is a serious but preventable issue. The causes are deeply rooted in family, society, poverty, and peer influence. Instead of punishment, rehabilitation and counseling are the best solutions. With proper care, guidance, and opportunities, juveniles can reform and contribute positively to society.

Indeed, the prevalence of adolescent misbehavior in India is cause for grave concern. The government takes the issue of juvenile delinquency very seriously, and new juvenile laws are periodically enacted to address the problem. However,

the primary problem lies in the improper application of the legislation. The juvenile justice system suffers from a lack of coordination among its many organs and a scarcity of properly competent professionals, especially among those assigned with magisterial, treatment, and rehabilitation tasks. When it comes to serious crimes like rape and murder, it is our sincere hope that the new legislation would serve as deterrence to young perpetrators.

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