

A review paper about a case study on Juveniles: With reference to influence on juvenile criminality, integrating insights from recent research to provide a holistic perspective.

Ms. Taniya Parekh,

Ph.D. Scholar Parul University, Assistant Professor Sigma University & Prof. M.N.Parmar Dean , Faculty of Social Work Parul University

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a comprehensive case study on examining the behaviors, rehabilitation processes and challenges and law related to juveniles. An in-depth analysis of a specific cohort of juveniles within the justice system in India, the study explores factors contributing to delinquency in Juveniles, with reference to socio-economic background, family background and dynamics, and educational qualification and influences of it. The findings highlight the importance of individualized intervention programs on Indian as well as on international level that addresses the root causes of delinquent behavior rather than solely focusing on punitive measures. As we say that **“Precautions are better than cure”**

This research paper mainly focuses on rehabilitation strategies for observation homes to be followed for boys and girls, including counselling of juveniles, education of children and community service, which promote social integration and reduce recidivism. By drawing on qualitative data from interviews and case assessments, this research underscores the necessity of a holistic approach in juvenile justice, emphasizing the role of community support and policy reform in fostering positive outcomes for young offenders.

The paper concludes with recommendations for practitioners and policymakers aimed at improving juvenile justice practices and enhancing the prospects for youth reintegration into society.

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is a multifaceted issue influenced by an interplay of environmental and psychological factors. This review paper explores how various environmental conditions, and psychological aspects contribute to juvenile delinquency. In addition to offering insights into successful prevention and intervention tactics, the study attempts to provide a thorough knowledge of the mechanisms behind adolescent criminal behaviour by synthesizing existing studies.

Juvenile crime remains a pressing concern for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners. Creating successful preventative and intervention plans requires an understanding of the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency. Juvenile conduct is greatly influenced by both psychological and environmental factors. This review examines how these factors interact and influence juvenile criminality, integrating insights from recent research to provide a holistic perspective.

Since it includes provisions for the development, treatment, correction, and reintegration of children who have committed any form of offense or who require care and protection, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 aids in achieving the goal. The entire procedure runs well since the Act gives special jurisdiction to handle juvenile concerns. Additionally, it seeks to safeguard kids who have experienced any kind of abuse or harassment.

WHO ARE JUVENILES:

Before knowing who, Juveniles are, we need to understand what Juvenile delinquency is and why they are called Juveniles. Juvenile delinquency refers to any legal infraction committed

by a minor. A criminal conduct performed by a non-adult individual under the age of eighteen is known as delinquency.

Youngsters are sensitive and shape themselves in response to the events and conditions they encounter. The people that kids spend the most time with have the power to either positively or negatively influence their personality. Therefore, it is crucial to attend to their growth and development. Are children who have committed a crime and are between the ages of 10 and 17. Are under a specific age (usually 18) and have committed a crime. Are minors (under 18 years old) who've committed law violations. Juvenile delinquency is the term used to describe children's inappropriate behavior when they exhibit criminal tendencies. It simply means that when children engage in anti-social behavior, they are deviating from the laws and accepted norms of society.

Every nation faces the problem of juvenile delinquency, and the UN recognized the need for a standardized definition of the term. The definition of the term was "Acts of minors due to which they violate criminal law and indulge in behaviour which is objected to and disapproved by society and law society's approved norms".

STRATEGIES TO BE FOLLOWED BY OBSERVATION HOMES:

A structure for reducing stress In order to effectively handle a highly charged situation, Target (Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy) gives teens and institution staff a set of tools that frequently allow de-escalation without the use of force. Juveniles in observation homes, also known as juvenile detention centers or remand homes, are facilities where young individuals, typically aged between 7 to 18 years, are temporarily placed while their legal cases are being processed or while waiting for trial. The primary aim of these institutions is to provide care and supervision to juveniles in conflict with the law, ensuring their safety and welfare. The following are examples of target-aligned staff strategies:

1. Assist teenagers in recognizing their goals, triggers, and warning signs.
2. When an adolescent is having a traumatic stress reaction, respect their personal space.
3. When speaking, adopt a steady, even tone of voice.
4. Whenever feasible, give the teenager options.
5. Assist anxious teenagers in refocusing on their values and life objectives.

Observation homes provide temporary care and custody for juvenile offenders while their cases are pending. They aim to rehabilitate and reintegrate young offenders into society by offering **education, counseling, and skill-building programs.**

The Juvenile Crime are interrelated to Environment and Psychology:

Juvenile crime is a multifaceted issue influenced by a complex interplay between environmental factors and psychological development. This review explores the impact of environmental and psychological variables on juvenile delinquency, synthesizing findings from various studies to understand how these factors contribute to criminal behavior among youth. By examining the role of family dynamics, socioeconomic conditions, peer influences, and psychological factors, this essay seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms behind juvenile crime and discuss potential interventions.

India's Juvenile Justice System's Development Historical Background and Global Impact

The Apprentices Act of 1850, which diverted young people from adult prisons into apprenticeships, was the first legislative attempt to address juvenile delinquency in India. The concept of reformatory schooling for juvenile offenders, which prioritized rehabilitation over punishment, was introduced in 1876, and the Code of Criminal Procedure in 1861 and 1898 further established the legal framework for juvenile justice by defining age limitations and separate trial. The Beijing Rules of Juvenile Justice, which were implemented in 1985, placed a strong emphasis on the welfare and rehabilitation of young people. Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations, 1992, which placed a strong emphasis on juvenile welfare and rehabilitation 1992 saw the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which required the nation to follow international norms for juvenile justice.

Environmental Factors Influencing Juvenile Crime

1. Family background and Dynamics

The family environment plays a critical role in juvenile behavior. Studies consistently show that disrupted family structures, such as single-parent households or families with a history of domestic violence, correlate with higher rates of juvenile delinquency. Parental supervision, discipline, and emotional support are crucial in shaping a child's behavior. Research by Farrington (2000) highlights that inadequate parental supervision and inconsistent discipline are significant predictors of delinquency.

2. Socioeconomic Conditions

Socioeconomic status is another key environmental factor influencing juvenile crime. High poverty rates, limited access to quality education, and exposure to neighborhood violence contribute to increased risk of criminal behavior. Theories such as the Social Disorganization Theory suggest that people in impoverished neighborhoods are more likely to commit crimes as a result of weakened social controls and reduced economic opportunities (Shaw & McKay, 1942). It is strongly associated with juvenile criminality. Unemployment, poverty, and restricted access to high-quality education can all lead to environments that increase the risk of delinquency. Juvenile crime is more common in neighborhoods with high levels of poverty and instability, according to the social disorganization theory, because social controls are weakened in these areas (Shaw & McKay, 1942). Studies show that children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are more prone to commit crimes as a coping mechanism for their surroundings (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990).

3. Peer Influences:

Peer relationships are influential in adolescent development. The connection to peers who are delinquent often increases the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior. Studies by Elliott et al. (1985) demonstrate that peer influence can be a stronger predictor of delinquency than family background. Young people may engage in criminal activity as a result of peer pressure and the need for social acceptance, especially in environments where such behaviors are normalized.

4. Community and Neighborhood Factors:

The broader community environment, including neighborhood safety and social cohesion, also impacts juvenile crime rates. Juvenile delinquency is more common in areas with high levels of drug use, violence, and social disarray. Community programs and initiatives aimed at improving neighborhood conditions and fostering positive social networks can play a role in crime prevention (Sampson & Groves, 1989).

Psychological Factors Influencing Juvenile Crime

1. Cognitive and Emotional Development

Cognitive and emotional development significantly affects juvenile behavior. Research suggests that adolescents with deficits in executive functioning, such as impulse control and planning, are more prone to engage in criminal activities. Furthermore, emotional regulation difficulties and exposure to trauma can impair judgment and increase susceptibility to delinquent behavior (Steinberg, 2008).

2. Mental Health Issues

Mental health problems, including conduct disorders and oppositional defiant disorders, are commonly associated with juvenile delinquency. Studies show that untreated mental health issues can exacerbate behavioral problems and increase the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. Early intervention and mental health support are crucial in mitigating these risks (Frick & Viding, 2009).

3. Substance Abuse

One important contributing factor to juvenile crime is substance abuse. Teens who misuse alcohol or drugs are more likely to engage in criminal activities due to impaired judgment and increased risk-taking behavior. The relationship between substance abuse and crime is well-

documented, highlighting the need for integrated treatment approaches addressing both substance abuse and delinquent behavior (Lipsey, 1995).

4. Interaction Between Environmental and Psychological Factors

The interaction between environmental and psychological factors creates a complex web influencing juvenile crime. For example, a youth's psychological vulnerabilities may be exacerbated by a high-crime environment, leading to a higher risk of criminal behavior. Conversely, supportive environments can help mitigate the effect of risk factors related to psychology. The significance of a thorough approach to prevention and intervention is highlighted by this exchange.

The reasons behind juvenile delinquency

Juvenile delinquency has grown to be a major global issue and is still present in all nations. It is crucial to comprehend the underlying causes and motivations of juvenile delinquency in order to address this problem.

- **Family Issues:** The reasons behind juvenile delinquency has grown to be a major global issue and is still present in all nations. It is crucial to comprehend the underlying causes and motivations of juvenile delinquency in order to address this problem. • **Family Concerns:** A child's first and strongest attachment is to their family. Typically, children pick up knowledge from the things they see around them. A child's mental, physical, and emotional development will be hampered by ongoing family arguments, which will ultimately result in juvenile delinquency. As we say that "Parents are the ultimate role models for children. Every word, every movement, and action effects. No other person or outside force has a greater influence on a child than a parent." — **Bob Keeshan**
- **Changing Patterns in Lifestyle:** Another factor contributing to children's criminal behavior is shifting lifestyle patterns. The generation gap is the main problem they face, which causes them to typically distance themselves and lose the ability to discriminate between right and wrong. It seems that they are misled and ultimately decide to take the bad route.
- **Biological Factors:** Other factors, such as low intelligence or a lack of understanding, also contribute to delinquent behavior in children. In this situation, parents, educators, and elders play a crucial role in educating their children about the biological differences between men and women as well as responding to their inquiries about other biological processes and the repercussions of breaking the law.
- **Poverty:** A child is more likely to engage in delinquent behavior in order to obtain the basic necessities of life if they are not provided. They may be forced to work for money in any way to obtain what they want if they are not given basic necessities like clothing, food, shelter, etc.
- **Substance Abuse:** Over time, substance exposure results in dependence, and these people commit crimes they otherwise wouldn't have considered. Children in these situations require counseling in order to restore their sense of value and self-worth.
- **Other Factors:** The delinquent behavior of juveniles is also caused by other factors, such as child labor, traumatic experiences, illiteracy, mental illness, etc.

Juvenile Delinquency Types

- Based on how the delinquent behaviors are executed, juvenile delinquency is generally divided into four categories: situational, organized, group-supported, and individual.
- The study of individual delinquency has benefited greatly from the contributions of psychiatrists, who contend that psychological issues are the root cause of it. Children visualize their immediate surroundings to adjust their behavior patterns, so family plays a big role in a child's behavior. Therefore, a positive environmental change will lessen a child's development of criminal traits.

- A child who participates in antisocial behavior while interacting with others is said to exhibit group-supported delinquency. The culture that predominates in their immediate social groups outside of their families influences the delinquents' development of this behavior. When children start to value their peers' opinions over their parents', parents are unable to maintain control over them.
- When a group of young people formally band together to commit crimes, it's known as organized delinquency. One of the best examples of organized crime in India is the trafficking of drugs by minors. These organized groups frequently receive payment for the drugs they deliver by hiring young people to deliver drugs and other substances.
- Contextual Delinquency: In this case, the causes and methods are rather straightforward rather than deeply ingrained. Someone who engages in antisocial behavior due to a lack of impulse control brought on by family restraint. Compared to other forms of delinquency, situational delinquency is much simpler to manage.

Rehabilitation for Juveniles with Delinquent Behavior

Rehabilitation and reintegration into society as sober adults are the primary goals of the juvenile justice system. It guarantees that no child will experience cruelty, abuse, or harsh treatment and creates facilities for their rehabilitation and reformation, such as shelter homes and observation homes. To accomplish the goal, the following listed institutions may be useful:

- **Observation Homes:** According to Section 47 of the act, minors detained pending an investigation or trial must be housed in observation homes. Juveniles and children in need of care are treated better in these homes.
- **Special Homes:** According to Section 48 of the act, the state government must set up a special home in each district with the goal of reintegrating these children and juveniles into society. The juveniles residing in these homes may also be separated by the authorities based on factors such as gender, age, type of crime, etc.
- **Children's Home:** The state government may create a home for children who require care and protection under Section 50 of the act. These homes give these kids care and protection while focusing on their growth, treatment, education, and training.
- **Aftercare Programs:** After being released from observation homes or other homes specified by the act, these programs assist juveniles and children in leading normal lives. NGOs, for example, can take steps to give these young people financial assistance so they can start their own businesses.

Interventions and Policy Implications

1. Prevention Programs

Effective prevention programs address both environmental and psychological factors. Programs that focus on improving family dynamics, providing educational and economic opportunities, and offering mental health support can be particularly effective. Early intervention strategies, such as family therapy and mentoring programs, play a crucial role in preventing delinquency (Hawkins et al., 1992).

2. Policy Recommendations

Policymakers should prioritize interventions that address the root causes of juvenile crime by improving socioeconomic conditions, enhancing family support systems, and promoting mental health services. Additionally, community-based initiatives aimed at fostering social cohesion and reducing violence can contribute to lowering juvenile crime rates.

Prevention and Intervention Strategies

1. Family-Based Interventions

Family-based interventions focus on improving family dynamics and parenting practices. Programs such as parent training and family therapy aim to enhance parental supervision,

reduce family conflict, and improve parent-child relationships. Research indicates that effective family-based interventions can significantly reduce delinquent behavior (Hawkins et al., 1992).

2. Community Programs

Community-based programs address environmental factors by improving neighborhood conditions and promoting social cohesion. Initiatives that enhance community safety, provide recreational activities, and foster positive social networks can reduce the incidence of juvenile crime. Programs aimed at increasing collective efficacy and community engagement have shown promise in lowering crime rates (Sampson et al., 1997).

3. Treatment of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Treating psychological factors entails offering treatment for substance abuse and mental health issues. At-risk youth can have their risk of delinquency reduced by early intervention programs that provide counseling, therapy, and drug abuse treatment. Effective intervention requires integrated treatment strategies that address delinquent behavior as well as mental health (McLaughlin et al., 2012).

Conclusion

Understanding juvenile crime requires a nuanced examination of both environmental and psychological factors. This review highlights the intricate interplay between these factors and their combined impact on juvenile delinquency. Addressing juvenile crime effectively necessitates a multifaceted approach that considers the complex interactions between individual vulnerabilities and environmental influences. The findings highlight the importance of individualized intervention programs on Indian as well as on international level that addresses the root causes of delinquent behavior rather than solely focusing on punitive measures. As we say that “Precautions are better than cure”

Future research should continue to explore the dynamics and inform policies aimed at reducing juvenile crime and supporting at-risk youth. The socialization agencies (i.e. family, school, peer relation, religion, state) plays an important and dominating role in shaping an individual so the child doesn't get delinquent. “Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.”

— **W.E.B. Dubois**

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