



THE STUDY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY WITH REFERENCE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE JUVENILE HOMES OF DELHI

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Abstract: *The main objective of this paper is to study the incidence of juvenile delinquency with reference to psychological perspectives. Hence the sample has been considered from the juvenile homes in Delhi city where the juvenile delinquents kept. A sample of 60 juvenile delinquent boys and girls between the age group of 16 to 18 years are selected on random sampling method. The juvenile who commit serious crimes challenge their future to protest perceived abuses that have been perpetrated against them. This makes them psychological depression and in turn reflects to commit more crimes. In this circumstance the study on incidence of juvenile delinquency is very important to analyze the causes with reference to psychological perspectives and annihilate in the society.*

Keywords: *Juvenile delinquents, psychological depression, 'Delinquency'*

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is an enormous problem in India by which most of the youth ruin their lives. Delhi is facing the most problem. The main objective is to find the delinquent behaviour, and what is causing them Delinquency is a kind of abnormality when an individual deviates from the course of normal social life. His behavior is called 'Delinquency'. When a juvenile, below an age specified under a statute exhibits behavior which may prove to be dangerous to society and / or to him he may be called a Juvenile delinquent. Juvenile delinquents are those offenders including boys and girls who are normally under 16 years of age. A Juvenile delinquent is a young person incorrigible or habitually disobedient Because of juvenile crime and relates problems youth, their families and the entire society suffer multiple consequences. . When a juvenile, below an age specified under a statute exhibits behavior which may prove to be dangerous to society and / or to him he may be called a Juvenile delinquent. Juvenile delinquents are those offenders including boys and girls who are normally under 16 years of age. A Juvenile delinquent is a young person incorrigible or habitually disobedient. Not only does the problem affect the victims of the crime; it also affects the juvenile delinquent's family, their future, and the society as a whole. Act of delinquency may include:



1. Running away from home without the permission of parents
2. Habitual behavior beyond the control of parents
3. Spending time idly beyond limits
4. Use of vulgar languages
5. Wandering about rail roads, streets market places
6. Visiting gambling centres
7. Committing sexual offences
8. Shop-lifting
9. Stealing etc.

Juveniles may do such activities singly or through a gang the most obvious people affected by juvenile delinquency are the victims. There are other social or environmental factors which leads them to be a delinquent.

School Dissatisfaction - Some students get dissatisfied with school life. Parental irresponsibility, unmanageable student teacher ratio, lack of entertainment and sports facilities in school, in difference of the teachers may contribute to this. Such dissatisfied students become regular absentees in schools and start wandering their own and become gamblers, eve-teachers, pick pockets, drunkards, smokers and drug addicts') Films and pornographic literature have also added to the magnitude of delinquency. Cinema, television and obscene literature may often provoke sexual and other impulses in adolescents. Hence they may start their adventure in satisfying them in the process of which they commit crimes. The most profound consequence of crimes committed by juveniles carries due to socio-economic and psychological problems which reflect on their family members and the society. Deep slated inner desires-couples with outside pressures, compulsion and temptation also contribute to juvenile delinquency. For example, on hearing the interesting narration of the illicit sex experiences or such other criminal experiences from ones' gang rate, one may be tempted to follow the same. Due to the psychological problems, sometimes juveniles involved in robberies, rapes and assaults also are significant. According to psycho-analytical view, the delinquent is an individual who is governed by the pleasure principle. He wants to get immediate pleasure and immediate satisfaction for his needs. So he becomes victim to his own impulses. Thus it may be said that juvenile delinquency is also the result of environmental factors with these criminal



activities the juveniles habituate to consume alcohol or other drugs. A grave problem such as juvenile delinquency can't be solved by means of legislation and government efforts alone. As far as India is concerned in many of the state's children acts have not been effectively enforced. Some of these Acts themselves have effects. Official machinery is not effectively used for controlling this problem. Government as well as private agencies must work hand in hand with all sincerity and seriousness to find on effective remedy for the problem of juvenile delinquency. The public attitude towards Juvenile delinquents must also change. A juvenile delinquent is a product of unwholesome environment congenial for the development of his faculties in conformity with social expectations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Adolescence is marked by dramatic developmental changes in physical, cognitive, and social-emotional capacities (Erikson, 1951). However, this is also a period which is beset by a number of challenges. For instance, engagement risk behaviours are more common among adolescents. Engagement in risk behaviours may pose a significant threat to health if involvement spans multiple behaviours. The asset model suggests that contextual aspects of young people's lives, such as factors related to family, school and community, serve as a protective function against health risk behaviours (Brooks, Magnusson, Spencer, & Morgan, 2012). Even though most adolescents are able to cope with such dramatic changes a large number of them encounter problems and difficulties caused by such changes. If they are unable to cope with stress caused by these changes, they may develop mental health problems, especially depression (Rushton, Forcier, & Schectman, 2002).

Juvenile delinquency is the crime activity charged by a person who is under the age of 18 years. In recent period these criminal activities are increasing rapidly due to many reasons and circumstance. In most of the places juveniles charged with serious crimes, such as robbery or murder which are transferred to criminal courts and tried as an adult. Sometimes prosecutors make this decision, or sometimes allow transfers require a hearing to consider the age and record of the juvenile, the type of crime, and the likelihood that the youth can be helped by the juvenile court. In view of the earlier studies narrated above, this study sought to identify the role of juvenile delinquency and parental bonding in depressive symptoms among male adolescents in a randomized crossover trial in India. (Acharya Soumen) Many counties have revised their juvenile codes to make it easier to transfer



youthful offenders to adult court. Academic experts have long recognized that crime is a young man's game. The typical criminal is a male who begins his career at 14 or 15 and continues through his mid-20s and then tapers off into retirement. The crime statistics denotes the disproportionate impact of those under the age of 18 on criminal activity; while comprising roughly one-sixth of the country's population, they make up a full one-quarter of all people arrested and account for nearly one-third of the arrests for the seven crimes in the uniform crime index (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, vehicle theft and larceny). The statistics show that somewhere between 30 and 40 percent of children who commit crimes growing up in an urbanized area. Although they account for only a small proportion of the total population, the crime rates are increasing day-by day. The current levels of crime in India are still lower than in most of the foreign countries, nationally the level of criminality has increased significantly during the transition period (Kury and Ferdinand, 1999). Some argue that 'political turbulence' combined with the 'growth in criminality' led to an increased fear of crime among the people, as well as growing feelings of skepticism and mistrust towards government bodies and the judicial system (Roberts and Hough, 2002). In addition, the sense of insecurity has been strongly influenced among public by the media, now free to report more and more crime 'dramas' on a daily basis. Indeed, there is evidence that the media exaggerate the extent of crime in the country, in particular juvenile delinquency (Haines and Haines, 2001). Therefore to the extent that the media influence public attitudes, these are likely to be based on stereotypes and inaccurate figures from unrepresentative reporting. There is very little research into public attitudes towards juvenile delinquency. Previous studies are limited to measuring fear of crime activities amongst juveniles, public opinion about the death penalty (Keil et al., 1999) or about delinquency in general (Ionescu, 2000). However, there is no study investigating on the opinions about juvenile delinquency and its treatment in the country. Where public opinion is misinformed it can compromise the fundamental principles of justice (Walker and Hough, 1988). If politicians are to give greater consideration to the 'congruence' of public opinion and punishment practice, in particular to the level of public confidence in the administration of justice (Roberts and Hough, 2002), then the exploration of public knowledge about crime and criminal activity issues becomes important. However, policy makers need to be aware of the extent and limitations of public opinion, the media's



influence in shaping people's views about punishing and the methodological limitations of studies into this area. In this regard, Delhi city is likely accession to its fast development in all sectors, and the increasing in criminal activities at various circumstances especially by juveniles, research into public attitude on juvenile delinquency in Delhi city is of greater significance. Much of the international research into public opinion regarding punishment has shown that public confidence in the administration of justice is low, due in part to the discrepancy between public beliefs and the reality with regard to punishments against crimes. The public consistently misjudges trends in both adult and juvenile crime, tends to underestimate the severity of punishment, and is generally uninformed or misinformed about criminal justice policy. The media have a significant role in shaping people's conceptions about crime because of the emphasis on reporting crimes of violence. Additionally, in contrast to what politicians might think the public support alternative punishment options when these are made salient, as well as rehabilitation and prevention efforts, especially regarding juvenile offenders. Although most of these findings emerged from studies of public attitudes towards crime and punishments in general, or studies focused only on crimes committed by adults, the lack of public knowledge about the criminal justice system is equally reflected in studies looking into public opinion about juvenile crime. Therefore, the present study aimed to analyses the public attitude on juvenile crime

PURPOSE

The survey was conducted to study the psychological problem of children's in Delhi city living in the juvenile homes of Delhi.

METHODOLOGY

The study was done on 60 juveniles who are committed crimes and staying in juvenile homes of Delhi city. A structured questionnaire was designed and collected necessary information from the respondents by personal interview. The questionnaire was developed from an analysis and assessment of crime studies conducted, and drew heavily on the similar works developed through crime surveys. However, the development of the questionnaire was also influenced by the context in which the survey was to take place; respondents' feedback (via pre-testing and piloting); Delhi city's historical, political and



socio-economic context, as well as contemporary practices within the juvenile justice system.

- Precautions Taken (Voluntary Participation; Informed Consent; Debriefing and Sharing Results; Confidentiality)
- Tools used for Collecting Data
 1. Observation Method
 2. Interview Method
 3. Psychological Test
- Reasons for Choosing the Subject
- Rapport Formation: A friendly conversation was carried out to make the subject feel at ease. I assured the subject that results would be kept confidential. All of his/her queries related to the study were clarified.
- Preliminaries Information:
 - Name
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Birth Order
 - Number of Sibling
 - Education
 - Locality of Residence
 - Religion
 - Parental Education and Occupation
 - Family Income
 - Subject Medical History
- Introspective Report
- Interview
- Subjects Interview (15 to 20 Questions) Examples of Questions:
 1. Who is your role model?
 2. Do you enjoy the company of your family?
 3. What stream you have chosen and why?
 4. How often do you go out with your family?



5. Do you enjoy your studies?
 6. What kind of entertainment you like?
 7. In what kind of environment do you enjoy the most?
 8. What are your hobbies?
 9. Is there any kind of restriction put on you by your family?
 10. Do you feel shy in talking to people in a group?
 11. Do you share your problems with your family?
 12. What is your aim in life?
 13. Whom do you trust the most in your family?
 14. Will you do something that your family objects to?
 15. How much time do you take out for your family?
 16. Do you trust your friends?
 17. What kind of looks interests you the most?
 18. Are you short tempered?
- Parent Interview: Mother
 1. Do you trust your son / daughter?
 2. Do you force him/her to do anything which he/she wouldn't do?
 3. Do you trust his /her friends?
 4. Do you take him/her out on outing regularly?
 5. Do you force him/her in terms of studies?
 6. Do you believe in giving pocket money to your child?
 7. Is he/she very moody?
 8. How often do you allow your son/daughter to go out with his/her friends?
 9. Are you satisfied with the company of your friends?
 10. What kind of passion do you see in your child?
 11. Does your child listen to you?
 12. Do he /she hesitate in sharing problems with you?
 13. Have you ever allowed your child to drive your vehicle?
 14. Do you think mobile phone is necessary for your child?
 15. Are you possessive about your child?
 16. What qualities of him / her do you like the most?



17. Are you aware of his /her hobbies?
18. What is his /her attitude towards life?
- Parent Interview: Father
 1. Do you trust your son / daughter?
 2. Do you force him/her to do anything which he/she wouldn't do?
 3. Do you trust his /her friends?
 4. Do you take him/her out on outing regularly?
 5. Do you force him/her in terms of studies?
 6. Do you believe in giving pocket money to your child?
 7. Is he/she very moody?
 8. How often do you allow your son/daughter to go out with his/her friends?
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 16. What qualities of him / her do you like the most?
 17. Are you aware of his /her hobbies?
 18. What is his /her attitude towards life?
- Friend's Interview
 1. Since when have you been friends with him /her?
 2. How far do you trust him /her?
 3. Do you like his /her company?
 4. Are you proud of your friend?
 5. Do you know about his likes and dislikes?
 6. What is his /her aim in future?
 7. How often do you meet him /her?
 8. What do you appreciate the most about him/her?
 9. Is he/she into habit of smoking or drinking?



10. Do he /she listen to his /her parents?
11. What kind of sports he likes?
12. Whether he/she goes out for parties?
13. Is he /she satisfied with the pocket money he /she gets?
14. Does he/she take studies seriously?
15. Is he /she ready to face challenges in life

- Interview Analysis
 - Subject Interview Analysis (Summary of responses that you have received)
 - Subject's Mother Interview Analysis
 - Subject's Father Interview Analysis
 - Subject's Friend Interview Analysis
- Observation Method
 - Report of Subject's Observation (Share how he /she is in school / with friends /with parents i.e. according to your observation)

Closed questions with tick-box and Likert-scale response formats were used in order to find out the following objectives.

1. To study the demographic profile of the respondents (e.g. age, sex, education, etc.)
2. To study the knowledge and perception of respondents on incidence of juvenile delinquency psychological perspectives.

The pre-designed questionnaires were filled from the 60 respondents who are involved in criminal activities in Delhi city and put juvenile homes. The data was covered various categories of criminal activity involved juveniles where the distribution followed a purposive snow-balling non-probability design, with correctly completed questionnaires returned.

DATA ANALYSIS

After collecting the necessary information from the respondents through the questionnaires the data was processed with statistical package SPSS and the required tables were drawn for the analysis. Hence, the following findings were derived from the sample data. In common with most public opinion studies, findings here are presented mainly in the form of frequencies of responses. However, statistically significant associations in the data are explored, where possible. For example, relationships between demographic profile of the



respondents and opinions on juvenile delinquency, and also psychological perspectives (statistical method) by using Chi-square tests of significance.

RESULT

The results of this study show that there is public concern about law and order in Delhi city. However, in the eyes of respondents the most important social problem was not seen to be crime, but poverty. Over half (58.3%) of respondents surveyed expressed poverty is the most important reason, a finding very much in line with the reality of their lives. The choice of Illiteracy (23.6%) and unemployment (15.7%) as the next most important reasons (after poverty) confirms once again juveniles' dissatisfaction with their socioeconomic conditions.

Table 1: Reason for Juvenile Crime

Reason for juvenile crime	Percentage
1. Poverty	58.3
2. Illiteracy	23.6
3. Unemployment	15.7
4. Other problems	2.4
Total	100.0

Juvenile delinquency and punishments when asked about recent national juvenile delinquency trends, the majority of respondents (75.9%) believed that juvenile delinquency was on the increase. Only 16% of respondents were aware of changing the behavior, while the majority (78%) thought that the number of juvenile offenders sent to prison had increased. These results illustrate that the psychological perspectives of the respondents on juvenile delinquency found imprisonment rates for juvenile offenders in Visakhapatnam city is increasing. But the behaviour of the juveniles is not changing. It is also found that most of the juveniles involved in violence followed by thefts.

Table 2: Opinions of the Respondents on Juvenile Delinquency and Punishments

S. No.	Juvenile delinquency and punishments	Yes
1	Juvenile delinquency is increasing	75.9%
2	Number of juvenile offenders sent to prison had increased	78.0%
3	Juvenile offenders are changing their behavior	16.0%
4	Most of the juvenile delinquency involves violence	91.5%
5	Most of the juvenile delinquency involves theft	67.2%

There are a number of possible reasons why people's estimations of crime and punishing figures are so wide of the mark. Firstly, official crime statistics are inaccessible to the public



and often out of date; lack of knowledge is therefore hardly surprising. Secondly, as the media are the main source of information, public attitudes are subject to influence by unrepresentative reporting. Thirdly, discrepancies between national and local crime rates could induce differences of opinions. Hence respondents living in such an area would have been influenced by the local experience of crime when answering questions about national crime rates. Poorer (low income or no income) respondents were more likely to overestimate the proportion of juvenile offenders engaged in violent crimes. Younger respondents tended to overestimate imprisonment rates for juvenile offenders and the elderly underestimated the imprisonment rates for juvenile offenders who had committed theft and burglary.

Table 3: Comment on Punishments and Their Ability to Deliver Justice

Comment on punishments	%
1. Confidence in the courts	33.2
2. Somewhat neutral	33.2
3. More critical performance of courts	33.6
Total	100.0

A plurality of opinion emerged when the juveniles were asked to comment on punishments and their ability to deliver justice. One third (33.2%) of the juveniles expressed confidence in the courts, one third was somewhat neutral (33.2%) and one third was more critical of the performance of the courts. One could say from the data that only a third of the juveniles expressing negative views about the courts are a positive result. This indicates that the majority of the juveniles do not have confidence in the courts and this quite rightly should be considered a problem for a democratic country.

Table 4: Opinions of the Juveniles in the Administration of Justice

S. No.	Public confidence	Yes
1	Juveniles should be treated differently from adults	71.0%
2	Judges respect the rights of juvenile offenders and treat them fairly	44.4%
3	Punishments cannot change the behavior of juvenile offenders	63.8%

An important aspect of confidence in the administration of justice concerns the way courts deal with juveniles. In this respect, the vast majority of the juveniles (71%) not only believed that juveniles should be treated differently from adults, but they also believed that the courts give full expression to this principle. Furthermore, almost half (44.4%) of respondents



considered that within the punishment process, judges respected the rights of juvenile offenders and treated them fairly. It is also noticed from the juvenile opinions that above sixty percent of the respondents (63.8%) opined punishments cannot change the behavior of juvenile offenders. Juvenile offender and their treatment regarding juvenile offenders and their treatment, a greatest proportion of respondents supported non-custodial punishments, such as community service (54.9%) or probation (31.9%). Only 13.2% favored imprisonment. These findings demonstrate a considerable rise in the level of public support for non-custodial penalties – particularly for minor offences such as theft.

Table 5: Juvenile Opinions on Their Treatment Non-Custodial Punishments

Percentage Community service	54.9%
Probation	31.9%
Imprisonment	13.2%
Total	100.0%

The results indicated that people wanted more juvenile offenders to be sent to prison for violent crimes, burglary and theft. This latter result is not consistent with public support for non-custodial penalties for a particular case of minor theft. One can argue that this inconsistency within people's attitudes reflects once again the fact that, when asked about punishment in general, people tend to think about worst case scenarios, even when theft is the offence in question. Further contradictory results emerged when juveniles were asked other questions about juvenile offenders. In contrast with the traditional mode of punishment practice in Delhi city, which is based on a strict Criminal Code in which the sentence is based only on the offence and not the characteristics of the individual, the majority of the public (70%) thought that both the circumstances of crime and the juvenile offenders' personal circumstances should be taken into account in the punishing process. A statistically significant correlation was also found between respondent's standard of living and their attitudes to punishing juvenile offenders: people with low income were more likely to believe that sentences passed by the courts in Delhi city are too lenient. Interestingly, however, people with lower incomes and lower education were also more likely to favor 'restorative' options. Age and education have an impact on the way of juvenile offenders. For example, older juveniles were more likely to support rehabilitation as a main punishment objective. The results indicated that juvenile with a higher level of



education were more punitive towards young delinquents: the more educated were, the more likely they were to believe that retribution should be the primary aim of punishment

CONCLUSION

This has shown that it would be wrong to characterize the Delhi city as being highly punitive in respect to juvenile delinquency and punishing. Although Delhi city consider that sentences handed down by the courts are not tough enough, when they are provided with specific examples and questioned in more depth, they think more closely about an issue and their responses change. In contrast to judicial practice in Delhi city, there is juvenile favor for community based punishment alternatives for juvenile offenders, especially those committing minor offences. Moreover, the juveniles do not have a great deal of confidence in the ability of the courts to prevent crime. They believe that preventing juvenile delinquency is more a question of changing the family and school environment and increasing the chances of gaining employment and providing opportunities for young people to spend their spare time positively, rather than stressing more imprisonment or police on the beat. However, this does not mean the role of punishment in preventing crime. As results from this survey demonstrate punishment was perceived as a major factor in preventing juvenile crime. Interestingly, contrary to common practice in Delhi city courts, a large proportion of the juveniles are in favor of individualization within the punishment process and restorative justice. A majority support elements of the restorative justice approach, such as reconciliation between victims and juvenile offenders. Findings reported in this paper and elsewhere indicate that tend to be punitive towards crime and punishing issues mainly because, when asked about the adequacy of sentences in general, they have in mind more serious crimes. This is coupled with the mistaken impression that juvenile delinquency is increasing and the perception that the amount of violent juvenile delinquency is much greater than it actually is. In the psychological perspectives of the juvenile delinquency it shows the poverty, illiteracy and family disturbances are the main reasons for the criminal activities among young children, which need social change and government initiatives for structural changes in the family live and more reforms for development of education and employment in the society. Some even argue that punishments may not control the criminal activities among younger generation. Moreover, as the media tend to report violent spectacular cases regarding juvenile delinquency, public



discussion of criminality focuses mostly on serious crimes, which clearly represent only a small minority of juvenile crimes

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