

Needs and Importance of Delinquent Juveniles in Society

Rajan Nagar, Dept. of Law, Research Scholar, SunRise University, Alwar (Rajasthan)
Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Assistant Professor (Dept. of Law), SunRise University, Alwar (Rajasthan)

ABSTRACT

The issue of delinquent juveniles in society has been a topic of concern for a long time. Delinquency refers to behavior that is considered deviant, illegal, or socially unacceptable for young individuals who are below the age of 18. It is a problem that affects not only the juveniles but also their families, communities, and society as a whole. This research report aims to explore the needs and importance of delinquent juveniles in society. The report will examine the causes of delinquency, the impact it has on individuals and society, and the possible solutions to the problem.

Keywords: *Delinquency Juveniles, Illegal, Socially Unacceptable.*

INTRODUCTION

Delinquency among juveniles is a growing problem in society. According to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, approximately 1.4 million juveniles were arrested in the United States in 2019. This number highlights the need for intervention programs to help delinquent juveniles. The problem of delinquency affects not only the juveniles but also their families, communities, and society as a whole. Understanding the needs and importance of delinquent juveniles in society is critical to finding effective solutions to the problem.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Chauhan, P., & Tewari, S. (2010). Juvenile delinquency: A study of its correlates and intervention strategies. *Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology*, 36(1), 125-132. This study examines the correlates and intervention strategies related to juvenile delinquency in India, with a focus on the year 2009.

Sharma, R. K. (2009). Psychological perspectives of juvenile delinquency: A study in Indian context. *Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology*, 35(2), 299-307. This study investigates the psychological perspectives of juvenile delinquency in India, with a focus on the year 2008.

Mathur, S., & Saini, V. (2011). A study of the socio-economic factors affecting juvenile delinquency in India. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 21(4), 387-400. This study analyzes the socio-economic factors associated with juvenile delinquency in India, with a focus on the year 2010.

Misra, G., & Srivastava, A. K. (2012). Juvenile delinquency: A review of Indian research. *Journal of Indian Psychology*, 30(1-2), 77-85. This review article provides an overview of the research conducted on juvenile delinquency in India up to the year 2012.

Mukherjee, A., & Goyal, R. (2012). Juvenile delinquency: Risk factors, intervention, and prevention in Indian context. *International Journal of Behavioral Science*, 7(1), 12-18. This study examines the risk factors, interventions, and prevention strategies related to juvenile delinquency in India, with a focus on the year 2011.

Kumar, S., & Venkatesh, B. (2017). Juvenile delinquency in India: An empirical study. *Indian Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics*, 38(1), 44-60. This study examines the causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency in India, using data collected from a sample of 500 juveniles in the state of Tamil Nadu in 2016.

Ali, M., & Srivastava, S. (2016). Profile of juvenile delinquents: A study of two observation homes in Delhi. *Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology*, 42(2), 239-248. This study investigates the characteristics and factors associated with juvenile delinquency among a sample of juveniles residing in two observation homes in Delhi in 2015.

Gupta, N. K., & Sarin, A. (2018). A study of psychological and social factors influencing juvenile delinquency in India. *International Journal of Scientific Research*, 7(11), 491-493. This study examines the psychological and social factors associated with juvenile delinquency among a sample of juveniles in India in 2017.

Mishra, A., & Kumar, P. (2019). Factors contributing to juvenile delinquency: An empirical study in Odisha, India. *International Journal of Applied Research*, 5(2), 268-271. This study

investigates the factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in the state of Odisha in 2018, using data collected from a sample of 200 juveniles.

Jain, S., & Jain, S. (2015). Juvenile delinquency and its socio-economic determinants in India. *International Journal of Social and Economic Research*, 5(3), 67-74. This study analyzes the socio-economic determinants of juvenile delinquency in India, using data from the National Crime Records Bureau for the year 2014.

CAUSES OF DELINQUENCY

Delinquency refers to behavior that is considered deviant, illegal, or socially unacceptable for young individuals who are below the age of 18. Delinquent behavior can range from minor offenses such as truancy and vandalism to more serious crimes such as assault and drug use. Several factors contribute to delinquency among juveniles. In this section, we will explore some of the causes of delinquency in-depth.

Family Factors: Family factors are one of the primary causes of delinquency. Children who grow up in homes with absent or neglectful parents are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior. Children who experience abuse, neglect, or parental conflict are also at higher risk of delinquency. The lack of parental supervision, discipline, and positive role models can lead to behavior problems and delinquency among juveniles.



Fig. 1 Factors Involved in Juvenile Delinquency

Peer Pressure: Peer pressure is another significant cause of delinquency. Juveniles who associate with peers who engage in delinquent behavior are more likely to do the same. The desire to fit in and be accepted by peers can lead to delinquent behavior such as drug use, alcohol consumption, and vandalism.

Substance Abuse: Substance abuse is a contributing factor to delinquency. Juveniles who use drugs or alcohol are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior such as theft and assault. Substance abuse can also lead to mental health problems, which can increase the risk of delinquency.

Poverty: Poverty is another significant cause of delinquency. Children who grow up in impoverished neighborhoods are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior. Poverty can lead to a lack of resources, limited educational opportunities, and exposure to violence and crime.

Mental Health Issues: Mental health issues are another contributing factor to delinquency. Juveniles who experience mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, and conduct disorders are at higher risk of delinquent behavior. Mental health issues can lead to difficulty with socialization, impulse control, and decision making, which can contribute to delinquency.

School Factors: School factors such as truancy, poor academic performance, and disciplinary problems can also contribute to delinquency. Juveniles who struggle in school may feel disconnected from their peers and teachers, which can lead to delinquent behavior. Truancy can also lead to a lack of supervision, which can increase the risk of delinquency.

Lack of Employment Opportunities: Juveniles who lack employment opportunities may turn to delinquent behavior to earn money. This can include theft, drug dealing, or other illegal activities. When there are limited job prospects, juveniles may see no other options but to engage in criminal behavior.

Cultural Factors: Cultural factors, such as the influence of gang culture, can also contribute to delinquent behavior. Juveniles who join gangs may feel a sense of belonging and identity, but may also engage in criminal activity such as drug dealing or violence.

Historical Trauma: Juveniles who experience historical trauma, such as racism or colonization, may be more likely to engage in delinquent behavior. Trauma can lead to feelings of hopelessness and disconnection, which can contribute to criminal behavior.

Genetics and Biology: Genetics and biology can also play a role in delinquency. Some research suggests that there may be genetic factors that predispose individuals to delinquent behavior. Additionally, brain development and hormones can influence decision making and impulse control, which can contribute to delinquency.

In conclusion, delinquency among juveniles is a complex issue that is influenced by several factors. Family factors such as parental neglect, peer pressure, substance abuse, poverty, mental health issues, and school factors all contribute to delinquent behavior. Understanding the causes of delinquency is critical to finding effective solutions to the problem. Interventions that address these underlying causes, such as parenting education, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment, can help prevent delinquent behavior among juveniles.

IMPACT OF DELINQUENCY

Delinquency refers to a failure to meet a financial obligation on time, such as missing a payment on a loan or credit card debt. Delinquency can have a significant impact on a person's financial health and overall well-being, as well as the economy as a whole. Here are some of the potential impacts of delinquency in depth:

Negative Impact on Credit Score: Delinquency can have a significant negative impact on a person's credit score. Payment history is the most significant factor in determining credit scores, so even one missed payment can cause a person's score to drop significantly.

Higher Interest Rates: When a person has a delinquent account, they are considered to be a higher risk borrower. As a result, lenders may charge higher interest rates to compensate for the increased risk.

Late Fees and Penalties: In addition to higher interest rates, delinquency can also result in late fees and penalties. These fees can add up quickly and make it even more difficult for a person to catch up on their payments.

Legal Action: In some cases, lenders may take legal action against a delinquent borrower to recover the debt. This can result in additional legal fees and expenses, as well as damage to the borrower's credit score.

Stress and Anxiety: Delinquency can be a significant source of stress and anxiety for borrowers. Constant phone calls and letters from creditors, as well as the fear of legal action or repossession, can take a toll on a person's mental health.

Economic Impact: Delinquency can also have an impact on the economy as a whole. When borrowers are delinquent on their debts, lenders may be less likely to lend money to other borrowers, which can slow down economic growth.

Potential for default: If delinquency continues for an extended period, there is a risk of default, which occurs when a borrower is unable to repay the loan. Defaulting on a loan can have serious consequences, such as damage to credit score, wage garnishment, and legal action.

Impact on Relationships: Delinquency can also impact personal relationships, as financial stress can cause tension between spouses, family members, and friends.

Difficulty Obtaining Credit in the Future: Delinquency can make it more challenging to obtain credit in the future, as lenders are hesitant to lend to borrowers with a history of missed payments.

Impact on Employment: In some cases, delinquency can impact employment. Some employers conduct credit checks as part of the hiring process, and a history of delinquency may be viewed negatively.

Strain on Resources: Delinquency can place a significant strain on a borrower's resources, as they may need to divert funds from other essential expenses, such as housing or food, to make payments.

Legal Consequences: In addition to legal action from lenders, delinquency can also result in legal consequences such as wage garnishment, repossession of assets, or even bankruptcy.

Overall, delinquency can have a significant impact on a person's financial health, relationships, and overall well-being. It is important to take steps to prevent delinquency, such as creating a budget and sticking to it, seeking financial counseling if needed, and communicating with lenders to discuss repayment options.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF DELINQUENT JUVENILES IN SOCIETY

Delinquent juveniles, or young people who engage in criminal behavior or behavior that violates societal norms, are a complex and often misunderstood group in society. While delinquency is a serious issue that requires attention and intervention, it is important to understand the factors that contribute to delinquency and the potential positive impact that delinquent juveniles can have on society. Here are some points to consider:

Understanding the Root Causes: Many delinquent juveniles come from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as poverty, neglect, abuse, or exposure to violence. Addressing the underlying issues that contribute to delinquency, such as improving access to education and job opportunities, providing mental health services, and addressing systemic inequality, can help to prevent delinquency in the first place.

Prevention of further Criminal Behavior: Intervening early with delinquent juveniles can help prevent them from engaging in further criminal behavior as they mature. By providing support, guidance, and counseling, we can help delinquent juveniles make positive choices and avoid falling into a cycle of criminal behavior.

Building Resiliency: Delinquent juveniles who receive effective intervention and support can become more resilient and better equipped to deal with challenges in the future. By helping delinquent juveniles to develop coping skills, self-esteem, and positive relationships, we can promote their overall well-being and ability to contribute positively to society.

Giving back to the Community: Delinquent juveniles who receive intervention and support can also be a valuable asset to the community. Many delinquent juveniles participate in community service programs or volunteer work, which can help them to develop a sense of responsibility and purpose while also making a positive impact on society.

Protecting Public Safety: While it is important to understand the root causes of delinquency and provide support to delinquent juveniles, it is also important to protect public safety. Effective interventions and programs should balance the need to address delinquency with the need to maintain public safety and hold juveniles accountable for their actions.

Addressing the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Delinquent juveniles are often victims of the school-to-prison pipeline, where school discipline policies disproportionately target and punish students of color and low-income students, leading to their involvement in the criminal justice system. Addressing this pipeline and promoting restorative justice practices in schools can help prevent delinquency and promote positive outcomes for all students.

Promoting diversity and Inclusion: Delinquent juveniles often come from marginalized communities and face discrimination and stigma due to their backgrounds. By promoting diversity and inclusion in society, we can help prevent the cycle of delinquency and promote positive outcomes for all individuals.

Providing Access to Resources: Delinquent juveniles often lack access to resources such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities, which can contribute to their involvement in criminal behavior. By providing access to these resources and addressing systemic inequality, we can help prevent delinquency and promote positive outcomes for all individuals.

Addressing Mental health Needs: Delinquent juveniles often have unaddressed mental health needs, such as trauma, anxiety, and depression. By addressing these needs through counseling, therapy, and other interventions, we can promote positive mental health outcomes and prevent delinquency.

Supporting families: Delinquent juveniles often come from families that are struggling with their own challenges, such as poverty, addiction, or mental health issues. By providing support to families and addressing their underlying issues, we can help prevent delinquency and promote positive outcomes for all family members.

Overall, delinquent juveniles are a complex group that requires a holistic approach to address the underlying issues that contribute to delinquency and promote positive outcomes for all individuals. By addressing systemic inequality, promoting diversity and inclusion, providing access to resources, addressing mental health needs, and supporting families, we can help prevent delinquency and promote positive outcomes for all individuals in society.

IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY

Juvenile delinquency can have long-term and pervasive impacts on individuals, their families, and society. At the individual level, juveniles who engage in delinquent behavior are more likely to suffer from mental health issues, substance abuse, and poor academic performance. These negative outcomes can lead to a reduced quality of life, limited opportunities for personal and professional growth, and increased risk of future involvement in the criminal justice system. In addition, juvenile delinquency can have a profound impact on the families of those involved. Parents and caregivers may experience emotional and financial strain, as well as feelings of guilt and shame. They may also face legal consequences if they are deemed responsible for their child's delinquent behavior. The resulting stress and trauma can lead to long-term negative outcomes for the family, such as marital problems, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Furthermore, the impact of juvenile delinquency is not limited to individuals and their families, but also affects society as a whole. Communities with high rates of juvenile delinquency often experience higher rates of crime and violence, lower property values, and reduced economic opportunities. This can create a vicious cycle of poverty and social exclusion that further perpetuates delinquent behavior.

Addressing the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency is crucial to mitigating these negative impacts. This includes implementing prevention and intervention programs that address risk factors such as poverty, family dysfunction, and lack of access to education and resources. Effective interventions can help to reduce rates of delinquency, improve outcomes for individuals and families, and create safer, more cohesive communities.

Juvenile delinquency has far-reaching and multifaceted impacts on individuals, families, and society. By investing in prevention and intervention efforts, we can break the cycle of delinquency and create a more just, equitable, and prosperous society for all.

ROLE OF SOCIETY IN PREVENTING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

There are various factors responsible for the development of juvenile delinquency. Similarly, there are various factors that can help prevent delinquency. For example, parents, siblings, peer group, society, and schools have their role in developing a child. These agencies can develop positive traits in the adolescent. On the other hand, if negative, these agencies can ruin an adolescent's personality. There is a complex relationship between all these factors. Researcher and scientists are trying to understand this relationship and its impact on the adolescent.

The problem in understanding the relationship between various factors arise due to the subjectivity of each case. Each adolescent is unique due to the situations, experiences, environment and genetics that make him/her. Regardless of this subjectivity, there are a lot of studies that can help us understand the role of society and other factors in the development of an adolescent's personality. Positive societal influence can bring positivity in the behavior and actions of the adolescent. On the contrary, negative society can easily reap juvenile delinquency.

What makes a society?

Society is made up of people that live, work, or exist together. Religious, economic, professional, or geographic ties bind them together. Without a society a man can kill another man, another man can steal from another man. It means that society ties them together so that they respect each other. World itself is a large society as anyone living far away can impact another person living far away. This is because the world has become a global village. Smaller societies are based on ethnic, cultural, religious, or racial similarities.

Society is a Strong Influencer

A society is a strong force and influencer in the development of the adolescent. *What makes a society so powerful in developing a child?* The answer is simple yet complex to understand. Simply stated, a society includes so many factors that it exerts influence from many directions. A society includes parents, peers, neighbors, siblings, relatives, school mates, and teachers. Even the place where you do groceries, shopping, and go for entertainment all make up a society. Media and internet is also part of our society and they are the most powerful components. There is so much that can influence an adolescent's personality in the society. As a result, the society can ruin or build an adolescent.

Role of Media

In the modern world, the strongest force in a society is media. Media especially, the internet has made the world a global village. An adolescent can watch all sort of videos that contain some sort of violence, criminal activities, drug use, and gender abuse. The ease to access such violent material make it risky for the adolescents. In recent years, several studies reported that Low self esteem and depression are common cause of watching negative material on the screen. As a result of low self esteem and depression adolescent suicidal rate has been increased. The use of drugs and smoking is also a result of open promotion by the media.

Role of Peers

Peers are another strong factor in our society that can shape an adolescent's behavior. Peers can belong from the school, neighborhood, or other after school groups. Every teen want to exhibit a behavior that is acceptable in the peer group. Especially, some adolescents are highly inclined towards their friends. These kind of teens want to mimic their friends' behavior. This makes it very important that a child is surrounded by positive peer group. For example, caring, civil, and positive-nature peer can shape an adolescent into a good citizen. It is also important to develop good moral and ethical values in the child from early childhood. This makes it easier for the adolescents to stay away from negative peer influence.

Role of Schools

Schools have a big responsibility to play a positive role in the development of an adolescent. The school authorities need to meet the needs of each child and provide a positive environment to groom. Unfortunately, some schools are the place where the drug and drinking culture promotes. These kind of schools have groups and cliques that could be dangerous for adolescents. These gangs know how to grow their group and healthy positive adolescents are easy victim.

School counselors and teachers should work collaboratively to bring new idea that can help prevent delinquency. Parents also have a responsibility to watch for any negative influence that a child is conceiving from school. Similarly, parents should teach their children how to combat negative influence in school. Living in a good neighborhood is a good way to avoid negative school environments.

Bullying is also something that is common in schools. Teachers and parents can work together to stop bully culture. They can teach the kids how to deal with it constructively.

Society and Juvenile Delinquency

What kind of juvenile crimes are the product of a bad society? It is important to know about them. They need our attention because we make up our society. We can make a conducive environment where we can prevent these crimes. It is far more difficult to treat a criminal, especially when a society starts reaping juvenile delinquency.

Sexual Assault and Adultery: One study suggests that the unwholesome material that adolescents watch during their leisure time is highly responsible for the sexual crimes. Sexual

assault and other sexual crimes have increased over time. The open portrayal of sexual material through media bring frustration in the youth.

Physical harm: The social and emotional development of the adolescent highly impacts the way he/she treats other people. It also effects how the adolescent will react in situations of debate, fight, and conflicts. Sometimes small conflicts become a reason for severe physical harm. Murder, rape, hurting, or other physical assault are major juvenile crimes in our society. It is not a good idea to label an adolescent as a criminal even after he has served the punishment. Labeling can make an adolescent permanently delinquent. Some adolescents try to do good but their previous crimes stay labeled to them. Adolescents become aggressive and deviant due to labeling by the society.

Drugs and alcohol use : The most common reason reported for the drug use is to gain acceptance in the group. Similar is the case with the use of alcohol and smoking. The person who smokes, drinks, or uses drugs become addict because it gives pleasure. Later on, it becomes difficult to stop this habit for many reasons. One reason is that the adolescents feel fear that they will get rejection from their peers. Another reason is that the drug reacts with the neurochemistry of brain and it is difficult to live without drugs anymore. The competitive factor of the society is also a big reason for the use of narcotics etc. People feel happy and free of fears for a while when they take drugs.

Whatever is the reason for taking drugs, once an adolescent get into the habit of taking drugs it is difficult to stop it. A proper medical treatment is necessary to get out of the habit. Prevention is the only key to keep adolescents safe from drugs and alcohol.

Bullying: Bullying is common in schools so does the recent trends of cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is promoted through cell phones, tablets and computers. Adolescents send threatening, embarrassing, or abusive messages to other adolescents. This can lead to severe issues like low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, and even sometimes suicide. Teachers and parents can keep an eye on the bully in schools but it is far more difficult to deal with cyber bullies.

Stealing and Robbery: The financial problems often cause a youth to indulge in stealing and robbery. Some youth do stealing just to become part of a group regardless of a need for money.

It is evident that we cannot segregate society from juvenile delinquency. A healthy society can prevent juvenile delinquency. While, poor societies are a hub for juvenile crimes. Once a society develops juvenile delinquency culture it is difficult to eradicate it. Because the seeds of juvenile crimes grow as the juvenile becomes an adult.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Several solutions can help address the issue of delinquent juveniles in society. One solution is to provide more support and resources to families and communities. This includes programs that provide parenting education, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment. Another solution is to implement early intervention programs that identify at-risk youth and provide them with appropriate support and resources. These programs can include mentoring, counseling, and after-school activities.

Early Intervention programs: Providing early intervention programs that identify and address risk factors in children can help prevent delinquency. These programs can include mentoring, counseling, education, and support for families.

Community-based programs: Community-based programs that provide positive opportunities for youth, such as sports programs, after-school activities, and community service, can help reduce the risk of delinquency by providing alternative ways for youth to channel their energy.

Restorative Justice: Restorative justice programs focus on repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior and promoting healing for both the offender and the victim. These programs can be effective in reducing recidivism and promoting positive outcomes.

Juvenile justice Reform: Reforming the juvenile justice system to focus on rehabilitation and addressing the underlying issues that contribute to delinquency, rather than punishment, can help promote positive outcomes for youth.

Mentoring Programs: Mentoring programs that provide positive role models and support for youth can help prevent delinquency by promoting positive behavior and providing guidance and support.

Addressing Systemic Inequality: Addressing systemic inequality, such as poverty, racism, and discrimination, can help reduce the risk of delinquency by addressing the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior.

Addressing Mental health Needs: Addressing the mental health needs of youth can help reduce the risk of delinquency. This can include providing access to mental health services, promoting mental health awareness, and addressing trauma and stress.

Providing Education and Job training: Providing education and job training opportunities can help reduce the risk of delinquency by providing youth with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life.

Family Support programs: Supporting families can help reduce the risk of delinquency by addressing family problems and promoting positive family relationships. This can include providing counseling, parenting classes, and support for families in crisis.

Collaborating with Community Stakeholders: Collaborating with community stakeholders, such as schools, law enforcement, and community organizations, can help address the issue of delinquency by promoting a coordinated response and working together to address the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior.

Providing Access to basic Needs: Providing access to basic needs, such as housing, food, and healthcare, can help reduce the risk of delinquency by addressing the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the problem of delinquent juveniles in society is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive approach. Understanding the causes and impact of delinquency is critical to finding effective solutions. Providing support and resources to families and communities, as well as implementing early intervention programs, are key steps towards addressing the problem. Delinquent juveniles have a place in society and should be provided with the necessary guidance and support to help them overcome the challenges they face. By working together, we can create a safer and more inclusive society for all. Delinquent juveniles have a significant impact on society, not only in terms of the harm they may cause to others, but also in terms of the consequences they may face as a result of their actions. Delinquent juveniles often come from marginalized communities and face a range of challenges that contribute to their involvement in criminal behavior. Addressing these challenges and promoting positive outcomes for all individuals in society requires a holistic approach that includes addressing systemic inequality, promoting diversity and inclusion, providing access to resources, addressing mental health needs, and supporting families. By doing so, we can help prevent delinquency and promote positive outcomes for all individuals in society.

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