**Juvenile Delinquent: Causes and Preventions**

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*The juvenile delinquent does not feel his disturbed personality. The intelligent man does not feel his intelligence or the introvert his introversion.”* ***- B F Skinner.***

* 1. **Introduction to Juvenile Delinquents**

Juvenile – a person who is above the minimum age of criminal responsibility, which varies by country, and who is criminally younger than the age of majority and who can commit a criminal offence. Under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, anyone under the age of 18 in India is considered a minor. The age of criminal responsibility in India is 7 years old. The term delinquent is derived from the Latin word for "bypass". Therefore, it is a term that describes a person convicted of a crime. Children are adolescents convicted of crimes or antisocial behaviour or whose behaviour is beyond the control of their parents (Venudhar, 2016). Young people face personal risks and opportunities that are both beneficial and harmful. Young people take advantage of illicit opportunities by engaging in a variety of criminal activities, drug use, violence and murder (Cook and Gordon, 2012). The personality traits of young offenders are reflected in their résumés through their conduct. These behaviours may be due to poor quality of life in terms of discipline, stress, and communication. Various factors contribute to juvenile delinquency, namely social, cultural, and physical factors, but the severity and intensity are mainly influenced by the situation. juvenile delinquency. economic and cultural events. The negative consequences of socio-economic unrest are one of the main reasons that contribute to juveniles' involvement in criminal activity. Furthermore, factors such as distorted family structure, poverty, gang influence, and drug trafficking are social factors that predispose young people to delinquent behaviour (Agarwal, 2018). Juvenile crime data is worrisome, with figures from the National Crime Records Bureau showing a total of 31,170 crimes against minors recorded in 2021, a 4.7% increase from the previous year. In 2020, when there were 29,768 cases recorded and it is worrying that this rate mainly consists of 16-18-year-olds, the crime rate also increased from 6.7% to 7.0% (Chauhan, 2022). Urbanization in developing countries with higher population densities and greater diversity has altered the basic social relationships, control and cohesion that exist in society. The new structure has an impact on juvenile delinquency. The media also play an important role in promoting hero worship and justice by weeding out enemies who justify criminal behaviour. The widening gap between rich and poor can also lead to an identity crisis in lower social classes. Labelling is also one of the factors that can cause an individual to transmit criminal images, leading to violations of the law. In addition, there is another essential element of peer pressure:
Adolescents are very vulnerable to peer pressure if peer influence is not good, they are socially disadvantaged. negative culture and negative attitudes towards social and family relationships.

* 1. **Factors Associated with Juvenile Delinquent Act**

a. *Individual Factors*

Minors having lower intelligence and who have not received proper education are likely to be involved in delinquent behaviour. There are other factors like impulsivity and uncontrolled aggressive behaviour. The mental state of an individual is also one of the factors to consider harmful, destructive, and illegal activities (Mathur, n.d.). According to Farrington (2002), the behavioural risk factors that make offending more likely are impulsiveness or the inability to delay gratification, aggression, empathy, and restlessness. Children who perform poorly at school are also more likely to be truant, which is also linked to offending. Impulsiveness is also seen in Child’s personality that predicts offending. However, the results are not clear whether the aspects of personality are the result of a “deficit in the executive function of the brain (Farrington, 2002, p.667) or the result of parental influence or other social factors (Graham & Bowling, 1995 p.32).

b. *Family Factors*

The ongoing family feuds, neglect and abuse or absence of proper parental supervision. Parents who do not show respect for laws and societal norms may imbibe the same and children have attachment issues with their family leading the child to get involved in delinquent activities. Parental supervision is the way parents discipline their child, criminal parents siblings, abuse, and neglect (Graham & Bowling, 1995, p.33). Children brought up by single parents are more likely to start offending with those children having both parents. Many studies have reported a strong correlation between a lack of supervision and offending and it is the most important family influence on offending (Farrington: 2002 p.610). lack of supervision is also connected to poor relationships between a child and a parent, as children who are often in conflict with the parents are less willing to discuss their activities with them (Graham and Bowling, 1995 p 37).

c. *Substance Abuse Factors*

Substance abuse is found in most juvenile delinquents. These days they are using drugs more powerfully and start using them at a very young age, one reason is that they have grown up in such an environment. The use of illicit drugs leads children to commit heinous crimes under the influence of the drugs (Mathur, n.d.).

* 1. **Profiling of Juvenile Delinquents**

When minors are arrested for a crime and prosecuted, their records are made to understand and identify offenders as well as prevent future crimes. Profiles are done in two ways, quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative techniques use questionnaires or checklists to identify the characteristics of juvenile offenders. Qualitative technique is a technique that includes projective techniques used to assess the unconscious process of individuals. Such techniques are useful in the medical community's selection process. Therefore, juvenile crime is a complex and serious problem that cannot be solved by legal means alone. It includes a variety of factors, including socioeconomic, cultural, environmental, and political factors, that must be identified and taken into account. Several studies have shown that a child with anterior cortical injury before the age of 7 may develop abnormal behaviour, leading to frustration, anger, and aggression (Khushid, 2008). The prefrontal cortex, responsible for decision-making and impulse control, matures fully later in life, making foundational factors more important for child development and these factors may cause the child to become a serious or serious offender in the future.
In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, the importance of respecting the human rights of minors is emphasized, promoting their best interests and providing treatment or treatment in the community. navigation systems. for them (Sugano, 2008). The root causes of juvenile delinquency are complex and cannot be solved by the law alone, because as mentioned, there are many different factors that lead to juvenile delinquency and these factors are not considered. review as well as determine. For example, if a child has an injury to the area at the front of the brain, they are responsible for making decisions and controlling their impulses. Other factors such as socioeconomic status and socialization have a great influence on whether or not young people engage in delinquency and, as adults, they become unconditional delinquents as adults. Internationally, Canadian law holds that children must be treated humanely because the country's first juvenile justice law recognizes that children and young people are not subject to the same criminal penalties as adults. Internationally, this law requires that the legal framework governing the treatment of children, including the judicial system, must prioritize the best interests of the child. The law seems to reflect a genuine desire to balance the constitutional imperative to create “the best possible conditions for development” with the protection of children from exploitation and neglect.

The Indian Constitution recognizes the vulnerability of children and their right to protection. It also provides for the protection of children who are not yet mature enough to understand the nature and meaning of their actions, since a crime is an intentional act that is considered harmful or dangerous to society and severely punished. prohibitions and clear punishments under the criminal acts and youth are struggling today. has been a part of juvenile justice for a long time. Child delinquency creates a dichotomy between their status as children and the crimes they have committed. As a result, India's juvenile justice policy is in line with the provisions of Article 15 of the Indian Constitution to ensure that specific programs, policies and laws aim to protect children's rights with special care. .
The Juvenile Justice Act 1986 was passed by the parliament nationwide except for the State of Jammu and introduced a unified juvenile justice system in India. The Juvenile Justice Act retains the same outline and key features of the Children Act 1960, with the exception of replacing the word 'minor' with 'child'. The law establishes two separate agencies for working with delinquent and abandoned children, and introduces three new provisions:
an advisory board, a children's fund, and a designated guest at each facility. In addition, in 2000, JJA 2000 was passed by the National Assembly, recognizing the need to amend existing laws on minors while taking into account the standards of the 1985 Convention on the Rights of the Child (Regulation on the Rights of the Child). Beijing Rules), United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Juvenile Justice Administration.
The Juvenile Justice Act was introduced to treat minors between the ages of 16 and 18 who commit serious crimes as adults commit crimes. The law is a reversal of the social approach, as the age varies from state to state as the child matures. A child's age is a testament to the complexity, every child has four basic rights:
protect, survive, develop and participate. The goal is not to punish juvenile delinquents or abandoned children, but to integrate them into society while protecting their rights. The Nirbhaya case in December 2012 highlighted the need to remove any leniency given to young offenders in serious crimes involving extreme thoughts and actions. There, a number of crimes committed by minors have outraged society. The Juvenile Commission assesses the mental and physical capacity of the juvenile to commit a heinous crime under Section 15 of the Judiciary Act and, based on the initial assessment, decides whether to refer the case to court. adjudication under article S. 2(20) of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015 for trial as an adult under section 18(3) of that Act. The Juvenile Justice Act is a step in the right direction in preventing and protecting against juvenile delinquency.
However, there are still loopholes and ineffective enforcement of the law will lead to low efficiency. Many questions remain unanswered regarding the age of criminal responsibility and sentencing policy. Discussions are ongoing about applicable laws and procedures that apply to minors. There is a tension between protecting young offenders and preventing crimes committed by them. Emphasis should be placed on adopting a child-centred approach to ensuring justice in the best interests of children and their eventual recovery through various institutions (Chaudhary, 2003). Agencies involved in administering justice to children must be held accountable.  Approach Towards Juvenile Delinquents:

* 1. **Agencies Role in Combating Juvenile Delinquency Judicial Trends**

Throughout history, the judiciary has played an active and supportive role in punishing juvenile offenders. The case Kakoo v. The state of Andhra Pradesh (1976), is the best example in history of the case of a 13-year-old boy named Kakoo guilty of raping a 2-year-old child. He was initially convicted and sentenced to four years in prison. In appealing to the Supreme Court, Judge Sarkaria took a more humane approach, pointing out that too-long prison sentences can turn young offenders into hardened criminals. In the Kakoo case, the sentence was reduced to just one year of severe imprisonment after giving reason and reasonable consideration. The court also emphasized the need to keep minors separate from adult prisoners, preferably in a correctional school. After this historic case, the Supreme Court became increasingly sensitive to young inmates and issued a series of reduced sentences and introduced sentencing laws, which were previously indifferent to the needs of young prisoners. needs of adolescents. This approach is still applied by judicial authorities when dealing with cases involving juveniles who have committed violations of the law.

Furthermore, in the case of Satto v. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, Judge Krishna Iyer stressed that the main aim of criminal justice should be compassionate correction, rather than harsh detention that leads to degeneration. He argued that the Indian criminal justice system should take a humane approach to child offenders and not impose harsh punishments on them. Judge Iyer criticized the state for its lack of juvenile housing and guidance. It is up to the judge to decide whether to take away the liberty of a minor, and Judge Iyer strongly believes that safe detention is not in the child's interest. He stated that certain absolute legal provisions must be established, such as prohibiting the imprisoning of minors, not arresting registered offenders, and setting specific time limits. detention of a child before or after trial. In addition, Judge Iyer argued for the use of pre-sentence reports, similar to those highlighted by the US Supreme Court. These reports provide general information about the defendant's environment and circumstances, including their mental capacity at the time of the crime. The use of such reports will facilitate the appropriate sentencing of juveniles in violation of the law. It is the magistrate's responsibility to ensure that the relevant information provided in the report is reviewed and appropriate action is taken against minors who violate the law.
In the case of Salil Bali v. Union of India (2013), a panel of three judges headed by Chief Justice Altamas Kabir analysed some of the fundamental issues related to minors breaking the law. The Court dealt with the status of minors and found that although there are exceptions regarding the offences of minors between the ages of 16 and 18, the examples This is not important enough to warrant a change. The court argued that it was better to try to reintegrate the children into society than to let them become hardened criminals.

A 2014 case, Dr. Subramanian Swamy et al. v. Raju Thr. A member of the Juvenile & Other Justice Board (2014), Dr Subramanian Swamy filed an appeal, arguing that the real test of 'adolescents' is not age but maturity. on the mind of the offender. He argued that the law should be read down to understand its purpose and avoid unconstitutionality. The court held that studies of the brain composition of adolescents showed that by the age of 18, regions of the brain that regulate distance vision, impulse control and the ability to resist peer pressure were in the development process. . These are regular events over which the adolescent cannot control, not a serious illness or impairment.
Therefore, the court held that the age limit for minors should be maintained at 18 and that mental maturity should not be the sole criterion for determining whether a person should be tried when is a minor or an adult.

* 1. **Role of Observation Home**

The Observation home is designed for minors who break the law by committing various crimes such as theft, murder, rape, and illegal drug use. Many of these children are believed to come from dysfunctional families and engage in criminal activity. The monitoring centre is used for minors requiring short-term detention during an investigation or trial, as well as children on trial and juvenile offenders awaiting trial or relocating. Fit. India is home to nearly 19% of the world's children and about 440 million, more than a third of the country's population, are under the age of 18. The future of the country depends on a community of healthy, protected, educated and well-developed children who will become productive citizens. Mark Soler et al. (2009) have shown that this is a time of both great interest and great opportunity in the field of juvenile justice. State and local leaders, facing severe budget shortfalls in a slowing economy, have begun cutting juvenile justice programs and sending more criminals young people go to juvenile prisons to make up the budget shortfall. The first juvenile court was established in Calcutta in 1914, and child laws were enacted in Madras, Bengal and Bombay around 1920, based on the School Reform Act. Residential care and rehabilitation services are provided to abandoned, abandoned, destitute and delinquent children pursuant to this law. In 1927, the Save the Children Association, Maharashtra's first voluntary body, established the first detention prison in Umar Khadi. According to Rane's (1986) study of disadvantaged children, the traditional joint family in India that persisted for generations used to provide an integrated social security system. It is recognized that the proper care and development of disadvantaged children into productive members of society is an important responsibility. However, with the rapid changes of society, the traditional family system that once provided social security for these children is gradually disappearing, especially in urban areas, due to lifestyle and needs. changing social needs. Industrialization has also led to the development of slums, exposing young people to an unfavourable environment, leading to problems such as orphanages, poverty, exploitation, victimization and crime. France. In a study by Singh (2003), the primary forms of juvenile justice focused on children breaking the law. Juvenile justice interventions have broader potential for care and protection but also result in significant discrimination. Interestingly, unlike the US and some European countries, India has introduced a judicial intervention for minors that does not exclude child labour, prohibit child abuse, or carry out other acts of child abuse. child education preventive measures. Thus, juvenile justice or juvenile delinquency is more dominant and legally and administratively stronger than child labour or child-rearing regimes. Singh, 2003). By 1986, all states except Nagaland had enacted child laws, but the regulations were inconsistent and did not maintain minimum standards of basic needs, working conditions, and medical services. This study is based on secondary data collected from Crime Report India, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, and other published articles.

The legal provisions regarding custodial homes are set forth in section 8 of the Juvenile Justice (Child Care and Protection) Act 2015. Under this law, any state government has the authority to establish and maintain observers in each county or group of counties. These homes act as temporary refuges for minors breaking the law pending any investigation into them by law.
If the state government considers that a non-residential establishment established or maintained under subsection (1) is suitable as a temporary residence for minors, the government may certify the facility. as a monitoring facility for the purposes of this law. State governments have the power to enact regulations under this law, which regulate the management of observers. This includes setting standards and the different types of services provided by these homes for the rehabilitation and social inclusion of minors. In addition, the state government may certify viewings of homes and may also revoke certification under certain circumstances. Any minors who are not warded by a parent or guardian and brought to the primary supervision home will be placed in the observer's intake for preliminary investigation, care, and classification of the child. adolescents by age.
In India, the Integrated Child Protection Program (ICPS) funds a number of observers. According to available data, Maharashtra has the highest number of observed outbreaks, accounting for 18.15% of the total number of outbreaks observed in India. Rajasthan is second with 12.33%, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 10.27%, Madhya Pradesh with 6.16%, Karnataka with 5.48%, Kerala with 4.79%, Chhattisgarh with 4.45%, Bihar with 4.11%, Jharkhand with 3.42% and Nagaland with 3.42%. % of total households observed in India as of 31 March 2016.
The top 10 states mentioned above account for 72.58% of the total Observers in India as of March 31, 2016. The Observer is an organization where abandoned and delinquent minors are temporary residence pending a decision on their case. These children may be voluntarily placed in care by the police, probation officer or their parents. During their stay, all necessary services including food, clothing and accommodation are provided. Children may be placed in juvenile detention for long-term treatment or returned to their parents depending on the nature of the case. The Juvenile Justice Division, established under section 4 of the Juvenile Justice (Children Care and Protection) Act 2000 and the 2015 Amendment Act, hears cases of minors and minors. may assign the case to the child's parents on condition that the child attend the juvenile sessions. Judicial Council. Only children who break the law under the Indian Penal Code and other laws are brought before the Juvenile Justice Board.
The Integrated Child Protection Program (ICPS) is a government program implemented by the Government of India to ensure child safety with a focus on children in need of care and protection, minors and minors. conflict or exposure to the law and other vulnerable children. . Its main objective is to provide oversight and standardization of child protection programs that already exist and are developing in India. ICPS, proposed in 2006 and implemented in 2009, is administered at the state level by the State Child Welfare Commission and Association, and at the county level by the Children's Office of the Child Welfare Associations. , along with other organisations.

The Integrated Child Protection Program is a government program aimed at ensuring the well-being of children, especially those in need of care and protection, those who break the law and those who are vulnerable. other injury. This scheme is administered by various organizations at different levels of government in India. At the national level, the Department of Women and Child Development oversees program implementation, while the Central Adoption Authority manages domestic and international adoptions. The Central Project Support Unit in Delhi, led by the Delegation Director, ensures the effective implementation of ICPS in the Union States and Territories. The National Institute for Public Cooperation and Child Development is responsible for training child protection workers across the country, while Childline, a 24/7 weekday emergency access service, provides care. urgent and long-term care as well as rehabilitation for children in crisis.

* 1. **Forensic Psychological Assessment and Evaluation**

Forensic psychology is an interdisciplinary field that combines psychology and law. Since 1962, when the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia first determined that suitably qualified psychologists can testify in court on matters related to affective disorder (Jenkins United States), psychologists have become increasingly involved in legal matters. Their work covers many legal areas such as corrections, civil engagement, police psychology, custody, and jurisdiction, where their expertise is sought to provide insight into the questions and problems related to psychological motivation. .
As a legal document, a forensic psychology report is a scientific and objective document, with specific responsibilities and those responsible for the preparation of that report may be required to defend its findings. yourself in court, if necessary. During the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing process, psychological tests are often used. An important application of psychological testing is to assess the mental abilities of the accused before going to court. According to the US, the defendant needs to understand the allegations and the defendant's criminal behavior. Individuals with severe mental illness or intellectual disability may not meet this criterion, which is determined by psychological evaluation. Another application of psychological testing to determine the mental health status of defendants who pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. Forensic psychologists are responsible for reporting on the mental state of the accused, whether to the defense or the government. Although “madman advocate” is a common term, the number of defendants unable to appear in court due to intellectual disability is more common than those who advocate for insanity. Psychological tests are commonly used in the justice system to assess the risks posed by convicts. These tests are used to assess the risk of recidivism, parole eligibility, and how dangerous sex offenders are. However, their value is limited and they cannot be predicted with complete accuracy.

* 1. **Psychoeducation and Intervention for Juvenile**

It is widely accepted that early intervention is the best approach to preventing juvenile delinquency. The government should introduce more reforms and put more emphasis on positive approaches and long-term beneficial programs with psycho-educational approaches and interventions that can help adolescents see the power and positive happiness, and regain self-confidence. , self-esteem and understanding the difference between good and bad. Due to their insensitive attitudes of society, their socialization process and environment, and their socioeconomic status, their welfare is hindered and they do not understand the difference between right and wrong. Therefore, according to the Law on Juveniles, children are treated humanely, but psychological intervention will add value and help them approach their future life in a positive way. The approach of relevant agencies such as the police in the system needs to be reformist rather than criminal. The goal may be to rehabilitate offenders rather than punish them. The prevention process includes the involvement of individuals as well as group and organizational efforts to prevent youth from breaking the law. Juvenile delinquency is a social illness, and a child or young person must be treated to integrate into society.
The Government recognizes the importance of reform and prevention efforts such as drug education and treatment, family counselling, youth counselling, parenting education, educational support and place accommodation for teenagers. A study by Baetz et al., 2021, reported that the use of trauma-informed care reduced violence in detention centres. In addition, structured psychotherapy for adolescents dealing with chronic stress has been documented to have helped treat more than 1,900 young people in youth justice settings, resulting in reduced rates of self-harm and aggression among young people of all genders, ages and ethnicities.
A study of adolescents conducted by Cauffman and colleagues (2021) in Orange County, was part of the first randomized controlled trial of a diversion program for young adults whose brains are very similar to that of a teenager's brain. The Young Adult Court (YAC) instructs men between the ages of 18 and 25 to commit misdemeanours in a 2-year probation program. If completed, their charges will be reduced to misdemeanours or dismissed. The program includes cognitive behavioural therapy, addiction treatment, mentoring, basic skills training (how to apply for a job, how to open a bank account), as well as relationship and parenting workshops. teach children. YAC programs include cognitive behavioural therapy, addiction treatment, mentoring, life skills training (how to apply for a job, how to open a bank account) as well as parenting and relationship workshops for children. Cauffman also received funding to create a development-focused program for the Orange County Jail and will test its effectiveness through a separate randomized controlled trial. So as psychological testing has become part of the juvenile system and the system has improved over the years with more humane treatment, if psychological interventions are applied, we can have a significant impact on the health of children and themselves, which will help them. become a responsible citizen and a better person.

* 1. **Conclusion and Recommendation**

It should be emphasized that more appropriate modifications and implementation are needed to reduce juvenile delinquency. Raising awareness in civil society about juvenile delinquency in our society is very important and it can be controlled and prevented from an early age with care and attention. appropriate for children at home and at school. In the process of growing up, the child is influenced by his parents and teachers, because they play an important role in his upbringing and training. Children need appropriate psychological care and avoid labelling, necessary measures should be taken to allow children to have room for repair. Strict laws are needed, but psychological help with appropriate treatment and social support is also important because they need empathy and understanding of our society, not just the heaviness of the flow.

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