

# ANALYSIS OF CASE PROFILES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

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**Abstract:** This study aimed at understanding the causes behind juvenile delinquency, and the measures that are being taken for the positive development of the children in conflict with law. The socio-economic profile, factors behind the delinquency, the rehabilitative mechanisms and its effectiveness were analyzed by using the secondary data from Abdulla jail, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh). Out of 50 cases of delinquency, 5 cases of offence were also analyzed in detail using case study method. The results indicated that the offences made by the delinquents were primarily due to the combination of various individual and environmental variables, viz. individual risk factors of the delinquents, negligence and ignorance of the parents, peer influence, poor socio-economic status, family pressure and lack of proper socialization. Overall, the perception regarding fairness of justice, both before and after the offence, was reported to be positive by the respondents. The results also indicated that owing to lack of funds and resources, the positive development measures for the juveniles were conspicuous by their absence. Findings were interpreted in the light of current conceptualization in the area of the study and their implications for future were pointed out.

**Key Words:** Juvenile delinquency, adolescents, causes of juvenile delinquency

## Introduction

A "juvenile" is a person who has not attained his eighteenth birthday, and "juvenile delinquency" is the violation of a law committed by a person prior to his eighteenth birthday which would have been a crime if committed by an adult. A person over eighteen but under twenty-one years of age is also accorded juvenile treatment if the act of juvenile delinquency occurred prior to his eighteenth birthday. Sexual abuse is widely recognized as a significant problem in society, and the scope of the problem may be underestimated because juvenile sex offenders who are known to the system may represent only a small proportion of juveniles who have committed such offenses. Studies of adult sex offenders suggest another dimension of the problem: many of these offenders began their sexually abusive behavior in their youth. Juvenile delinquency refers to antisocial and criminal behavior committed by persons under the age of 18. Juvenile delinquency is also simply called delinquency, and the two terms are used interchangeably in popular discourse. Once persons reach adulthood, antisocial and criminal behavior is known as crime. In this way, juvenile delinquency is the child and adolescent version of crime. Juvenile delinquency encompasses two general types of behaviors, status and delinquent offenses. Status offenses are behaviours that are considered inappropriate or unhealthy for children and adolescents, and the behaviors are proscribed because of the age of the offender. Such behaviors, if committed by adults, are not illegal. . Examples of status offenses include smoking or using tobacco, drinking or possessing alcohol, running away from home, truancy. Delinquent offenses are violations of legal statutes that also apply to adults in the criminal justice system. Delinquent offenses include acts of violence against persons, such as murder, rape, armed robbery, aggravated and simple assault, harassment, stalking, child abuse,

and similar offenses. In recent years, it has become very clear that juvenile delinquency is the most important aspect of the subject matter of criminology. These years have also seen an urge for an objective appraisal of the problem and the development of the new techniques. Delinquent behavior has assumed serious forms among the juveniles, which is a sign of sick society. The disorder and destruction due to deviant behavior, a worldwide phenomenon, is assuming alarming proportions in social organizations and is awakening call to those who are either in its grip or are likely to get struck. Juvenile delinquency, as a legal concept is of recent origin. Juvenile delinquency is an integral part of criminology. The two cannot be separated since one of the reasons for crime and its continuance into adult life is the ineffective control and treatment of juveniles. Juvenile delinquency is a big breeding centre of criminals. The word delinquency is derived from the Latin word “delinquere” meaning de i.e. away and linquere i.e. to leave thus, meaning to leave or to abandon. Originally, the word had an objective meaning as it referred to parents who neglected and abandoned their children. In present day, it is used and applied to those children who indulge in wrongful and harmful activities.

Delinquency exhibits a variety of styles of conduct or forms of behavior. Each of the patterns has its own social context, the causes that are alleged to bring it about, and the forms of prevention or treatment most often suggested as appropriate for the pattern in question. Basically four types of juvenile delinquency has been observed-**individual delinquency, group-supported delinquency, organized delinquency, and situational delinquency**. There is no single cause of Juvenile delinquency but there are many and varied causes. Basically, causes of Juvenile delinquency are of three types- **Biological, Socio-Environmental and Psychological, Physiological and personal**. It is extremely difficult to assess precisely the extent of the problem in any part of the country since accurate statistics are not available and are not indicator of the true extent. This is because of the fact that a large number of such acts remain undetected or unreported. Nevertheless, it has been observed that delinquency rates are highest in all developed countries. It is in countries with the highest levels of technical and economic advancement that social change occurs most rapidly, and traditional social roles and institutional controls over child conduct tend to breakdown. It has been classified into **Neurotic Offenders, Character Disorder Offenders, and Accidental Offender, Occasional Delinquency and Professional Delinquency**

In order to prevent Juvenile Delinquents we have to deal not only with maladjusted children and youths whose difficulties bring them before law, but also with those who while not violating laws, are disturbing others in school and in the street. Prevention is necessary for such children. If they are not prevented then they would become the habitual offender. So, their prevention is necessary. They make mistakes and become excited and fail to behave according to legitimate expectations. First of all, we should identify such juveniles and thereafter give him treatment. They will become habitual offender if they are not timely prevented from committing the offence. Juvenile delinquency, as a sign of sick society is day by day becoming an alarm to awaken those who are either struck with the disease or those who are likely to get struck. Over-crowding in the cities, coming up of slums, cinema, smuggling, gambling and drinking are some of the contributory factors responsible for this ever growing phenomenon. This study is guided by a desire to gain an insight into the problem of delinquency and its statutory treatment in a remote developing region of this vast and ever growing country. An attempt has been made to know the various causes of delinquency and its nature in different areas and strata of society. The most effective way to prevent juvenile delinquency has indisputably been to assist children and their families early on. Delinquency Prevention is the broad term for all efforts aimed at preventing youth from becoming involved in criminal, or other antisocial, activity. Increasingly, governments are recognizing the importance of allocating resources for the prevention of delinquency. It is often difficult for states to provide the fiscal resources necessary for good prevention, organizations, communities, and governments are working more in collaboration with each other to prevent juvenile delinquency. With the development of delinquency in youth being influenced by numerous factors, preventive efforts are comprehensive in scope. Prevention services include activities such as substance abuse education and treatment, family counseling, youth mentoring,

parenting education, educational support, and youth sheltering. Reductionism e.g. over-simplifying complex experiences and circumstances by converting them to simple quantities, relying on a psychosocial focus whilst neglecting potential socio-structural and political influences.

**Munyo (2011)** analyzed youths rational response to incentives for criminal activities, this paper develops a dynamic extension of Beckers crime model introducing the key features required to tackle juvenile crimes complexities. Recent political and legal changes and the dramatic increases in juvenile delinquency make Uruguay a good case study. Once calibrated, the model is able to reproduce the observed increase of juvenile crime in the last ten years. In fact, four factors can account for all the observed variation: an increase in real wages below income per capita, the decriminalization of juvenile attempted-theft, an increase in breaks from correctional facilities and the generalization of drug consumption. **Ruigrok (2011)** studied media coverage of youth crime and interview journalists and their sources, in order to investigate the relationship between journalists, their sources and the possible effects on the public with respect to fear of crime. All media focus increasingly on powerful sources that focus on repressive framing, but this is especially found in the elite press. The fact that this fear of crime is also caused by news coverage is acknowledged, but neither journalists nor politicians are able or willing to change this. **Tatar et al (2011)** examined that the individual's perception of fair treatment by the justice system which has an effect on their attitudinal, emotional, and behavioral outcomes. Many other measures are taken in this study such as demographics and background variables, depressive symptoms, anger, self-esteem, attitude towards staff and inmates, institutional offending, and institutional substance abuse. **Tidefors et al (2011)** have studied, family problems, parents who are addicted to alcohol or drugs, etc. through self-report instruments which explains that how an individual experiences himself or herself, the degree of insight and how they want to disclose themselves to others. Other factors, such as anger, depression, disruptive behavior and also children, who have lived in foster homes, have been considered important in this study. **Brown (2012)** stated interests in providing public safety, improved juvenile justice systems and positive results for youth. The legislative trends evidenced during the past decade reflect a new understanding of adolescent development and the value of cost-benefit analysis of existing data-driven research. Investing in community-based alternatives to incarceration and evidence-based intervention programs, as well as multi-system coordination and cross-systems collaboration are among the examples of how states now are better serving youth and addressing and preventing juvenile crime. **Delisi et al (2012)** reported that violent video game playing is correlated with aggression, but its relation to antisocial behaviour in correctional and juvenile justice samples is largely unknown. **Doggett (2013)** explained the effect of family structure on juvenile delinquency. The least amount of communication and structure the family provides, the more likely the child will engage in delinquent activities. **Onyango (2013)** proposed effective solutions and prevention measures to social problems are easy to find when the root causes of such problems are established. For this reason, scholars have come up with several underlying factors that influence criminality among the youth and juvenile delinquency. The study addresses these factors among the youth imprisoned at Kamiti Youth Corrective Training centre. **Jones (2014); Ward (2014); Cardose et al (2015); Chingthan Tomba (2015)** investigated the causes of juvenile delinquency in higher secondary school students of Imphal West District of Manipur. From the results of the research the causes of juvenile delinquency are-personal factors contribute the development of juvenile delinquency, social factor also contributes the development of juvenile delinquency, psychological factors also contribute the development of juvenile delinquency and academic factors also contribute to the development of juvenile delinquency. The findings may help to improve the solution of the problems requires preventive as well as curative measures of juvenile delinquency in our society. **Muhammad et al (2015)** aimed to explore the family, peer group and economic factors of juvenile crime. The research has been conducted in Central Jail Peshawar. Interview schedule has been used as a tool of data collection. A sample of juveniles was selected through purposive sampling technique. This study found that majority of the respondents was illiterate and belong to nuclear family system; most of the delinquents were in the age group of 15-18 years. In the light of research findings we recommend a strong need to educate every child this may further help to eradicate poverty.

## Rationale of the study

Such bizarre behaviors and tendencies of juvenile delinquency make their adjustment and living difficult and making it a social problem. This evolved interest in the researcher. Therefore, present research problem has been taken up, in order to study and analyze the characteristics feature and their problems in depth. In the high of the above discussion the problem has been stated as ‘**Analysis of Case Profiles of Juvenile Delinquents**’.

## Objectives

- To analyze profiles of Juvenile Delinquents on the basis of different variables such as gender, family type, socio economic status, history of crime, educational status, educational services, counseling services, remedial services, and vocational training.

## Methodology

### Locale of the study

It is always good to determine the locale of the study, because if the locale of the study is not determined the whole procedure becomes lengthy and affects the setting of the study. Therefore the study has been conducted at Abdulla Jail Meerut (Uttar Pradesh).

### Sampling technique

Purposive sampling technique was adopted for selection of samples. The process of sample selection was very important and crucial especially for this kind of research where data had to be collected from secondary source.

### Selection of cases and final sample size

First of all, consent of jailor of Abdulla jail, Meerut was taken. Researcher explained the purpose of study and ensured about the confidentiality of the information. After seeking the permission of authority researcher proceeded for data collection and collected recorded case profiles from Meerut jail. Researcher could find 50 case profiles of last 5 years. Some were incomplete, some beyond 18 years. 50 cases were found complete in all respect and were suitable for the study. Therefore, these files were selected for case analysis. Hence, for the present study 50 case profiles of last 5 years were selected from Abdulla Jail Meerut (UTTAR PRADESH). Hence, 50 cases were selected as final sample size.

## Data compilation

50 cases profiles of juvenile delinquents were further analyzed (category and organized) in order to understand and generalize the findings related to juvenile delinquents. Care has been taken to present five cases in detail.

## Results and Discussion

### A) Profile of juvenile delinquents of different variables such as- gender, family type, and socio economic status, history of crime, educational status, educational services, and counseling services

Table 1- Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by gender

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Male	47	94%
Female	3	6%

The table 1 clearly shows that the rate of crime committed by both male and female reflects that 94% males were involved in one or other forms of delinquency and 6% females were involved in one or other forms of delinquency. This shows that male frequency is higher.

**Table 2- Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by family type**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Joint family	13	26%
Single family	26	52%
Separated	11	22%

The table 2 clearly shows that 26% from joint family, 52% form single family and 22% from separated family.

**Table 3 – Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by income**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low income	17	34%
Middle income	20	40%
High income	13	26%

The table 3 clearly shows that Family income status distributions shows 34%are from low income, 40% were from middle income and 26% were from higher incomes group.

**Table 4- Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by history of crime**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Murder	17	34%
Rape	9	18%
Kidnapping	11	22%
Robbery	7	14%
Drug supply	2	4%
Prostitution	1	2%
Acid attack	2	4%
Sexual harassment	1	2%

The table 4 clearly shows that 34% attempted murder, 18% were involved in rape cases, 22% in kidnapping 14% in robbery, 40% in drug supply, 2% prostitution , 4% in acid attack, and 2% in sexual harassment.

**Table 5-Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by educational level**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
High secondary	18	36%
11 <sup>th</sup> class	10	20%
Inter mediate	19	38%
Illiterate	3	6%

The table 5 clearly shows that As far as Educational status is concerned, 36% had education up to high secondary level of education, 20% were educated upto 11<sup>th</sup> class, 38% were intermediate and 6% were illiterate.

**Table 6- shows frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by age**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
14 years old	4	8%
15 years old	7	14%
16 years old	8	16%
17 years old	14	28%
18 years old	17	34%

The table 6 clearly shows that the data collected from various cases were analyzed and computed. 8% of respondents were 14 years old, 14% were 15 years old, 16% were 16 years old, 28% were 17 years old, and 34% were 18 years old.

### **Counseling services**

The delinquents were provided with educational services, vocational services and mental health care services

### **Remand home**

For remedial measures the delinquents were kept in remand home Meerut BAL Samprekshkan Greh.

### **Conclusion**

Findings of the study reveal that these respondents have committed the offences such as theft, murder, rape, kidnapping, drug supply and acid attack and it reveals that these juveniles mostly belong to the poor family background, and economic deprivation which has resulted them to become delinquent. The past records of these children in conflict with law also show that there is no criminal record in their family; still they have committed the offences like murder, rape, theft, kidnapping, drug supply and acid attack. The poor surroundings, family interactions, and anxiety among them and their peer mates have greater influence on delinquency. The above study states that this has happened due to lack of proper socialization and ignorance by their family members and less concentration on them has given more opportunity to commit offence. The economic backgrounds of these juveniles have significant impact on them and these have made them greedy for having money by any illegal means, they had worked even while they were attending school only to obtain money. Least interest towards education and motivation by the peer group, have raised the gravity of the offence. The peer delinquent behavior, and the time spent with peers are the cause for adolescent antisocial behavior. These offenders are the products of unhappy family life, which force them to join the wrong groups only to satisfy their economic needs. In a family, parenting plays an important role which satisfies the financial, emotional, and physical needs, but as shared by the respondents, it can be said that they were neglected by their parents. Belonging to the low income profile, their parents worked with low wages, which forced these children to commit the offence. In these cases the respondents belong to a poor family condition, economic uncertainties, and also the absence of proper parental care has put them in the pressure of committing crime. It can also be said that when these children don't have a sound family then they depend on other members through whom they get into the bad associations.

## Suggestions and Recommendations

- More number of teachers should be appointed in the observation home so that it will be possible to provide teaching to the different age group of delinquents.
- Developing the infrastructural facilities of Short stay homes and Observation homes should be top priority.
- School drop outs should be handled properly to ensure that they are not becoming antisocial.
- Proper counseling sessions at regular intervals is highly essential for these juveniles.
- Delinquents should be dealt in a sensitive manner .Proper training should be given to the authority and caretakers in these homes
- Education should be an integral part of the positive development of these children in conflict with law.
- Proper socialization from the childhood is a key requirement. More parental focus towards their children is needed for their proper development.

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