



Juvenile Delinquency in India: A study

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Abstract

Juvenile delinquency refers to the antisocial behaviour of children under the age of 18 years. The term juvenile delinquency refers to the socially disapproved behaviour because in this stage a lot of physiological and psychological changes happen in the body of the individuals living in the society. Due to these changes some of the children fail to balance their life and behaviour and there is a fair chance to engage in antisocial activities. Therefore the present attempt is an effort to study the incidence of crime committed by the juvenile delinquents, their family background and educational status in different states of India and particular in Haryana in the year of 2014 to 2016. The researchers have used the secondary data from the report of Crime Bureau of India, 2016. The result of the study indicates that the highest rate of crime was found in Delhi and lowest rate of crime was found in Meghalaya state. The Haryana state was on the ninth position in the crime committed by the juveniles. The result of the study further found that majority of the juveniles were educated and living with their parents and guardians. Only a few of them were homeless, which shows that our socialization pattern is not upto the mark. It is a matter of great debate and discussion which has forced the society members to think where we are lacking in given proper socialization to them. In nutshell, our educational institutions and family environment should be peaceful, happy, and prosperous to provide healthy socialization to the juveniles. Majority of the juvenile delinquents were literate and living with their parents. Only few respondents were living with their guardian and homeless.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Antisocial Activities, Behaviour, Globalization, Urbanization, Industrialization

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I. Introduction

The dictionary meaning of Juvenile is a young person or a child. Delinquency is failure in or omission of duty or fault or crime. Thus juvenile delinquency indicates any failure in or omission of duty or fault or crime on the part of a young or a child. The word juvenile has been derived from the Latin term Juvenis which means young. The juvenile delinquency is a legal term that was first defined in 1889. The term juvenile delinquency refers to the socially disapproved behaviour because in this stage a lot of changes happen in the behaviour of the child. Some of the children fail to balance their behaviour in this stage and they engage in antisocial activities. The Freud also described the main goal of this stage is to develop a sense of balance between all the areas of life. Those who have successfully completed this stage are well adjusted in their life, but those who fail in this stage, may face adjustmental problems in their life.

The Erik Erikson also describes this stage in his "Psycho-social theory" of development. He described this stage as a phase of human life where the crises of identity versus role confusion should be resolved and the person should develop a sense of self identity. Sometimes the adolescent get confused about the role they want to represent as they get to experience mixed feelings and ideas about how they will fit into society. In that situation the adolescence faced problems to fulfil the role and responsibilities expected by the society. They start

experiment with various behaviours and activities for fulfil the expectation of the society. But in that situation they turn into the antisocial activities. Delinquency is also an umbrella for a wide variety of socially disapproved behaviour that varies with the time, place and the attitudes of these assigned to administer the law. Some behaviour are included in this umbrella like disobedient behaviour, irregular in school, poor academic performance, no reputation in the society, bad company, drug abuse, gambling etc.

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

In recent times, the juvenile delinquency is increasing day by day. As we know, it is a learnt behaviour, the juveniles leans it from the family, peer groups, school and society members. In a society a child is considered as a greatest national asset. The proper parenting and care will nurture the child in a proper way and will thus prevent them to become delinquents. It has been accepted that due to some situations and environment children become delinquent. The family influence, social environment, school and neighbourhood, peer group and sexual abuse all these develops low self-esteem in children and they engage in anti social activities. In the changing scenario the family system has been changed due to Globalization, industrialization, urbanization, modernization, have led to change in the economic structure and joint family system. In this changing economic and social milieu, the younger generation is searching for new identities, economic independence within, as well as outside, the family. The Care of the children is much affected by these changes that are taking place in the family system. Due to all these changes some problems arise in the family like lack of proper parental supervision, ongoing parental conflict, neglect and abuse (emotional, psychological or physical). Those children that have weakest attachment to their parents and families are engage in inappropriate activities.

There are so many others factors which contribute to the juvenile delinquency, out of which there are few of them are low socio-economic status, large family size, illiteracy, poor parental care, family conflict, neighbourhood environment, peer group, media, revenge, academic performance, drug abuse, unemployment, anger etc. All these factors are responsible for antisocial behaviour of juvenile. A minor who has a lower intelligence and who does not receive a proper love, affection, education and socialization in childhood period, is more prone to become a juvenile delinquent. It is quite possible for anybody of this age group to do any type of criminal offence in this age group. Thus, how to rear and bear the kids is a great challenge for the presents in this modern society, where each and every thing is challenging for juveniles, due to globalization and information technology.

II. Review of Literature:

Singh, R.P. et.al.(2016), in their research study entitled on "A study of Juvenile delinquents: impact of Socio economic factors of family in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India". The main objective of this study was to find out the impact of socioeconomic factors of family behind Juvenile delinquency. The researcher selected 600 Juvenile delinquents and 60 sets of parents from Observation Home in Allahabad district purposely. The researchers found that majority of the families have low education level, illiterate, low income level. Most of the Juveniles did not have any previous criminal record and their families were also not involved in anti social activities. Majority of the respondents belonged to Backward Castes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities. Majority of the respondents were from joint family.

Chandolu, S.R.(2015), in his research paper entitled on "Child Rights perspective of juvenile delinquency in India". The main objective of this study was to study the incidence of juvenile delinquency. The researcher selected total 60 respondents from juvenile home in Visakhapatnam randomly. The researcher found that the juvenile offenders are increasing and poverty is the major reason behind juvenile delinquency. Majority of the respondents told that the juvenile should be treated differently from adults.

Chingtham, T.(2015), in her research study entitled on "Causes of juvenile delinquency in the higher secondary school students". The main objective of this study was to study the causes of juvenile delinquency. The researcher randomly selected 120 students from higher secondary school of Imphal. The researcher found that 75.83 percent of the respondents agree that social factors are the main reason behind juvenile delinquency whereas 65.83 percent of the respondents agree that family factors and personal factors are the main casual factors behind juvenile delinquency.

Gupta, A. (2015), in their research study entitled on "Socio demographic characteristics and aggression quotient among children in conflict with law in India: A case control study". The main objective of this study was to assess the socio demographic characteristics and the aggression quotient of children in conflict with the law. Researchers selected 90 respondents from 5 observation homes in Hyderabad, Lucknow and Pune purposively. The researchers found that majority of the respondents were from low socioeconomic status, broken homes and criminal families. Respondents also suffered the problems of physical and sexual abuse. The researcher also found that the respondents were having high levels of aggression.

Murugesan, D.(2014), in his research study entitled on "A study of causal factors leading Juveniles to be in conflict with law in Tamilnadu's sociological perspective." The main objective of the study was to find out

the causal factors of delinquency. The study was conducted in Observation Home and special home in Tamil Nadu. The researcher found that the main factors responsible for delinquent behavior are restrictive family type, poverty, broken homes, Peer influence, uncongenial family environment, unsupervised by their parents, low level of education, drinking habits and Immorality etc.

Dey, M.(2014), in their research paper entitled on "Juvenile Justice in India". The main objective of this study was to understand the causes of juvenile delinquency. The researcher found that the main reasons of juvenile delinquency are extra pocket money, revenge factor, poor literacy rate, over exposure to media, lack of moral values, cheap literature, love of adventures, mental conflict etc.

Sahmy, K.(2013), in her research study entitled on "A study on factors underline Juvenile delinquency and positive youth development programmes." The main objective of the study was to explore the factors behind Juvenile delinquency. The study was conducted in Observation Home Odisha. The researchers found that negligence, ignorance of the parents, Peer influence, poor socioeconomic status, family pressure, lack of proper socialization are positive major risk factors of the delinquency.

Haveripeth, P.D.(2013), in his research study entitled on "Contributing factors of juvenile delinquency". The main objective of this study was to discuss the factors behind juvenile delinquency. The researcher found that various factors contribute to the delinquency like broken homes, lack of love, lack of parental care, poverty, TV and media, peer group, urbanization, low socio-economic status, poor academic performance, large family size, drug and alcohol use etc.

Chowdhury, I.A. et.al.(2012), in their research study entitled on "Causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh: A sociological analysis." The main objective of this study was to find out the causes, consequences and diversity of criminal activities by juvenile delinquents. The researcher selected all the reports from Juvenile Development Institute, Bangladesh. Purposive sampling method was used for this study. The researchers found that majority of the respondents are illiterate, large family size, low family income. Majority of the respondents were unable to fulfil their basic needs and living in crime prone areas. The researchers also found that the other major reasons behind Juvenile crime was harsh control of parents, quarrel between parents and social media, lack of recreational activities.

Sharma, B.S.et.al.(2009), in their research study entitled on " Juvenile delinquency in India A cause for concern". The main objective of this study was to understand the causes of juvenile delinquency. The study is based on secondary data. The researcher found that the childhood experiences are very important in the development of criminality. The researcher also focused on the sociological theories of juvenile delinquency, these theories give importance to the environment, social structure and learning process in the emergence of juvenile delinquency.

After reviewing the related literature, it has been found that majority of the studies were conducted on causes, consequences and incidence of juvenile delinquency. The researchers also found that most of the studies were conducted in Delhi and southern parts of the country, only a very few studies were focused on one or another aspects of juvenile delinquency in Haryana. Keeping in view, the present attempt is an effort to study the incidence of crime committed by the juvenile delinquents, their family background and educational status in different states of India and particular in Haryana in the year of 2014 to 2016.

Objectives

1. To study the incidence of crime committed by the juvenile delinquents in different states of India and particular in Haryana.
2. To examine the family background and educational status of the juveniles arrested in the year of 2016.
3. To suggest the curative measures to cope up with the juvenile delinquency.

III. Research Methodology

The present study is based upon the secondary sources of data. The researcher has used Crime Bureau of India Report, 2016, to estimate the crime committed by juvenile delinquents during 2014 to 2016, as well as their educational and family background. The main findings of the study are presented and discuss below.

IV. Analysis and Discussion of Data:

Table - I : The data analysis of the table no. 1, shows the total cases of crime committed by juveniles under the Indian panel code and special and local laws, during the year 2014 to 2016. In the year 2014, 2015 and 2016, 38455 cases, 34533 cases and 35849 cases were registered respectively against juveniles in different states India.

The highest percentage and rank based on crime rate was found in Delhi, 44.6 percent, Madhya Pradesh , 24.5 percent, Chandigarh , 24.0 percent , Chhattisgarh, 19.4 percent, Maharashtra , 17.5 percent , Puducherry, 15.3 percent, Mizoram , 14.3 percent, Sikkim, 13.5 percent, Haryana , 12.8 percent, Arunachal

Pradesh , 12.1 percent, Tamil Nadu, 11 percent, Himachal Pradesh , 9.4 percent, Telangana, 8.9 percent, A& N Island, 8.6 percent, Meghalaya , 8.4 percent.

The data analysis of the study further shows that during the year 2014 to 2016, in Haryana, 38455 cases, 34533 cases and 35849 cases was registered respectively against juveniles. The data of the study found that there is an enhancement of 88 cases in comparison of the last year in Haryana. The data analysis also shows the interesting fact that during the same period, the neighbouring states of Haryana, like Punjab & Himachal Pradesh, having a very low rate of crime committed by the juveniles in their states. During the period of study, there were 117, 111 and 277 cases in Punjab. In Himachal Pradesh during the same period the total cases was 204, 195 and 272. It is also noted that the increasing trend in the cases of juvenile delinquents were found in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh in comparison to last year.

Table - 2 : The data analysis of table no. II , shows the educational background of the juvenile arrested during , 2016. There was 44171 juvenile arrested during the year of 2016. In which 5412 juveniles i.e 12.25 percent were illiterate, 14501 juvenile i.e. 33.08 percent were educated upto primary, 20014 juvenile i.e. 45.31 percent were educated above primary but below matric / H.sec. and 4244 juvenile i.e. 9.60 percent were educated above matric / higher secondary level.

The data analysis of the study further shows the educational background of the juvenile arrested during, 2016 in Haryana. There was 1358 juvenile arrested during the year 2016. In which 169 juveniles i.e 12.44 percent were illiterate, 331 juvenile i.e. 24.38 percent were educated upto primary, 676 juvenile i.e. 49.78 percent were educated above primary but below matric / H.sec. and 182 juvenile i.e. 13.40 percent were educated above matric / higher secondary level.

The data analysis of the table -3 represents the family background of the juveniles arrested during, 2016. The result of the study found that 38061 respondents i.e. 86.16 percent of the study were living with their parents, 4550 respondents i.e. 10.30 percent juveniles were living with their guardians, while 1560 juveniles i.e. 3.54 percent were homeless.

The data analysis of the study further shows the family background of the juvenile arrested during, 2016 in Haryana. There was 1358 juvenile arrested during the year 2016. The result of the study found that 1226 respondents i.e. 90.29 percent of the study were living with their parents, 52 respondents i.e. 3.82 percent juveniles were living with their guardians, while 80 juveniles i.e. 5.89 percent were homeless.

The results of the study found the interesting fact that majority of the juveniles under study were educated and living with their parents and guardians. Only a few of them were homeless, which shows that our socialization pattern is not upto the mark. It is a matter of great debate, discussion and it also forced the society members to think where we are lacking in given proper socialization to them. In nutshell, our educational institutions and family environment should be peaceful, happy, and prosperous to provide healthy socialization to the juvenile.

V. Conclusion

In this study, the highest rate of crime were found in Delhi , Madhya Pradesh , Chandigarh ,Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Puducherry states and lowest rate of crime were found in Meghalaya Telangana and A& N Island. It is also found that the juvenile delinquents cases were increased in Haryana as compare to the last year cases. It is also found the interesting fact that the neighbouring states of Haryana, like Punjab & Himachal Pradesh, having a very low crime rate committed by the juveniles in the same year. Majority of the juvenile delinquents were literate and living with their parents. Only few respondents were homeless.

VI. Suggestion:

- The provisions of the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2015 should be strictly implemented in an appropriate manner. So that the children conflict with law and children in need and protection may be helped in care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation etc.
- There are provisions for Special Police unit for dealing with Juveniles at every police station. In reality, these special units are not functional. So, when there are cases of juvenile delinquency or when neglected children are taken to police, the police department is not able to handle the cases in expected manner.
- The school social worker should be appointed in the schools to identify the problems of the students in early phase and counsel the students and their parents to overcome with the problems.
- Educating the family members to understand the needs and problems of their children. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide proper care and attention to their children so that they keep themselves away from delinquent acts. The family members should provide healthy environment which will help in improving the family relationship.
- Recreational programs should be organized in the community such as dancing, singing, sports, music and such other activities which enable youths to mix up with other adults and children in the community and so that they could spend their leisure time in productive activities.

- Community awareness programme should be organized in the community to aware the community people about all the legislation related to juveniles.
- The orientation and training programme should be organized for the professionals and law enforcement agencies.
- The voluntary organization should play active role in the effective implementation of Government programs related to juvenile.
- Government should motivate the Juveniles to join main stream of the society and regain their self-confidence, through implementation of rehabilitation schemes with the help of NGO's.

Table No.1
Crime Committed by Juveniles (IPC+SLL) - 2014-2016

S.NO.	State/UT	2014	2015	2016	Percentage State Share To All-India (2016)	Rank Based on Incidence/ % share (2016)	Mid-Year Projected Children Population (in Lakhs)## (2014)	Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes (2016)++	Rank Based on Crime Rate (2016)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
STATES									
1	Andhra Pradesh	883	1015	809	2.3	14	156.7	5.2	22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	81	66	57	0.2	27	4.7	12.1	10
3	Assam	487	624	436	1.2	17	118.9	3.7	25
4	Bihar *	4371	1658	2335	6.5	5	447.8	5.2	21
5	Chhattisgarh	1691	1914	1953	5.4	7	100.5	19.4	4
6	Goa	64	28	21	0.1	30	5.2	4.0	24
7	Gujarat *	4380	1577	1681	4.7	8	206.8	8.1	16
8	Haryana	1041	1098	1186	3.3	11	92.8	12.8	9
9	Himachal Pradesh	272	195	204	0.6	18	21.6	9.4	12
10	Jammu& Kashmir	102	181	198	0.6	19	45.0	4.4	23
11	Jharkhand	150	124	140	0.4	20	131.5	1.1	33
12	Karnataka	412	446	453	1.3	16	195.9	2.3	29
13	Kerala	1203	1398	628	1.8	13	93.4	6.7	20
14	Madhya Pradesh	6512	6583	7369	20.6	1	300.8	24.5	2
15	Maharashtra	5407	5693	6606	18.4	2	378.5	17.5	5
16	Manipur	23	17	10	0.0	33	9.6	1.0	34
17	Meghalaya	125	111	84	0.2	24	10.0	8.4	15
18	Mizoram	44	41	53	0.1	26	3.7	14.3	7
19	Nagaland	10	17	18	0.1	31	6.7	2.7	27
20	Odisha	838	934	994	2.8	12	140.4	7.1	19
21	Punjab	277	111	117	0.3	21	87.7	1.3	32
22	Rajasthan	2309	2203	2273	6.3	4	285.4	8.0	17
23	Sikkim	19	41	27	0.1	28	2.0	13.5	8
24	Tamil Nadu	1549	1814	2217	6.2	6	202.0	11.0	11
25	Telangana	931	1252	998	2.8	10	111.7	8.9	3
26	Tripura	64	37	25	0.1	29	12.4	2.0	30
27	Uttar Pradesh	1397	1006	1438	4.0	9	885.8	1.6	31
28	Uttarakhand	123	127	124	0.3	22	38.5	3.2	26
29	West Bengal	1566	562	709	2.0	15	293.7	2.4	28
Total		36331	30873	33163	92.5		4389.6	7.6	
UNION TERRITORIES:									
30	A & N Islands	14	13	12	0.0	32	1.4	8.6	14
31	Chandigarh	116	100	96	0.3	23	4.0	24.0	3
32	D&N Haveli	6	17	0	0.0	-	1.3	0.0	-
33	Daman & Diu	2	3	7	0.0	34	0.9	7.8	18
34	Delhi UT	1969	2366	2499	7.0	3	56.0	44.6	1

35	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0.0	-	0.2	0.0	-
36	Puducherry	16	61	72	0.2	25	4.7	15.3	6
Total UT(S)		2124	2560	2686	7.5	-	68.4	39.3	-
Total All India		38455	33433	35849	100.0	-	4458.0	8.0	-

Source : CBI Report ,CRIME IN INDIA 2016

Table no . II
Education level of Juveniles Arrested – 2016

S.NO.	State/UT	Education				
		Illiterate	Primary	Above Primary but below matric/H.sec.	Matric/ Higher Sec. & above	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
STATES						
1	Andhra Pradesh	228	427	475	99	1229
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	10	64	3	80
3	Assam	70	216	182	12	480
4	Bihar *	530	492	1216	388	2626
5	Chhattisgarh	135	857	1116	286	2394
6	Goa	2	7	17	0	26
7	Gujarat *	160	1160	677	88	2085
8	Haryana	169	331	676	182	1358
9	Himachal Pradesh	7	59	158	39	263
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17	61	194	47	319
11	Jharkhand	40	42	49	11	142
12	Karnataka	18	163	369	77	627
13	Kerala	4	98	669	289	1060
14	Madhya Pradesh	975	2730	3542	1217	8464
15	Maharashtra	420	2764	4129	399	7712
16	Manipur	0	1	11	0	12
17	Meghalaya	12	40	29	12	93
18	Mizoram	0	31	32	0	63
19	Nagaland	5	14	6	0	25
20	Odisha	270	624	336	55	1285
21	Punjab	25	40	82	10	157
22	Rajasthan	266	866	1411	400	2943
23	Sikkim	3	11	25	0	39
24	Tamil Nadu	223	783	1607	197	2810
25	Telangana	437	281	393	71	1182
26	Tripura	3	29	10	0	42
27	Uttar Pradesh	279	509	624	175	1587
28	Uttarakhand	24	51	31	45	151
29	West Bengal	52	236	534	16	838
Total		4377	12933	18664	4118	40092
UNION TERRITORIES						
30	A & N Islands	0	0	10	3	13
31	Chandigarh	7	52	78	4	141
32	D&N Haveli	0	0	10	0	10
33	Daman & Diu	0	0	8	0	8
34	Delhi UT	1008	1510	1185	105	3808

35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36	Pondicherry	20	6	59	14	99
Total UT(S)		1035	1568	1350	126	4079
Total All India		5412	14501	20014	4244	44171

Source : CBI Report, CRIME IN INDIA 2016

Table no . III
Family Background of Juveniles Arrested – 2016

S.NO.	State/UT	Family Background			
		Living with parents	Living with guardians	Homeless	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	910	150	169	1229
2	Arunachal Pradesh	73	7	0	80
3	Assam	337	125	18	480
4	Bihar *	1910	648	68	2626
5	Chhattisgarh	2206	169	19	2394
6	Goa	24	1	1	26
7	Gujarat *	1998	49	38	2085
8	Haryana	1226	52	80	1358
9	Himachal Pradesh	259	1	3	263
10	Jammu & Kashmir	319	0	0	319
11	Jharkhand	101	30	11	142
12	Karnataka	604	20	3	627
13	Kerala	917	124	19	1060
14	Madhya Pradesh	7291	889	284	8464
15	Maharashtra	6814	739	159	7712
16	Manipur	12	0	0	12
17	Meghalaya	92	1	0	93
18	Mizoram	42	21	0	63
19	Nagaland	17	3	5	25
20	Odisha	1218	65	2	1285
21	Punjab	151	4	2	157
22	Rajasthan	2703	188	52	2943
23	Sikkim	30	9	0	39
24	Tamil Nadu	2385	258	167	2810
25	Telangana	1058	69	55	1182
26	Tripura	21	21	0	42
27	Uttar Pradesh	1193	279	115	1587
28	Uttarakhand	99	36	16	151
29	West Bengal	674	143	21	838
Total		34684	4101	1307	40092
UNION TERRITORIES					
30	A & N Islands	13	0	0	13
31	Chandigarh	103	32	6	141
32	D&N Haveli	10	0	0	10
33	Daman & Diu	8	0	0	8
34	Delhi UT	3159	405	244	3808
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0

36	Pondicherry	84	12	3	99
Total UT(S)		3377	449	253	4079
Total All India		38061	4550	1560	44171

Source : CBI Report , CRIME IN INDIA 2016

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