



## Research Entitled Causes Of Juvenile Delinquency In India

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**Abstract:** India is home to 472 million children in the age group of 0- 18 years, constituting almost 39 per cent of the nation's population. India's future vests with adults of today and citizen of tomorrow but unfortunately juvenile delinquency in India increasing day by day and states become unable to control juvenile delinquency. Society also plays an important role to curb juvenile delinquency with the state. That is the societies only that create an adverse environment due to that child indulge in anti-behavioural activities. There are many factors responsible for juvenile delinquency. This study aims to find out the causes of juvenile delinquency. This study based on secondary data. [Ram, S. **Research Entitled Causes Of Juvenile Delinquency In India.** *Researcher* 2021;13(2):33-38]. ISSN 1553-9865 (print); ISSN 2163-8950 (online). <http://www.sciencepub.net/researcher>. 5. doi:[10.7537/marsrsj130221.05](https://doi.org/10.7537/marsrsj130221.05).

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### Introduction:

Juvenile Delinquency has become a world problem these days. Each state provides rehabilitation and determines specific guidelines or procedures to deal with the problem of a juvenile delinquent. But at the grassroots level, it is not as successful as possible by the state. The juvenile delinquency trend is increasing rapidly among children and they are becoming violent, criminal and disobedient day by day. Despite the efforts made by the government, incidents of juvenile crime are constantly increasing. Juvenile delinquency is different in different ways and it may vary in frequency, degree and severity, and it includes various forms such as pick pocketing, theft, drug addiction, sexual offence, predatory work etc. Like other social problems, the roots of extinction are complex. A good environment and good moral education should be given to the future child of the nation, which makes him a responsible and intelligent citizen of the country. When engaging in criminal activity, it is difficult for a child to get on the right path. When a child can ignore his first crime, it encourages them to commit more and more crimes by the authorities, unless they are arrested, tried and convicted by the authorities. Now the juvenile offenders adopt a serious nature of the crime, such as theft, robbery, murder and even rape.

### Objective

The main objective is to study the causes of child delinquency in India.

### Research Methodology

The descriptive method is used in this paper. Primary uses are secondary data from different research documents, books, websites, etc.

### Result And Discussion

These are the following major causes of Juvenile Delinquency:

#### Mobility

This is a major factor that is responsible for the cause of crime in society. Nowadays due to industrialization and urbanization, the facilitation of communication and travel has become easy, due to which people have started migrating to new places. The possibility of finding these new places is less, which allows them to commit crimes.

#### Cultural Conflicts

Urbanization and industrialization have prompted people to move from one place to another which have resulted in cultural conflicts between residents and immigrants. Such cultural conflicts occurring between different classes of society, as a result of distracted behaviour, increase the crime rate of that particular place. Ruth & Cava found that "Eskimos are also still not free from the problem of crime. They frequently indulge in deviant behaviour such as drunkenness and sex offences due to their immigration to urban areas and social contact with non-Peskinness. During the Indo-Pak partition in 1947 and 1971 Pakistan-Bangladesh, India was also suffering from this problem. At that time in 1947, the immigration of "refugees" had increased from the Sind and NWF areas, which had long established the structure of the Indian Society as an obstacle and as a result of which, the crime of large scale increased.

### **Family Background**

Family background plays an important role in a child. The child learns everything from their family. Sutherland said that “the family background has the greatest influence on the criminal behaviour of offender or Juvenile. Children divert themselves towards criminal tendencies if they find their parents or members of the family behaving similarly. A child who is grown up in a hostile aggressive parenting atmosphere becomes an easy prey to criminality”. There is a lack of support and control of parents over children due to separation, divorce or dignity that leads to criminal acts. Regular quarrels between parents, step behaviour with children, parental indifference, poverty, unpleasant family environment, unemployment, low income or long absence of parents from home can give birth to falling in bad company and indulging in criminal activities. Some factors come out from the family background. Family is the first foundation unit for children. This is the family where he takes his first step or speaks the first word for his new world. Everything is unknown to children; he does not know what is wrong and what is right. He learns these from his family. They make their values and norms according to their family. It is a family that makes him a law-abiding citizen or a lawbreaker citizen. In a family, the child is most affected by his parents or his siblings. The child copies what is he saw in the family member.

According to Sutherland, family background has the greatest influence on the criminal behaviour of the offender. He said that child spend their maximum time with a family member and their relative. It is easy for children to copy criminal tendencies if they find them in their family member. It is expected from the family that provide basic need to the children so that child feel safe and enjoy with a family member. When a child feels that he is safe and all the member of the family love him, it makes children obedient, respect, duty toward a family member. Thus, through the family, he learns to adjust to society and accept the values of life According to Donald Taft expression that home is growing a source of emotional tension. Today, the role of a family becomes lower, due to the outdoor interest of its family members. Every member of the family goes outside for work, and they do not give proper care to their children.

### **Family Structure**

Family structures are responsible for detecting a child's personality/character development. A healthy and educated family provides good environments and encourages growth, confidence and makes it a responsible and sensible citizen. Delinquents mostly belong to poor and inadequate homes (Carro and Srivastaval). Ingram found the family structure to have important bearings on the delinquent behaviour of a

child. Dornbusch's study revealed that “both the patterns of family structure and decision making contribute distinctly to adolescents deviant behaviour”.

### **Broken Home**

A broken home means a house where there is insecurity due to the disappearance of anyone in the family, such that one of the parents is either divorced or dead or living separately. If there is a fight between parents, it will disturb the minds of children. In that situation, the child feels insecure and he diverts from the right path to delinquency. The British Home secretary Mr Butler once said that the natural consequences of broken home lack parental control, absence of security and want of love and affection towards children, which are contributing factors for juvenile delinquency. Shaw and McKay (1932), Weeks and Smith (1939), Gluck and Gluck (1950), Browning (1960), Peterson and Becker (1965) have reported in their studies the relationship between broken home and delinquency. Badami (1965) considered that broken homes with other factors, such as poverty, lack of recreational facilities, disorganized family, including family conflicts, and neglect of children to be the important factors causing juvenile delinquency. Rankin (1983) found that broken homes were highly associated with family offences such as running away from home and school absents rather than with other types of juvenile delinquent activities.

### **Nuclear Family**

Joint family is the backbone of Indian culture, but due to industrialization or urbanization, the family system becomes weak and everyone wants to live separately from the family. Now the government are also giving preference to the nuclear family. In a joint family, there is a grandfather, grandmother, uncle, aunty, parents, etc. are and the child is not confined only to parents, there another member of the family who looks after the child. And there is less possibility of a child to involve in deviant behaviour or criminal act. But now parents go outside for work and no one is looking after the child. When parents come from the office they do not give proper attention to children. Due to that child come into contact with the wrong person or friends and he starts criminal activity with their friends. Due to a lack of parental control, a girl's child is more vulnerable to a sex crime.

### **Psychological Problems in Family**

Psychological problems in family members are also an important factor which affects the behaviour of juvenile. When any family members such as parents, siblings or any other member are in psychological problems like frustration, depression, aggression etc. then the juvenile feel inferior among friends and this inferiority many time give him many mental problems.

### **Child's Birth Order in the Family**

Lees and Newson (1954) found that differences in the position of siblings could be a different factor. According to their study, middle children are more likely to get less attention and care than children older and younger, which results in disturbance disorders. Such children are more likely to be involved in criminal activities and their numbers are also bigger in groups of diluents groups. The results of his study have received some support from the findings of Gluecks (1950) and Nye (1958).

### **Family Size and Type**

It is also recognized as the reason for the behaviour of inept behaviour. Delays in comparison to small and nuclear families are mostly of joint and large families, large families are not likely to pay attention to children. Glueck (1950) found that "offenders came more often than joint and large families". Andrew (1976) and Fisher (1984) found similar results in their study of juvenile offenders. Similarly, many studies have been done, which have emphasized the need to contribute to the development of a large number of juvenile offenders on a large scale, but for the investigation of this incident, a systematic study is required in India.

### **Child and Parents Relationship**

The most important factor in the development of a child's behaviour is their relationship with their parents. Relationship with a family is important in shaping child-interpersonal behaviour and cognition (Glueck and Glueck, 1950 and Nye, 1958). According to Desai (1979), "The child needs to realize that there is at least one solid belief in changing confusion of his social relationships, that he never doubted his affection towards his parents. But in many cases, there is misunderstanding, hard feelings and open conflicts between parent and child. Occasional delinquents showed more ties with their family, compared to professionals or habitual". Lakshmann (1982) reported that "juvenile delinquency is affected by the differential treatment given to the children by their parents".

### **Socio-economic condition**

This situation is also a factor that inspires a child to commit a crime. Presently, industrial progress, economic development and urbanization have crippled our domestic life. Lose control of the wards has slowed down so that they can behave as they like. Nowadays, money is the parameter for measuring the social status of a person in society. In the high circle of society, crimes can easily be covered through money. Poverty is a major factor in committing a crime.

### **Neighbourhood**

The effect of the neighbourhood is much more than the type of crime that happens in the area.

Therefore, villages, towns and villages with a dense population provide regular opportunities for crime related to theft, cheating, kidnapping, etc. The cases of pickpocketing and theft are common in public places like railway station and bus stand. Another notable feature of the deluge is some anti-social activities in the neighbourhood. This includes brothels, gambling houses, and other such bad character institutions.

### **Alcohol and Intoxication**

Drinking becomes a fashion for the youth, when any child is suffering from cough and cold, one spoon of alcohol is given and it adversely affects the health of the child. A child cannot understand the negative effects of alcohol consumption. If any person consumes alcohol, it can have a bad effect on the body and mind of the person. Alcohol consuming usually lose self-control. Generally, it is the cause of the fight among husband, wife and children and they attacked upon each other. It creates a hostile atmosphere at home and children are better off moving away from home. This may also be the reason for frustration in those children who inspire them to commit a crime. The lack of discipline and hostile environment in the family is very dangerous for the child. The family should take care of the child otherwise they may indulge in the commission of the offence.

### **Peer Group**

The behaviour of an individual largely depends on his peers. Some of the individuals (mostly in teen ages) form gangs in which several individuals associate together in group activity which often emerges into criminal tendency. Gangs act as a contributory factor to juvenile delinquency. Boys and girls often learn techniques of committing crimes in gangs. The gang is more or less a means of conveying techniques of delinquencies, of training in delinquency, of safeguarding its members engaged in delinquency and of maintaining continuity in delinquency.

### **The Socio-cultural conditions**

It is also playing an important role in delinquent behaviour. The culprit for his gain induces the child into criminal activity. When a child commits a crime, he meets different types of criminal and commits various offences. He became aware of criminal activity and he thinks this is his real life. A child cannot identify the consequences of his work and he goes into a criminal environment in which he is not able to come back. According to Clarence "the child criminal is now common and for the most part, is a product of the city". According to K. Kusum, "all crime is doubtless much more common in the city than the country, and the young criminal especially is the product of the crowded community".

### **Cinema and Social-site**

Children are most affected by movies and social-sites. Today the Internet has brought a revolution in the social-site area. Every child is familiar with Face book, Twitter, WhatsApp etc. This site provides children with easily violent, obscene, immoral material. Movies are a platform to reveal society. But movies are not exempted from violent and sexual crime. What a child watch in the movies, he tries to copy that scene. It is the parent's duty that they guide the children and tell them the negative effect of movies.

### **Role of Press**

As a good and bad impression, the press plays an important role. Children are usually concentrating on clippings of News Paper's headlines and news channels, which are reported on gambling/lottery, robbery, rape, etc. Jerome Motto said, "newspaper is one of the factors in encouraging suicide". He relied on his research result, "that suicide rate in the Detroit area dropped by 20% during the ten months strike when newspapers were not available". He blamed the newspaper for its constant emphasis on violence, aggression, sexuality, power and notoriety.

### **Cheap-Literature**

The cheaper literature has a great effect on the mind of the teenager. These kinds of literature provide information in detail about a particular crime. They give technical and procedural information. Children learn from this literature and apply them in the actual process. The effect of cheap literature on the minds of delinquent children has been stressed. According to Wertham "such literature only offers murder, crime and drug traffic to children. Their effect, in general, is anti-educational and they interfere in education by taking large chunks of a child's life during which he is not positively, that is, educationally occupied. He came to a conclusion made from his studies over a period of seven years". Similarly, Mays in England told that "cheap advertisements and photos in the periodicals are responsible for providing stimulation to the teenage, with the sole motive of promoting the sale of certain kinds of articles". Bhattacharva holds the same view "the movie, the radio and the crime magazine, he says, stimulate crime imitiveness, especially in the impressionable ones who are open to suggestions"

### **Heredity**

The factor of heredity is emphasized a lot when studying the cause of delinquent behaviour. According to Goring, "pathetic mindedness is the result of hereditary transmission". An opinion was expressed in a Seminar on juvenile delinquency that "delinquent parents breed delinquent children". Heredity and environment influence a child's behaviour to a large extent. "Heredity conditions what a child can do or not

do, whereas environment influences what he does". However, it may be pointed out here that quite often what appears to be a hereditary trait is nothing more than mere identification. Thus, where a father is a thief, the son may start stealing from an unconscious desire to be like him. Association makes him what he is. What passes from parents to children is a tendency. These tendencies remain dormant till aroused by external pressures. If children of criminals commit delinquent acts that should not be attributed to heredity but rather to association, influence or training. Remove such children from such an association very early in age and they will be different".

### **Ocular Diseases**

It creates emotional instability and restlessness in children. Apart from this, it can prevent them from obtaining enough knowledge, which inhibits them from living a normal life.

### **Nose and Throat Problem**

This may cause weakness and discomfort and may result in dislike for work and school bunking. Obstructed breathing may result in mouth breathing and may, thus, give an appearance of inefficiency in work.

### **Hearing Problem**

Deafness or difficulty in hearing makes the person ineligible for any particular work. He feels inferior and does not adjust himself in society. Hearing problem reduced the competency of work and make a person depend upon others person and many time it leads to anti-social behaviour.

### **Speech Problem**

When a child has speech and sensory defects, he feels inferior among the child. These defects give disadvantage in competition with other children. Speech defects block the self-expression of the child and he does not express himself and become introverted. People suffering from speech problem in society, become a part of a laugh. Due to this, the spirit of inferiority complex can develop, which can create a desire for criminal acts.

### **Irritation**

Irritation caused by various types of allergies, eczema and burning sensation of sexual organs is also an important factor, which results in delinquency.

### **Headache**

It may irritate temperamental though rarely may result in some sort of outburst excessive strength: A person who is possessed excessive physical strength and his mental trait being uncultured and not properly channelized, probability of his committing an act of offence becomes higher.

### **Hypoglycaemia**

It caused by a low level of glucose in the blood, disturbs the mental equilibrium and affects the level of consciousness, memory and orientation. It may make "the person liable to assault, violent behaviour,



disruption of peace, suicide homicide, drunkenness, theft, mischief, arson and slander."

#### **School Factors**

School is like the second mother for a child. Schools play an important role in the development of the teenager. Teens learn good or bad habits from school because they spend most of their time in school. In school, they met many other students who can be good or bad. When a teen comes in contact with a bad student, he learns the bad activities from him. Many times the school environment is very bad; therefore the student learns obscene language, fraud, small theft, lying etc. The school environment should be good at the school premises. When any student is found in distracted behavioural activity, then he should seek the help of parents or teachers. School management should maintain the squad with the help of police to stop the student's activity. According to Pataki, "School is usually thought as a constructive agency but when it fails to perform its designated functions, it may become by its negligence, the main contributor to delinquency."

#### **Drug-Addiction**

Drug-addiction among juveniles provokes them to commit petty crimes. Taking drugs by juveniles now days is very common. Addiction creates a disturbance in the family and also creates a hostile atmosphere in the family. This atmosphere is highly perilous to the other child of the family. The parents must take care of their children otherwise they may indulge in the commission of the offence.

#### **Industrialization**

Indian industrial and economic growth is increasing day by day and in turn, this increase gives rise to urbanization. People come to the metro city for employment, which gives rise to many problems such as housing, congested, slum-huts, family disruption and lack of parental control and therefore lives in urban areas. Make an external job to give financial support to your family. **Malnutrition**

Malnutrition refers to a diet plan where nutrients are not sufficient or too high, which causes health problems when a child does not provide adequate food or too much food due to poverty or negligence. At the time the food is chosen by the parent or the guardian, it is against the child's interest or there may be a shortage of proteins, vitamins, carbohydrate etc. There are many other factors such as bad cooking, irregular meal hours, and unhealthy surroundings during meals, which causes children to have digestive problems and they feel uncommon. Due to malnutrition, there may be sluggishness and mental laziness and anxiety in the child and then children are in a superabundance of these inefficiencies.

#### **Inappropriate Sleep**

It is necessary to take proper sleep to maintain the balance of the mind and physical parts of the human body. Sleeping at night or sleeping for a very short time can be unusual or irritable behaviour in the child's behaviour. Over time, the child becomes rude and angry. When many members share a common bedroom with the child, this causes a child's sleep disturbances, which causes bad dreams, mental and external disturbances.

#### **Aberration of Development**

In the development of children, there are some miscarriages, such as the development of the baby prematurely or delayed. Excessive or abnormal growth of body organs, these symptoms are due to glandular disorders, malnutrition, or physical and nervous diseases. Many times more growth and strength take children into a delinquent behaviour and they try to prove themselves.

#### **Physical Exuberance**

Physical exuberance is an important delinquency factor in very strong healthy children. In this case, a child got physical strength before proper maturity. In other words, physical and mental development growth cannot take place simultaneously. Sex offences are very vulnerable to this type of child. Girl's child can be watched in court for a sex crime against them, they do not understand the physical change or sexual energy due to tender age.

#### **Superior Intelligence**

A more intelligence child need not make more effort to study at school, because he grabs everything easily which is taught by teachers. At home also he gives supports to parents. This tendency makes him superior among friends. But much time he involves in a mischief act, such as fighting with friends, even he became a leader of less intelligent children gang and these small disputes lead to heinous crime, so proper guidance is necessary for a superior child.

#### **Mental Conflicts**

Childhood is the first stage of life. With the growth of a child, he faces many problems. These problems are new for the child and he tries to solve them. But there is some situation where he fights with himself. There is two or more choice, to which he choose the right one. A. When he adjusts himself to the reality of life, he has to face physical restrictions. B. When he adjusts himself with authority, he has to face social restrictions. C. When he adjusts with himself, he has to face his restrictions and limitations. The final result of mental conflict should be beneficial for both individual and society. It may be a victory for anti-social lust or desire which leads to delinquency such as theft, fight, sexual offences, and so on. Feeling of inferiority among children also leads to delinquency. This may conscious, semiconscious, or

unconscious and repressed. It is a strong emotional accompaniment that is against their inferiority.

### Conclusion:

Children are considered to be gifts from God and are the greatest person as well as national assets. We as individuals, parents, guardians and society as a whole have a duty that children should be allowed and provided the opportunity to grow up in a healthy socio-cultural environment so that they could become responsible citizens, physically fit, mentally alert and morally healthy.

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