

Exploring The Determinants Of Juvenile Criminal Behaviour In India : A Qualitative Study

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ABSTRACT

The most vital and active segment of the population in any nation is its youth. Due to psycho-social influences, teenage life exhibits a variety of qualities, structures, aspirations, and temperaments... India being a collectivistic society, juvenile delinquency results majorly due to cultural crossroads, socio-psychological factors, economic/social disadvantages and faulty influences of surroundings. Data was collected in the form of semi-structured interviews from the sample of representative officers (N=14) and other working professionals of Juvenile Justice Boards and correctional homes in 3 districts of Uttar Pradesh. After the thematic analysis, several sub-themes were derived and discussed. Further analysis has shown a remarkable impact of education, gender and socio-economic status on the proportion of children in conflict with the law.

KEYWORDS- Juvenile delinquency, Children in conflict with the law, criminality.

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I. Introduction

The future of any nation is represented by its youth. They have a responsibility to carry out since they are essential to the nation's development. Although there is no clear definition of youth or any particular age group, youth have still been crucial to the effective utilisation of the nation's resources. As previously said, the population of the nation and the present generation have a significant impact on national development. More than the government's efforts, the progress of a nation is a result of the people of that nation working together. The burden of duty for national development rests with the people of the nation since people perform the work and advancement occurs because of the working class.

Being at a critical juncture in human growth, youth serve as the most dynamic force in society and help shape the world of tomorrow. Most socioeconomic unrest has compelled young people to engage in a variety of criminal and antisocial behaviours. Violence can start from a number of different places, including parental strife, the incorrect peer group, etc. Ranjan, (2021, pp. 1-108). One important reason that children indulge in criminal activity is that their brains are not fully developed.

The main criminal law in India is known as the "Indian Penal Code," or IPC, (IPC, 1860, pp. 1-227) With some exclusions, it defines crimes as sections and then lists punishments for practically all types of crimes. These punishments must be applied to every person of this nation. The Criminal Procedure Code (CRPC, 1973. pp. 1-284), , on the other hand, is a procedural legislation that outlines a specific process for penal law sanctions..

The Special Laws (SLL) subcategory of laws is another one. Local laws are ones that are special to a state or territory, whereas these are laws passed by Parliament that deal with a certain topic. There are particular laws that historically reflect high crime rates among the SLLs (Special Laws) under which crimes are registered.

National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB) was set up in 1986 to function as a **repository of information on crime and criminals**. This record helps investigators to analyse the crime trends which in turns helps government to make better policies and laws.

A total of 31170 incidents involving minors were reported nationwide in 2021, an increase of 4.7% from the previous year's 29,768 cases. The majority of them, or 28.539% in absolute terms, were between the ages of 16 and 18. Additionally, the crime rate among young people increased from 6.7% to 7.0%. (NCRB, 2021)

According to the 2011 Population Census, there were 4441.5 lakh children living in the nation. This indicates that, according to the most recent NCRB survey, seven out of every 100 young people in the nation

engage in criminal or antisocial behaviour. A total of 37,444 minors were detained. Of these, 32,654 were detained under the Indian Penal Code and 4790 were detained under state and municipal legislation. (NCRB 2021)

History of Juvenile Laws

Since the beginning of written history, child misbehavior has been a concern. The earliest documented system of laws, put in place by King Hammurabi of Babylon, is known to be the first state regulated by a written legal code. Juvenile laws can be traced back to around 4000 years ago, around 1750 B.C.E. The Code of Hammurabi specifically noted the obligations of children to their parents and set forth penalties for violations. It also contained intricate rules regarding marriage and family unity. An essential principle of the Shariah, in Islamic law is the "non-retroactivity" of criminal law. Guilt and accountability are essentially personal under the Islamic legal system. Numerous verses of the Quran indicate that a person shall not be punished for any behavior until adequate conditions and age are in place, which serve as a marker for this. The story of Sage Mandavya in the epic Mahabharata shows that minor offences and mischief committed by children are no longer regarded as "sins" that call for punishment because the perpetrators are not aware that they are committing crimes. The Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 was replaced by the Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children Act 2014), which allowed juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18 to be tried as adults.

Research has shown that criminality is attached to personality traits of a person, and we can infer the cause of the crime based on the personality types. Eysenck's personality theory has been used extensively to discriminate between criminal and non-criminal populations. However, it has been suggested that the various personality subgroups within the criminal population might help clarify the inconsistent results in investigations of Eysenck's theory of criminality.

II. Review of Literature

Numerous researches have been done on juvenile delinquency, and some of them have been proven to be very important in figuring out the causes and risk factors of juvenile delinquency. Thuku (2017, pp. 5-51) in his study, concluded, that failure to delay gratification, low levels of emotional regulation, are the major factors present in the children who are inclined to commit the crimes.

According to a study by Teresia, J. N. (2021, pp. 22-38), women and children in Nairobi suffer the most from criminal activity in the slums as a result of teenage unrest, such as rapes and killings, and juvenile delinquency cases. Broken households have repeatedly been noted by criminologists as an indicator factor for criminal activity and delinquency. Broken family units are frequently noted by criminologists as a risk factor for criminal activity and delinquency. According to one such study (Boutwell and Beaver, 2010, pp. 480-495), children who grow up in dysfunctional families are more likely to engage in criminal activity and demonstrate delinquent conduct behaviour.

According to a study (Haveripet, 2013, pp. 29-31) in the Indian context, there is no single cause of juvenile delinquency; rather, several factors, including poor family control, family conflict, the environment in which children live, the influence of films, etc., are all equally to blame. Adolescents who get into trouble with the law are thought to have engaged in petty crimes such as vagrancy, truancy, begging, or alcohol usage. When committed by adults, some of these incidents are referred to as "status offences" and are not punished as crimes. (Sanyal, 2016). The social and psychological causes of juvenile delinquency in India have been extensively discussed by psychologists. It has been noticed that the social environment has a significant influence on juveniles' deviant tendencies under the heading of social factors. According to some research, adolescents are capable of just as much violence as adults. Peer groups are becoming less active as young people spend more time indoors playing video games on their phones or computers or watching television. Online games feature a lot of violence, including killing other players and other acts which instil the idea in young brains that violence is normal and acceptable.

Rationale of the study

"The chain is only as strong as its weakest link, for if that fails the chain fails and the object that it has been holding up falls to the ground!"

According to Thomas Reid (1786), a Scottish philosopher, the above-mentioned quote illustrates the structure of the current society, with youth serving as its "weakest link." Teenagers are particularly prone to giving in to peer pressure and engaging in illegal and criminal activities, which eventually results in a decline in their physical and mental health in the present and the future; this prompts national concerns about them taking the wrong path. They are not mature enough to understand the consequences; this makes them vulnerable enough to deviate from their path. This is the reason why there is a potential rise in criminal activity among youth, and why juvenile delinquency has become an essential issue for sociologists all over the world.

To comprehend the root causes of misbehaviour, the juvenile justice field has invested a lot of time and effort. Various theoretical models describe the connection between factors and results. It can be

challenging for particular children to adjust psychologically and physically to shifting circumstances due to a number of variables, which can lead to delinquency (Muiya,2014, pp. 495-503). According to researchers, multiple factors like family environment, abusive atmosphere of home, maternal aftercare, and neonatal health contribute to every juvenile crime that is committed. (Rahman, 2015, pp. 5189-5195). As a result of their fixation on their cell phones and laptops, it is becoming increasingly rare to see children playing outside these days. It appears as, kids are looking for safety in the virtual world because they are getting lost in the realm of visuals and anonymity. They run the risk of conforming to social media trends and expectations in order to project an image of a "cool" celebrity. They connect with people from all over the world through social media sites like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and other graphic video games while the person with whom they are connecting and forming psychological and emotional bonds is behind a screen and out of their reach. On the internet, there is information overload as well which makes them unaware of the potential harms of it.

Numerous studies have shown a link between aggressive and defiant behaviour in young children measured between one and three years old and externalising behavioural issues measured at five years old and later in adolescence (Keenan et al. 1998, pp.441-452). Preschool is a critical time for the emergence of aggressive behaviour issues, and up to 50% of kids will continue to struggle with them until middle childhood and adolescence (Campbell 1995, pp. 113-149). A significant portion of these teenagers will participate in antisocial behaviour, this led researchers to visualize the main goal of this research i.e., to identify the key causes of juvenile delinquency.

Criminality in India is largely the result of cultural clashes, poverty, a sense of entitlement in wealthy families, substance abuse, and divorced families where one or both parents are deceased or separated. This is where the child is typically exposed to anti-social behaviour caused by the impact of peer groups, and family members, including childhood abuse or a dysfunctional upbringing. This study will provide light on the everyday elements of young people's lives (under the age of 18) that, in the presence of favourable environmental factors, predispose them to engaging in antisocial behaviour.

III. Method

Sample and Procedure

Researchers approached 17 members of the Juvenile Justice Board from the three cities i.e. Prayagraj, Varanasi and Rae Bareli and of which 14 members have given their consent for participation in interview. All 14 participants (age 28-42 years) were associated with the Juvenile Justice Boards of their respective districts. The sample included four Magistrate (28.5%), three lawyers (21.4%), two social workers (14.2%), and five other supporting staff and officers (35.7%). They all had at least five years of experience with juvenile offenders and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. The researchers contacted the interviewee personally and described the purpose and design of the study. A semi-structured interview was conducted with each participant after taking their consent to record the interview in the form of an audio file, which later has to be transcribed in English. Each Interview lasted approximately 15-20 minutes.

The main aim of the interview was to collect detailed information about the trend and nature of crimes committed by the children and their demographic proportions. Researchers have asked 10 open-ended questions asked were,

1. What is the approximate age range of the children who commit the crime?
2. What are the crime trends you have seen in recent years? Is there any change? If yes, what do you think could be the reason behind this?
3. According to you, what major personality factors are responsible for leading children into commission of illegal activities?
4. Do you think poverty and lack of resources are responsible for any child to deviate from his/her way?
5. What is the role of parents who come here with their children? Do they feel responsible on the behalf of their child's wrongdoing?
6. What is the proportion of boys and girls in getting detained? And what could be the reason for this uneven number?
7. Do you also consider the background of children in conflict with law? What do you notice?
8. What factors other than their family backgrounds and environment really affect their interaction with antisocial activities?
9. What are the chances that children who are already detained once would become a habitual offender? What traits and habits do you notice for supporting your answer?
10. Do you think rehabilitation centres and correctional homes are doing their work efficiently?

Researchers collected demographic data on interviewees, including gender, working hours, and marital status, to understand the causative factors for children committing crimes at an early age. The aim was to gain a broad experience of interactions with children in conflict with the law, their attitudes towards proceedings, and other behavioral aspects that can make them prone to commit the crime. Data was collected until saturation,

with sensitive information kept confidential. Informed consent was taken before the start of the interviews, and ethical guidelines were followed.

Data Analysis

Data was organized into distinct categories reflecting symbolic causes behind children committing crimes. The audio files of the interviews were transcribed with the help of a subject matter expert and a language professor, and thematic content analysis was used to create higher realm categories. The categories were refined after each re-reading and checked for alternatives. The researchers repeated this process with all sets of responses and quotations used to stand for the themes and sub-themes generated by them. Interpretations were made based on the associations between distinct categories and their sub-themes. Researchers were in frequent contact with subject matter experts to review new insights and discuss contradictory thoughts.

IV. Result

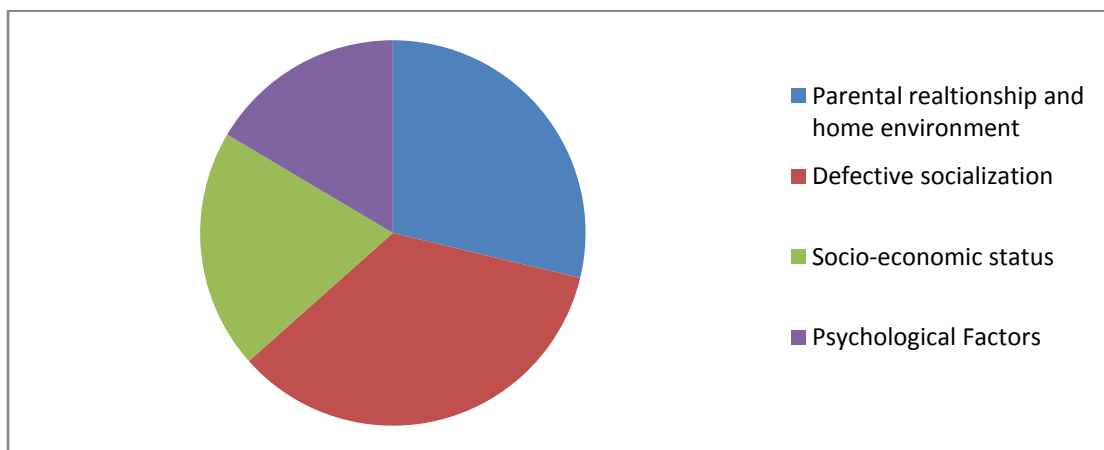
The researchers analysed a total of four themes and 15 sub-themes. These were taken out after doing a thematic analysis of the 14 interviews with the members of the Juvenile Justice Board and social workers.

Table 1.0 showing major themes derived from thematic content analysis

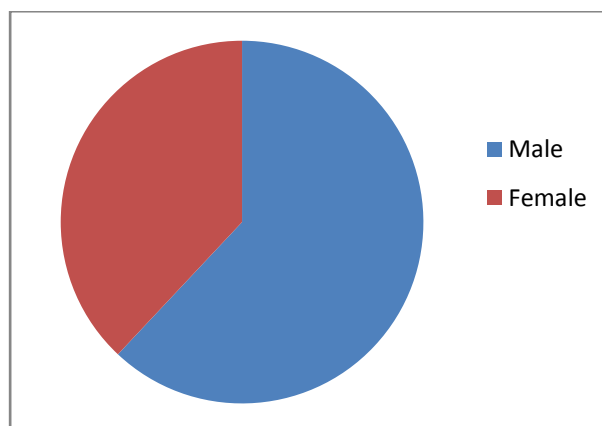
Serial no.	Themes	Subthemes	Illustrative quotes
1.	Defective Socialization (34.78%)	1.1 Peer Influence	<p><i>"habits of intoxication and violence happens with company, so whatever kind of company that person has, he will act in the same way"</i></p> <p><i>"..with the bad peer groups which in terms affect them in a bad way"</i></p>
		1.2 Influence of social media	<p><i>"...on the other hand the cases of social media have risen significantly. Also the children who come here belong majorly to those groups who usually have bad peer groups which in terms affect them in a bad way."</i></p>
		1.3 School environment	<p><i>"Children smoke cigarettes after coming out of school. If they are in the wrong company, then it affects their mental state somewhere. If that child takes drugs and runs away from school and does wrong things with his friends, then the reason is, his peers!"</i></p>
		1.4 Impact of Neighbourhood	<p><i>"if a fight happened, a girl became a part of it, or as I said, due to a mutual fight in the village, her name was also put, then all these matters come."</i></p> <p><i>"it is seen that the neighbours fight with each other and they include their child also"</i></p>
2.	Parental Relationship and Home Environment (28.84%)	2.1 Familial negligence/rejection	<p><i>"Sometimes they have this kind of pressure to belong in a community or a peer group from which they have been neglected because they were also ignored in their home by their parents so they have this sense of deficit of love & care and comfort, the urge to be accepted somewhere"</i></p>
		2.2 Substance abusive parents	<p><i>"Whenever they see that their parents fight, abuse and hit each other, they somehow learn that this thing is appropriate"</i></p> <p><i>"We observe that their parents fight and argue in front of them and also, they Consume alcohol and drugs in front of them"</i></p>

		2.3 Maltreatment by relatives	<i>“Especially in the rural areas of the place, where the child has been framed between the fight of 2 adults, sometimes the cases of revenge for properties or sometimes the rivalry happening between the relatives they frame the child to get the advantage on the other party”</i>
		2.4 Domestic violence	<i>“Yes, broken homes impact children in a very deep way because quarrels and fighting between the parents eventually results children seeing all those events and inculcating all those things into their personality”</i> <i>“Other factors which play role to make The children commit the crimes like Levels of education and violence Between members of their family”</i>
3.	Socioeconomic status (20.16%)	3.1 Lack of economic resources	<i>“ratio of children coming from the rural background is more than the urban area With my experience I can say that 90% of the cases come from the rural and backward populated area”</i> <i>“Almost everyone who comes here is from a weaker economic section and high income class people come very rarely”</i>
		3.2 Illiteracy among family	<i>“Their family status remains low. Some are rag pickers and some work on brick kilns, then the case of people from a good family rarely comes up. There is also 10 percent and it is from big good houses but it is quite a low. Means poverty plays a big role in this”</i>
		3.3 Effect of marginalization on development	<i>“To some extent we can say that poverty plays a role because the cases which relate to theft, children admit that they have done this because they were in need of the thing.”</i> <i>“social economic status plays a very important role in shaping a child's personality into a criminal way because those children get involved more in the crime who are in need of something.”</i>
4.	Psychological Factors (16.52%)	4.1 Feeling of Entitlement	<i>“Boys are like they get thrilled out of things, they start like doing certain things and all and they are kind of a bolt because of their upbringing at Homes or socialization”</i> <i>“but the people who come from wealthy family they just do it for the sake of their time pass.”</i>
		4.2 Lack of remorse/guilt	<i>“it happens that to remove their financial crisis or to remove this tension, they are given the support of drug. And the children themselves don't know that they alone are wrong and fall in his trap, they give all these drugs to sell them, then they sell them illegally to the children”</i>

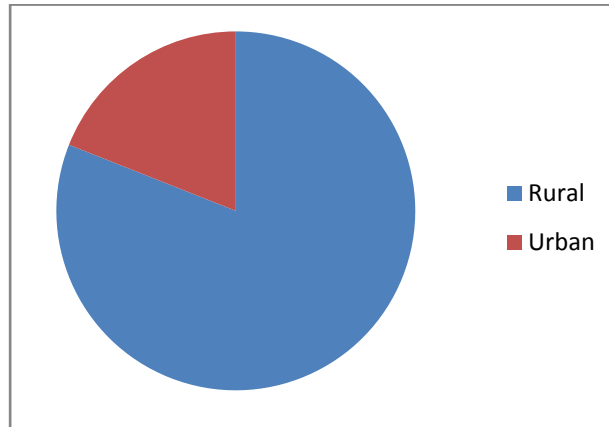
		4.3 Emotional conflict	<p><i>“He (child) don’t know that yet, then it definitely has some effect on his mind and because he is not aware of the law, he would have committed the crime somewhere or the other”</i></p> <p><i>“They don’t have any one to support them or tell them the difference between right and wrong so ultimately it led them somewhere Not good and which was not easy to come back from”</i></p>
		4.4 Lack of consequential knowledge	<p><i>“I think the main reason why wealthy Children commit crime is that they have decided to commit a crime, they Have this curiosity that let’s commit a crime let’s see what happens”</i></p> <p><i>“He doesn’t know the consequences he Somewhere unknowingly commits it.”</i></p>



The pie chart 1.1 showing major factors responsible for juvenile delinquency



The pie chart 1.2 proportions of male and female children in conflict with law



The pie chart 1.3 proportions of children belonging to rural and urban background

Theme 1: Defective Socialization

The study reveals a major theme of 'Defective socialization', which includes four sub-themes: peer influence, social media influence, school environment, and the impact of the neighborhood. The study highlights the rise in anti-social behavior among children, particularly due to the consumption of substances and the availability of unsuitable content on the internet. This unsuitable information negatively impacts self-esteem, body image, and expectations towards oneself and other groups. Officers also highlight the role of the neighborhood in shaping children's ideas about law and order. If a child lives in an area where laws are not respected and moral policing is absent, they learn these behaviors and practice them in daily life. The study highlights the need for more effective strategies to address these issues and promote a more positive social environment for children.

Theme 2: Parental Relationship and home environment

The study reveals four major themes: parental relationship and home environment, which are crucial for shaping a child's personality. These include family negligence, substance abuse, maltreatment by relatives, and domestic violence. The board emphasizes the importance of parental relationships and the home environment in shaping a child's personality, as a notorious child can become a habitual offender. Overly permissive parents can lead to hopelessness and despair, while drug abuse can lead to unhealthy drug consumption. Relatives may frame false cases to gain advantages in family disputes, especially in rural areas. Domestic violence is a major factor in teaching children violence and other negative aspects, incorporating them into their personalities.

Theme 3: Socio-economic status

The third theme derived from the study focuses on the impact of socio-economic status on children's social status and availability of economic resources. The study highlights the fragile mindset of adolescents and their sensitivity towards self-esteem. When faced with the harsh reality of poverty, children often feel failure and resort to illegal activities to obtain money or items. Parents who are unpaid laborers, working under poverty lines, or lack education often fall into this trap, leading to gambling and fighting for resources. The lack of education results in a lesser understanding of adolescent development and ignites aggressiveness between parents and child. Money is a significant aspect of some parents' lives, leading to conflicts and violence among teenagers. The study highlights the importance of understanding the social status of children and providing adequate resources to help them navigate their lives.

Theme 4: Psychological factors

The study focuses on psychological factors that contribute to adolescents' commitment to illegal acts. It identifies four sub-themes: feeling of entitlement, lack of remorse/guilt, emotional conflict, and lack of consequential knowledge. Advocates of the JJB have observed adolescents engaging in illicit activities for fun or excitement, often unaware of the consequences. Parents often believe their child is unaware of the consequences of their actions. Sometimes, conflict between parents or family environments forces them to explore and execute their ideas, unknowingly leading to unlawful acts. Hormonal changes during puberty give boys physical and psychological energy to act out illegal activities, causing emotional conflict and committing unlawful acts. Many children in conflict with the law show no remorse or guilt for their actions, as they believe they did not do anything wrong. They may be angry, unaware of the consequences, or simply wanting to enjoy the thrill of the activity.

V. Discussion

In today's world, among numerous issues, juvenile delinquency seeks our immediate attention because there are several related serious consequences one being rise in the criminal activity. Different theoretical models describe the relationship between variables and outcomes.

Muiya (2014, pp.495-503) found that parental dissonance, authoritarian discipline, the level of parental supervision, parental abuse, and the quality of the relationship between parents and children have forced young blood to rebellion, which results in the form of indulgence in criminality. Riechi (2019, pp.11-13) found that young people develop a circle with those people who are delinquent in nature so that they can "fit in" This states a positive correlation of child getting involved in the delinquent activities and also getting approved by his peer group.

First major theme which emerged from the analysis of qualitative data is, **Defective socialization** which comprises four sub-themes, that are- Peer influence, Influence of social media, School environment and Impact of the neighbourhood.

In today's world, the immediate environment of any child is its peer group which significantly affects the cognitive, affective and behavioural development. A child needs a peer group because it helps them form self-esteem, concept and a sense of identity. Erikson's theory of psychosocial development talked about the stage of 'Identity Vs Role confusion'. Due to the lack of proper guidance and support often it is seen that children choose some faulty roles as a need to "fit in", these roles are again reinforced if that child has the wrong peer group and eventually it leads to the development of fidelity but towards wrong people, this explains why they so readily join their friends in violence and in delinquent behaviours. The school environment is also important because people at school are good predictor of child's cognition and behaviour, and so their behaviour is modified by friends and effectively affects parental decision-making (Beardslee et al., 2018, pp. 783-798). Social cognitive theory states, that modelling of behaviour is common in children and teenagers as their brain is not fully matured. Children are increasingly creating more networks of others outside their homes such as in their neighbourhoods and parks, the type of locality in which they live or play is also responsible for the development of their thoughts on respecting law & order and authority. The easy access to social media which is mostly unsupervised, and it is very easy to manipulate a child by making him/her access prohibited and unsuitable information such as online gaming which involves a lot of plots of violence, killing others; which instils violence as normal and acceptable in young minds and becomes the breeding ground for future juvenile delinquency. Agarwal(2018, pp. 1365-1383). Other than these, usage and availability of pornographic and explicit content has made an easy involvement of children in delinquent behaviour .

Theme of **Parental relationship & home environment** was created by clubbing several subthemes such as, parental rejection, domestic violence, maltreatment by relatives and substance abusive parents because the relationship with parent can improve or exacerbate the behaviour of the child. Many interviewees discussed the isolation and trauma children face when their parents are hostile towards them and beating, neglecting them and their vital needs, and harming them in verbal, sexual or physical ways are common instances in their families. Excessive rigidity, extreme measures for enforcing discipline and authoritarian parenting style is also the cause of defiant activities of children, particularly harsh and inconsistent parenting is associated with psychological distress such as anxiety, child depression and PTSD. Research also suggests that a lack of involvement, as well as poor monitoring and supervision of children's activities, strongly predicts antisocial behaviour of children in future (Loeber&Stouthamer-Loeber 1986, pp. 29-149)

Children also learn tactics of aggression toward self or other, by the means of vicarious learning through the parents. Social Learning Theory suggests that due to modelling and reinforcement, child gets to learn a lot of things and of they are negative in nature so it will have a negative impact on them. It is when they witness domestic abuse, they tend to act out in reaction to the situation, they engage in anti-social behaviours such as fighting, gambling, drinking and doing drugs. These teenagers are also very likely to get in trouble with the law and get detained for their behaviour in correctional homes. Sometimes parents unintentionally promote these unhealthy behaviours in children either by giving too much of attention or by being ignorant about it, which further increases the intensity and frequency disorderly behaviours. Patterson (1982, pp. 101-110) found that these patterns in an abusive family environment, increases the proneness of child getting outside and seeking affiliation and this in turn results in greater parental harsh treatments

Socio-economic status plays a very important role in shaping a child's personality. This theme has been operationalised into three sub themes which are, lack of economic resources, illiteracy among parents and effect of marginalization. A vast majority of the population of children, who is against law belongs to families with low income and financial aids, where sometimes the basic needs are not fulfilled. Maslow proposed in his hierarchy theory of needs, that if the basic needs, such as food, clothes and necessities are not available, the person would not be able to focus on values & concepts of morality, justice and law. Low finances are the main reason why children and adolescents take part in acts of stealing, robbery and gambling. Young children and teenagers who are living in poverty are surviving in low socioeconomic communities which lack essential

resources such as basic education, clean water, sanitation, job opportunities, medical services etc., are more likely lead down a path of crime.

In the current society, those who are affluent and economically strong, are also engaging in illegal activities because their mind is getting heavily influenced by the new concept of 'need, urges and wants'. Parents are extremely permissive or do not have enough education to understand the consequences of fulfilling their child's increasing demands this ignorance of parents leads the child into a spiral of 'reckless materialistic gratification', and this changes their thoughts from, "should I need this now?" To "I need this immediately at any cost and by any means". The lack of resources in marginalized communities disrupts the psychological growth of youth and impedes them from becoming successful. Apart from this, the societal discrimination and biasness towards them also limit their options to explore and evolve maturely like others. The social out casting of marginalized communities has harsh effects on psychological well-being of person, especially on children it affects their self-image and makes them seek validation out of their locality. This exposes them to the wrong and dangerous peer groups. The phenomenon of self-fulfilling prophecy acts out very well in this situation because it has been observed that children who belonged to lower class of the society commit more crime.

The research concerning internal **Psychological factors** responsible for individual's decision to participate in criminal behaviour encompasses a large variety of different phenomena as 16.48% (see the Pie Chart no. 1.1) of the total. These include sense of entitlement, lack of guilt and remorse, emotional conflict and lack of consequential knowledge. In the psychological literature, "entitlement" refers to a mental set that unrealistically hyper-prioritizes the impulses, wants, and urges of the individual, above the rights and dignity of others. This develops a feeling of 'deserving "extra" benefits in terms of privileges and respect from society.

Toch (1992, p. 286) and Baumeister (1997, pp. 1027-1040) included a sense of entitlement as a contributing factor in an individual's decision to participate in criminal behaviour. According to Freud's theory of psychosexual development, entitlement is resolved early on in life, resulting from parenting, discipline, and the internalization of behavioural consequences resulting from channelling energy of Id into the development of Ego. But for a child whose Id holds all aspect of the personality, self-absorption and self-centeredness remains unmonitored and unsupervised and entitlement gradually metastasizes, which leads to antisocial behaviour in future. Over time, unchecked entitlement breeds arrogant self-indulgence in those children and becomes foundation of criminal behaviour. Absences of guilt and remorse have been positively correlated with the prevalence of psychopathy because when people feel guilty, they experience tension, remorse and regret about it. Studies have shown that people usually start to confess and apologise for their wrong doing so that they can get away with it (June P. Tangney, Jeffrey Stuewig, and Andres G. Martinez, 2014, p. 799); but the absence of these affective and cognitive constructs predicts the escalation of antisocial behaviour in future, that can lead to aggression and personality disorders, building a base for developing criminal attitude in them.

Many of the detained children in correctional and reformation homes are young and were unaware of the consequences of the actions they took. Moreover, petty crimes such as, shoplifting, trespassing, vandalism are offences are common in them. The family environment or compliance to peers is the reason why they get involved into unlawful activities and ended up being caught. The exploring years to adolescents are full of internal and external conflicts. As Piaget's theory suggests that the development of the self and identity is the major milestone of this age, they are preoccupied with their thoughts and egocentrism active. Even if they are successful in finding the sense of self, there will be conflicts with parents. Many researchers believe that some amount of 'rebellion' tendency is actually necessary, but the parents who use coercive techniques often ignite more serious forms of aggression which lead them feeling unattached to their environment and feeling hostile, often ending up in doing prohibited actions.

Further analysis

Researchers believe females and males in the juvenile justice system are somewhat different.

Generally less education, more mental health problems, more aggression, and higher rates of abuse and poverty, contributes for the reason as why males being high in juvenile delinquency (see pie chart 1.2)

The major findings were,

1. Females are less involved in delinquent behaviour than males
2. Children who belong to rural and marginalized communities and areas are more engaged in illegal activities than urban, high social class children
3. Adolescents who have acquired basic education (up to class 10th) are less involved in crimes than who did not.

There have been studies concluding that females typically are less involved in criminal activities than boys. There are several reasons for the findings, such as biological perspective argues the role of aggression, anger issues and brain structure. Females are more efficient in managing expression of emotions than males and minimal emotional control is linked in the development of delinquent behaviour. Other than this, the

socialization plays a big role in this, male offenders are seen as cool b their peers whereas delinquent females are not seen in this way. Females of middle-class families are not given much of freedom for exploration or expressing their negative emotions in terms of behaviours, but males of the family are allowed to do so. This perspective suggests that females are less involved in crime due to the way they are socialized and seen by society. The socialization process also affects the communities which are socially and economically marginalized, they usually have high level of crimes. The level of education is very low, living conditions are poor, and the resources are not ample enough to provide healthy atmosphere for development, children and adolescents are attracted to illegal activities to get things done.

VI. Conclusion

This study was conducted to identify different factors which are contributing to increase the tendencies for committing illegal activities in adolescents. The study primarily focuses on the sociological perspective for finding the causes of juvenile delinquency. Qualitative data in interview format was collected from the officers and social workers associated with Juvenile justice boards of three districts of Uttar Pradesh. After analysing the content by using Braun & Clark's Thematic analysis techniques, four themes were derived. Socio-economic factors were found to be more responsible than the personality traits of children committing illegal activities and going against the law. Additional research also reflected the distinct proportion of children in conflict with law based on gender, education levels and socio-economic background.

VII. Limitations

This study has been conducted in three cities namely Varanasi, Prayagraj and Rae Bareilly. The possibility of getting the sample from more cities could have made researchers to discover more themes that contribute for delinquent behaviours by adolescent. One major limitation which could eventually become the basis for further research is that the interviews were collected from the members of the juvenile justice board and other officials and not from the children in conflict with law or their parents. The geographical settings and cultural characteristics of these cities are almost similar, and this could be one of the reasons researchers got similar results from all these cities. These all limitations pave the way to further advance this study in terms of gathering more qualitative data and perform higher statistical analysis to obtain more in depth overview.

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