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**“A SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS ON FACTORS INFLUENCING JUVENILE  
DELINQUENCY IN INDIA”**

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**Abstract:**

Juvenile delinquency is one of the complex social issues prevailing in the society. It occurs in every community affecting children of all religious beliefs, socio-economic classes and ethnic groups. Today, India has a large share of the Juvenile delinquents of the world. This problem needs to be sought out very carefully on the serious note this is concern for the nation and solutions to end this heinous crime. Therefore, delinquency is caused by multiple reasons, i.e., biological, psychological and social environmental factors. In our country, during the years after the Revolution for various reasons, such as war, cultural and economical consequences of rapid population growth and its disorders, the number of juveniles and young people experiencing social deviance increased significantly. The main objective of the study is to identify various factors influencing juvenile delinquency in India. The researcher has used secondary data to analyze the status of juveniles in the present context. Also elaborated and assessed various factors influencing the juvenile crimes in India. The present study suggests that value based education among children can reduce the amount of juvenile crimes taking place in the society.

**Key words:** juvenile delinquency, biological, psychological and social



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## **Introduction:**

The term juvenile is used with reference to a young criminal offender and the term minor relates to legal capacity or majority of a person. Thus, Juvenile is a child who is alleged to have committed certain acts or omissions which are in violation of any law and are declared to be an offence. The future of our world depends on responsible citizens who possess the ability to express and resolve conflicts while working together for civic improvement. The more the environment is supportive of the end conducive to delinquency, the more delinquency will exist. Shaw and Mc Kay (1969) conclude that crime was transmitted through personal and group contacts and lack of effective social control agencies also contributed to the high incidence of crime.

The process of development has brought in its wake a socio-cultural upheaval affecting the age-old traditional ways of life in the congenial rural milieu. Clear understanding of risk factors of juvenile delinquency is a pre requisite to initiate remedial or preventive measures. Juvenile delinquency and the problems related to it have been faced by all societies, all over the world; however, in the developing world the problems are all the more formidable. The several factors like biological, socio and psychological etc are discussed in detail.

## **Need and significance of the study:**

According to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) the rate of crimes against juveniles in conflict with law has been increased to 89.28 % from 2005 to 2016. No doubt the physical development of children is happening but they do not have the knowledge of their essential rights, ethics, values and humanity. There is a great need to stop or reduce the juvenile crimes in India. The Value based Education and school environment influence the proper development of the children. Therefore this is striking factor for reducing the juvenile crimes. Likewise several important factors were discussed in the present study. That is why the researcher felt the need to take up the current study.

## **Review of literature:**

1. **Jyothi Lakshmi et.al.** (2019) conducted a cross sectionals study on the factors influencing juvenile delinquency in the government juvenile home, Hyderabad, Telangana. The study carried out for a period of three months in the Government



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juvenile homes. All the inmates of the male and female juvenile homes available at the time of study who were willing to participate were interviewed. A semi-structured questionnaire was administered through interviews and studying the subjects' records carefully. 77.5% (155) were males and 22.5% (55) were females. 16.5% (33) were 6-10 yr age group and 83.5% (167) were above 11 yrs. The study concludes that the peer influence, smart phone usage, influence of movies and truancy from home also showed significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the delinquency.

2. **Deepshikha Agarwal** (2018) studied the latest trends and entailing amendments in juvenile justice act. The study highlighted the trends of increasing rate of violent crimes committed by the juveniles. This paper aims at looking at the causes of juvenile delinquency and explanations given by scholars from various fields to explain the problem. The research was based on doctrinal research. The latest statistical data from NCRB has been taken and analyzed the same. All analysis in this paper is based on statistical data available. Empirical study of juvenile delinquency through visits to Juvenile Homes and Juvenile Boards (Courts) is proposed by the author in the coming years to get a deeper insight into the problem.
3. **Indiran Rathnabalan** (2017) conducted a study on effects of family factors on juvenile delinquency. The objective of this study was to determine the effect of family factors on juvenile delinquency. This was a case control study done from January 2009 to December 2009. Adolescents present in the Government run Special observation home were cases, while boys of 10, 11, and 12 standards in a government school served as controls. Data on demographic details, offence committed and family factors were collected using a structured proforma. Totally sixty juveniles and an equal number of school students were interviewed. Paternal age above 50 years, paternal smoking, alcohol intake, substance abuse and involvement in crime, maternal education and employment, being born as a single child, having separated parents or single parent were significant family factors identified in univariate analysis.

### **Objectives of the study:**

1. To elaborate different factors influencing juvenile delinquency in India.
2. To examine the perception of fairness of justice among juvenile delinquents.
3. To illustrate the role of individual characteristics and social environmental background in juvenile delinquency.

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### Research questions:

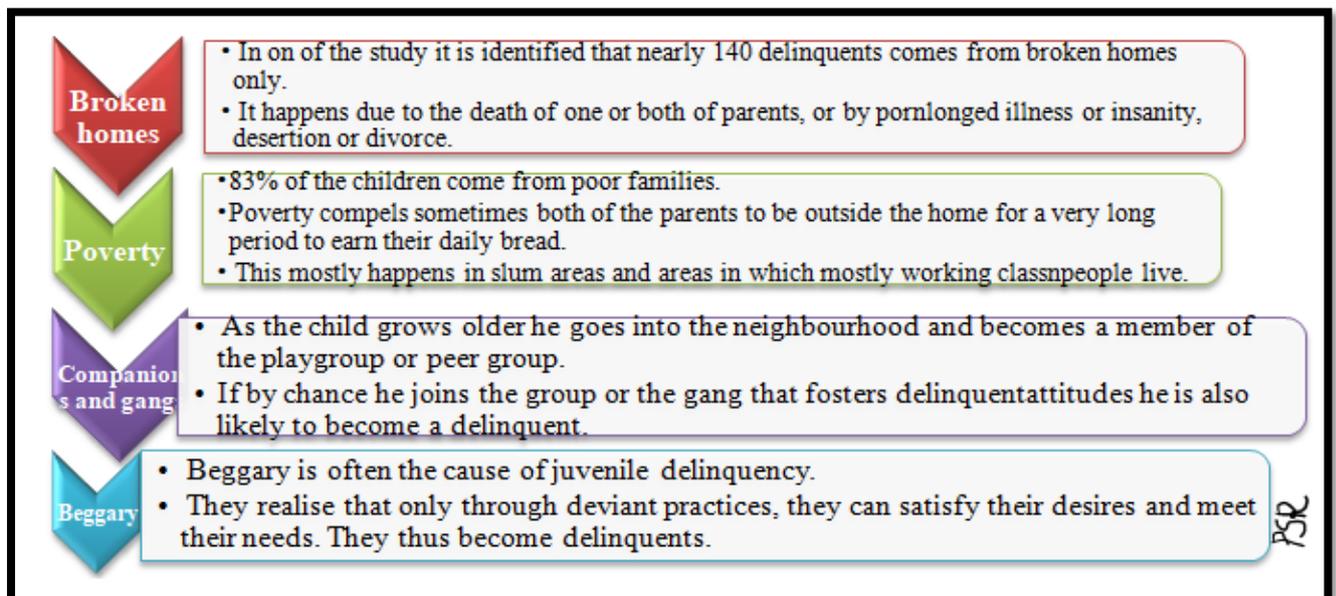
Whether both individual and existing environmental conditions reflecting societal changes are responsible for committing juvenile delinquency among children or not?

### Discussion of the study:

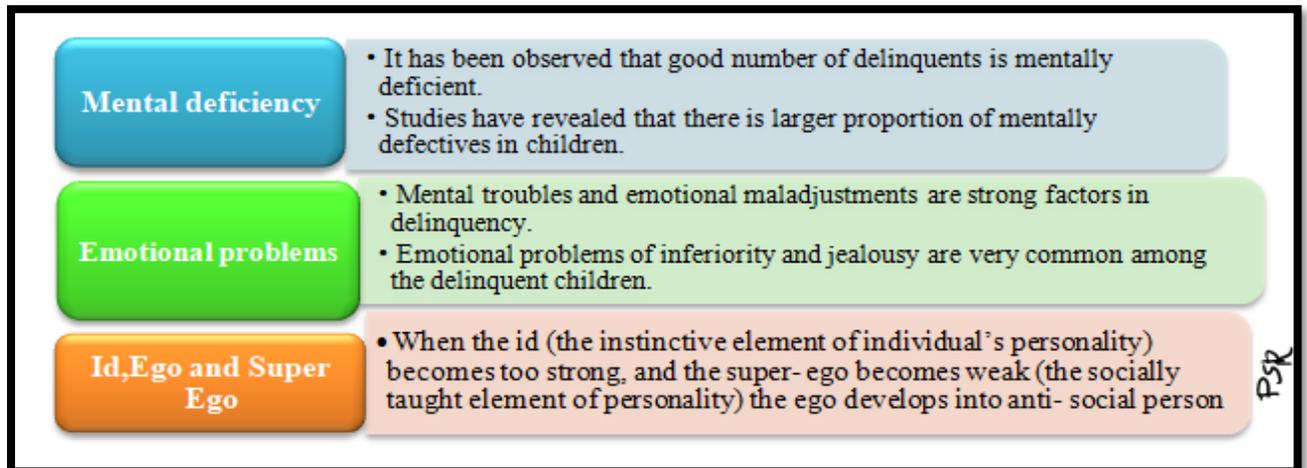
According to Healy and Bronner, the causes of juvenile delinquency are: i) Bad company, ii) adolescent instability and impulses, iii) early sex experience, iv) mental conflicts, v) extreme social suggestibility, vi) love of adventure, vii) motion picture, viii) school dissatisfaction, ix) poor recreation, x) street life, xi) vocational dissatisfaction, xii) sudden impulse; and xiii) physical conditions of all sorts. However, as far as India is concerned, it is Poverty and the effect of media, especially the social-media which make juveniles more inclined towards criminal activities.

It can be understood from different studies all over the world, many behavioural changes occur in the juveniles, which are related to the sudden changes in their body due to hormonal surge, associated with puberty. These physical changes are also accompanied by mental changes. The various factors are elaborated as follows.

#### A. Social factors:



**B. Psychological factors:**

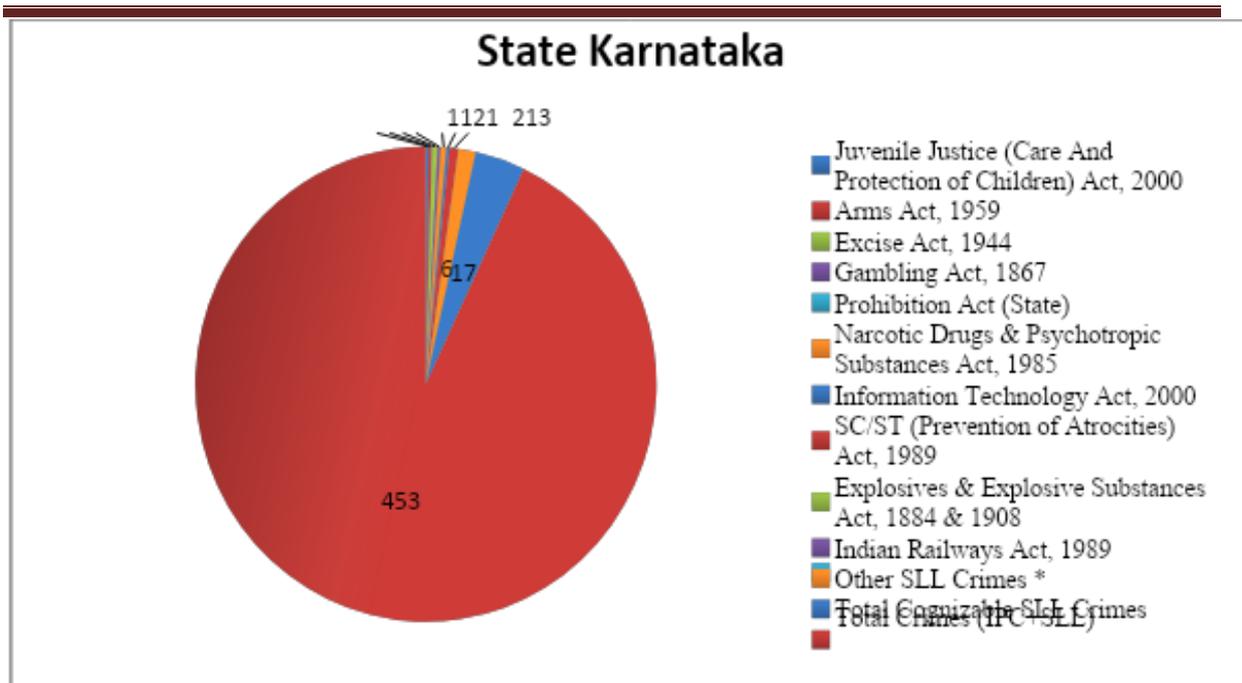


**C. Social factors:**

David Brandt (2006) has extensively talked about the social and psychological factors responsible for delinquency in India. Under the social factors it has been noted that the social environment has a strong impact on deviating tendencies of the juveniles. Amongst these neighborhood ties and social organization can be important determinant in the delinquent behavior of the juvenile. This is highlighted in the study conducted by He Len Chung and Laurence Steinberg (2006). The study indicates that when the neighborhood ties are weak and the social organization factors are not effective, the social control over the members of the society becomes weak, thus leading to delinquent tendencies. Along with the weak neighborhood, ineffective parenting and association of the youth with deviant peers leads to higher rates of offending.

Thus, delinquents are not born so, but they become so due to social circumstances and personal deficiencies. They are mostly emotionally maladjusted children who become delinquents to get the attention of their parents or as a protest against their treatment. Thus, it may be said that juvenile delinquency is the result of both social or environmental and personal or individual factors.

Following is the pie chart which reveals the fact of the juvenile in conflict with law in the year 2016.



#### Suggestion and recommendation:

1. It is to suggest that value based education can be important factor for changing the actual behaviours of juveniles.
2. More number of trained teachers should be appointed in the observation home so that it will be possible to provide teaching to the different age group of delinquents.
3. Developing the infrastructural facilities of Short stay homes and Observation homes is a top priority.
4. School drop outs should be handled properly to ensure that they are not becoming antisocial.
5. Proper counseling sessions at regular intervals is highly essential for these juveniles.
6. Delinquents should be dealt in a sensitive manner.
7. Education should be an integral part of the positive development of these children in conflict with law.
8. Proper socialization from the childhood is a key requirement.



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