

## **Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in the Higher Secondary School Students**

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**Abstract:** *The present investigation aims at studying the contribution of the areas related to causes of juvenile delinquency in higher secondary school students of Imphal West District of Manipur. From the results of the research the causes of juvenile delinquency are personal factors contribute the development of juvenile delinquency, social factor also contributes the development of juvenile delinquency, psychological factors also contribute the development of juvenile delinquency and academic factors also contribute to the development of juvenile delinquency. The findings may help to improve the solution of the problems requires preventive as well as curative measures of juvenile delinquency in our society.*

**Keywords:** *Causes, juvenile delinquency, delinquency, delinquency children and adolescents.*

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### **I. Introduction**

Juvenile delinquency, as old a phenomenon as human civilization, has at present become a generic phase to connote everything or anything from murder to habitual truancy from school, disobedience to parents, waywardness and so on. Society has, from the earliest days, been sensitively concerned with child misbehaviour. In days of yore antisocial children were put to gruesome death in a vain attempt to eliminate such undesirable elements from society and to deter the prospective ones.

Etymologically, the term delinquency has been derived from the Latin word 'delinquer' meaning 'to omit'. The Roman used the term to refer to the failure of a person in case of performing the assigned duty or task. It was in 1484 when William Coxtton used the term 'delinquent' to describe a person found guilty of customary offence. The word also found place in the famous Shakespearean play "Macbeth" in the year 1605. Indeed, in the ordinary sense, delinquency is a form of behaviour or rather misbehaviour or deviation from the commonly accepted norms or conduct in the society.

However, according to the interpretation of the modern penologists, 'juvenile delinquency' refers to a large variety of disapproved behaviour of children and adolescents which society does not approve of and for what some admonishment, punishment or corrective measure is justified in the public interest. The perception that juvenile delinquency is a creeping social menace is sharpened because the crimes with which the youths are most often associated are those of Wanton violence and destruction where the motive is often difficult to discover. However, the exact types of menacing behaviour have been changing over time; but in Britain have been personified by such groups as Teddy Boys in the 1950s, muggers, and football hooligans in 1970s and 1980s. Thus the term expresses a very extensive meaning, covering hostile and rebellious behaviour of children and their malignant attitude towards society. Certain other acts as such begging, truancy, vagrancy, obscenity, loitering, pilfering, drinking, gambling etc. Which vicious persons very often commit is also included within the meaning of the term. It may therefore, be inferred that a juvenile delinquent is an adolescent between childhood and manhood or womanhood as the case may be who indulge in some kind of anti-social behaviour, which if not checked in time may grow into a potential offender.

In very simple words, juvenile delinquency is the participation in illegal behaviour by minors. A juvenile delinquent is a person who is typically under the age of 18 and commits an act that otherwise would have been charged and tried as adults. So it is quite clear that juvenile delinquency is also a part of all those behavioural change that occurs in a persons life while passing the stormy phase of adolescence, though it is not found in every adolescent. The degree of delinquency varies from one to another and it remain unnoticed unless and until the particular act becomes the concern of the society. Since adolescence is the transitional period of life, during this phase one passes through rapid revolutionary changes in one's physical, mental, moral, spiritual, sex and social outlook. They become emotionally unstable and frequent mood change is observed. It is the period of anxieties, worries, conflicts and complexities. Therefore during this period they do certain things in order to satisfy one need or the other which often lead them to become delinquent.

Delinquent children belong to that category of exceptional children who exhibit considerable deviation in terms of their social adjustment and are consequently also labelled as socially deviant or social handicapped. They display criminal behaviour and are punishable under legal procedure. Violation of social norms and values threaten the peace of the society, and are therefore considered as criminal acts. The nature and kind of the crime may range from very mild to severe, however, they are all antisocial, and hence are subjected to 'legal criminal

acts'. In these sense, they are very much like criminals and antisocial elements. In legal terminology, however, they are referred to as delinquents and not as criminals. On whole, juvenile delinquency is a legal term which denotes act of varying degrees of social consequences from mere naughtiness to major assault punishable by law.

Our children are our greatest human resource. To the degree that they fail to contribute to the general welfare or even worse, that they turn to be wasteful or destructive-they are lost and our human society is paupered, weakened. Therefore few problems on the global scene cause so much concern and widespread public interest as does the problem of youthful misbehaviour and delinquency but about it there still persist many varied conceptions.

Juvenile delinquency is a critical challenge which has to be squarely faced and factfully tackled by the society if it is not to pay heavily for youth aberrance. Those who come into contact with children-parents, teachers, jurists or police officials-are not always qualified to speak with authority on the problems of the waywardness of our youth. They, to do so, need a clear understanding of the various aspects of this kind of delinquency. In the same way we also need to have a thorough and sound understanding of juvenile delinquency. Keeping in these view the investigator chose this topic of study on the causes of juvenile delinquency in the higher secondary school students of Imphal West District.

### **Objectives of study**

To find out the opinion of the students for the causes of juvenile delinquency in relation to personal factor, social factor, family factor, psychological factor and academic factor.

## **II. Methodology**

Methodology is a style of conducting a research work which is determined by nature of the problems. The present study is conducted with the help of "Survey Method". This method has undoubtedly been the most popular and the most widely used research method in education. The investigator selected this method because it is concerned with the present and attempts to determine status of the problem under investigation.

### **Sample**

For the present study, only 120 students selected through Simple Random Sampling from six (6) Higher Secondary Schools of Imphal West District of Manipur. The sample comprised of 60 students from three (3) Government Higher Secondary Schools and 60 from three (3) Private Higher Secondary Schools as the true representatives proportion of the population.

### **Tools**

The tools for the study were used questionnaire which was developed by investigator himself keeping into account the various causes of juvenile delinquency in relation to personal factors, social factor, family factor, psychological factors and academic factors.

### **Statistical Analysis**

Analysis of data for the present study has been made in conformity with the objectives as formulated by the investigator. Statistical techniques like-chi-square and percentage were used to analyse the data.

## **III. Result And Discussion**

**Table-I: Causes of Juvenile Delinquency to Students by Their Personal Factor**

Categories	Observed frequency	Chi-square Frequency	Chi-Square
Strongly agree	34	24	4.17
Agree	40	24	10.67
Undecided	19	24	1.04
Disagree	11	24	7.04
Strongly Disagree	16	24	2.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Obtained=25.59</b>

From table-I, it is observed that the obtained chi-square is 25.59 and the table value of chi-square at 4 df and 0.05 level of significance is 9.488 & 0.01 level of significance is 13.276. Because the obtained chi-square is more than the table value of the chi-square, the hypothesis is rejected. 61.67 of the students supported that personal factor is one of the causes of juvenile delinquency.

**Table-2: Causes of Juvenile Delinquency to Students by the Social Factor**

Categories	Observed frequency	Chi-square Frequency	Chi-Square
Strongly agree	44	24	16.67
Agree	47	24	22.04
Undecided	17	24	2.04
Disagree	4	24	16.67
Strongly Disagree	8	24	10.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Obtained=68.09</b>

From table-2, it is observed that the obtained chi-square is 68.09 and the table value of chi-square at 4 df and 0.05 level of significance is 9.488 & 0.01 level of significance is 13.276. Because the obtained chi-square is more than the table value of the chi-square, the hypothesis is rejected. 75.83% of the students supported that social factor is one of the causes of juvenile delinquency.

**Table-3: Causes of Juvenile Delinquency to Students by Their Family Factor**

Categories	Observed frequency	Chi-square Frequency	Chi-Square
Strongly agree	36	24	6
Agree	43	24	15.04
Undecided	18	24	1.5
Disagree	8	24	10.67
Strongly Disagree	15	24	3.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Obtained=36.59</b>

From table-3, it is observed that the obtained chi-square is 36.59 and the table value of chi-square at 4 df and 0.05 level of significance is 9.488 & 0.01 level of significance is 13.276. Because the obtained chi-square is more than the table value of the chi-square, the hypothesis is rejected. 65.83% of the students supported that family factor is one of the causes of juvenile delinquency.

**Table-4: Causes of Juvenile Delinquency to Students by the Psychological Factor**

Categories	Observed frequency	Chi-square Frequency	Chi-Square
Strongly agree	26	24	0.17
Agree	41	24	12.04
Undecided	24	24	0
Disagree	18	24	1.5
Strongly Disagree	11	24	7.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Obtained=20.75</b>

From table-4, it is observed that the obtained chi-square is 20.75 and the table value of chi-square at 4 df and 0.05 level of significance is 9.488 & 0.01 level of significance is 13.276. Because the obtained chi-square is more than the table value of the chi-square, the hypothesis is rejected. 55.83% of the students supported that psychological factor is one of the causes of juvenile delinquency.

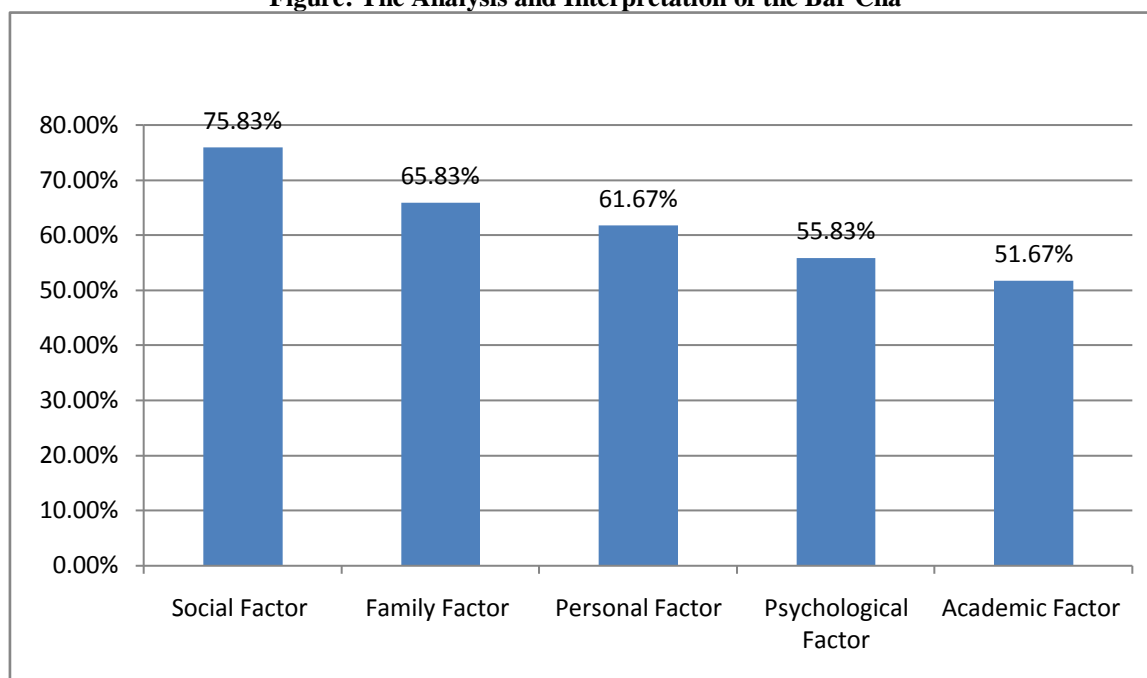
**Table-5: Causes of Juvenile Delinquency to Students by the Academic Factor**

Categories	Observed frequency	Chi-square Frequency	Chi-Square
Strongly agree	22	24	0.17
Agree	40	24	10.67
Undecided	28	24	0.67
Disagree	20	24	0.67
Strongly Disagree	10	24	8.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Obtained=20.35</b>

From table-5, it is observed that the obtained chi-square is 20.35 and the table value of chi-square at 4 df and 0.05 level of significance is 9.488 & 0.01 level of significance is 13.276. Because the obtained chi-square is more than the table value of the chi-square, the hypothesis is rejected. 51.67% of the students supported that academic factor is one of the causes of juvenile delinquency.

#### IV. Conclusions

Figure: The Analysis and Interpretation of the Bar Chart



##### 1. Social Factor

75.83% of the students agreed that social factor is the most accepted factor to contribute the development of juvenile delinquency. The social forces in the form of social norms and values affect significantly the behaviour of the child. Moral degradation, social deviance, immoral practices, other negative values and norms prevalent in the society are the negative impact on the attitude of the adolescents thereby contributing them to become delinquents.

##### 2. Family Factors

65.83% of the students agreed that family factor also contributes the development of juvenile delinquency. Under the condition of broken families, poverty, scarcity, disabled parents, prevalence of immorality and absence of ethical norms, good values and proper discipline, anti-social behaviour contributes germination of delinquency to the students.

##### 3. Personal Factor

61.67% of the students agreed that personal factor also contributes the development of juvenile delinquency. Personal factor included genetic hereditary factors, physical factors and mental factors which contributes in the development of juvenile delinquents.

##### 4. Psychological Factor

55.83% of the students agreed that a psychological factor also contributes the development of juvenile delinquency. Psychological factor like mental subnormality, mental disease, imbalance personality, emotional conflicts, intolerance for ambiguity, instability and such other negative factors which contribute significantly to the germination and development of delinquent behaviour.

##### 5. Academic Factor

51.67% of the students agreed that academic factor also contributes to the development of juvenile delinquency. Academic factor includes the atmosphere of the school, both inside and outside the classroom, numerous cases of dropouts, disinterestedness in academic activities, peer groups, parental neglect and rejection and teachers' indifferences towards their students turn them to be deviant and delinquents.

### **Suggestions**

1. Parents should be aware of the psychology of delinquency so that they may treat and handle their children with understanding and provide them an appropriate environment for the satisfaction of their basic needs and urges.
2. Parents should keep good relations with their children. The good habits and moral values developed in early infancy leave permanent impressions on the behaviour of adolescents.
3. Parents, family members and school authorities should keep a close watch on the activities and social environment of the children and know the company of their children because peer group or friend circle could lead an innocent child to become a juvenile delinquent.
4. The headmaster as well as the teachers should be familiar with the psychology of the students i.e. their interest, motives, aptitude, attitudes, potentials etc. There should be parent-teacher association. The teacher should report the behaviour of the student if he finds it unwanted.
5. The concept of adolescent behaviour and juvenile delinquency should be included in the school curriculum. The school should cater to the physical, psychological and social needs of a adolescents through different co-curricular activities. A feeling of future vocational security, positive attitude and sound moral values should inculcated in them.
6. The voluntary organizations/clubs should educate the localities regarding the harmful effects of drugs and other substances. They should distribute pamphlets showing how anti-social acts destroyed individuals.
7. Through radio and television, interview with the ex-delinquents including their brief life sketches to share better experiences which will serve as an eye opener to other youths.
8. Government run rehabilitation centres should provide guidance and counselling with a very subsidized rate which can established to attract the juvenile delinquents who could not afford to costly NGO run centres.

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