



## A STUDY ON PARENT'S AWARENESS TOWARDS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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### Abstract

Juvenile means anyone who has not yet reached the age of adults in terms of childishness or immaturity. In the legal sense a juvenile can be defined as a child who has not attained a certain age at which can be held liable for his criminal acts like an adult person under the law of the country. A criminal activity done by juvenile refers to juvenile delinquency. In today's society juvenile delinquency become a serious problem. Behind this problem there are so many causes like poor economic condition, family size, health condition, broken home etc. So there is a great need to study about this social problem. In the present study the researcher tries to study the parent's awareness towards juvenile delinquency. The objectives of the study are- a) To study the parent's awareness towards juvenile delinquency. b) To suggest remedial measures for preventing juvenile delinquency.

**Keywords:** juvenile, delinquency, criminal activity



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### Introduction:

Children are the greatest assets for the future of a nation. The mind of the children can easily be moulded and subjected to an inclination towards the criminal activities. Juvenile delinquency is an antisocial behavior by the children under the age group of 18. When an adult person committed antisocial behavior it falls under the crime but when person under the age group of 18 committed criminal behavior it is treated as juvenile delinquency or we can say juvenile delinquency is the crime of the adolescent group. Juvenile means anyone who has not yet reached the age of adults in terms of childishness or immaturity. In the legal sense a juvenile can be defined as a child who has not attained a certain age at which can be held liable for his criminal acts like an adult person under the law of the country.

Juvenile delinquents are often defined as children between the ages of 10 and 18, who have committed a criminal act. There are two main types of offenders. a) Repeat offenders and b) Age specific offenders.

- a) Repeat offenders: Repeat offenders are also known as "life-course persistent offenders". These juvenile delinquents begin offending or showing other signs of anti-social behaviour during adolescence. Repeat offenders continue to engage in criminal activities or aggressive behaviours even after they enter adulthood.

b) **Age specific offenders:** This type of juvenile delinquents behaviour begins during adolescence. Unlike the repeat offenders however, the behaviours of the age-specific offenders ends before the minor becomes an adult. The behaviours that a juvenile shows during adolescence are often a good indicator of the type of offenders he will become. While age-specific offenders leave their delinquent behaviour behind when they enter adulthood, they often have more mental health problems, engage in substance abuse and have greater financial problems than adults who were never delinquent as juveniles.

Some important causes of juvenile delinquency are as follows:

- **Physical condition:** physical condition of an adolescent may affect the behavior of adolescent. It may be a direct cause of juvenile delinquency. Factors like malnutrition, lack of sleep, nervous diseases, drug addiction, sensory defect etc are responsible for a bad physical health. When ones physical health is not in good condition they are become mentally poor also and it increases crime rates among juvenile.
- **Family size and birth order:** family size means the number of siblings in a family and birth order refers to the ordinal position in the birth sequence among the siblings. Many research findings reveal that family size and birth order are related to juvenile delinquency. Hirschi (1969) from his study juvenile delinquency as children from large families are more likely than children from small families to have committed delinquent acts.
- **Broken home:** broken home is one of the most causative factors of juvenile delinquency. Generally broken home means a family where only one parent is in their home, it may be due to divorce or due death of one parent. In this type of family's children always faced problems. They are deprived of their love and care of both parents, they sometimes face loneliness also. Failure to meet this type of basic needs creates dissatisfaction and violence among the adolescents, it results in juvenile delinquency. Overcrowding home condition, anger, excitement at home, unsympathetic condition, rigorous treatment of parents also increase the rate of juvenile delinquency.
- **Marital conflicts:** marital conflicts may occur due to disagreement of the couples over basic goals or values of life. In this situation children do not know what to do and which side to take. Confliction among parents create unfriendly environment at home and develops criminal attitudes among children's. Adolescent from this type of family can not adjust with home situation they prefer to stay outside. This habit gradually leads them to juvenile delinquency.

- **Faulty parental discipline and supervision:** faulty parental discipline and supervision leads juvenile delinquency. In some families parents cannot control their children as because of lack of strict supervision and control. They cannot properly guide their children. Some parents used to give their children more than enough to by their daily needs. In this way they unknowingly help their children to love money. Some parents encourage their children to steal because of poverty, ignorance or as a profession may be. Again in some family's children's not get proper care and support. In these entire situation children's develops criminal minds and it develops juvenile delinquency among adolescent.
- **Slum areas:** slum neighborhood also gives the chance to adolescent to be a delinquent. As we know by interacting with other children's develops behavior it may be good or bad. In such a situation children's acquired some kind criminal behavior or engaged themselves in some antisocial activities.
- **Peer pressure:** no children born with delinquency. They are influenced by the surroundings .peer group pressure to a great extent contributes to juvenile delinquency. When adolescent are in a peer group of delinquents by the time they are influenced with the activities of their peer groups which help them to get easy money to fulfill their needs. These types of activities include stealing money, watches, snatching gold chain, agricultural instruments etc.
- **Use of drugs:** use of drugs is one of the most important causes of juvenile delinquency. Crime rate are more among the adolescent who are addicted to drugs. They turn to crime to get money. Addiction towards drug increases the mental weakness of the adolescent and they are not found in a position to choose good or bad. Finally they makes themselves as juvenile delinquent.
- **Poverty:** it may be one of the causes of juvenile delinquency. It increases the criminal mind of the adolescent. when poor parents cannot fulfill the basic need of the adolescent s for they are became frustrated and to fulfill the need they engaged themselves in offences like stealing goods, robbery etc. various observation indicate that most of the youth are in crime because of poverty which drove them into criminal act for survival.
- **School environment:** lack of good educational environment in school motivated the adolescent towards the delinquency. Poor educational environment includes lack of proper curriculum, lack of co-curricular activities, lack of trained teacher, lack of

vocational courses, improper method of teaching, teacher's partiality towards children etc.

- **Bad company:** criminal behavior develops among people through interaction with others. Some Children's get good company while some others not. The child who gets bad company turns towards crime while the child who gets into good company progress to become a good member of the society. All individuals' behavior is influenced to a considerable extent by the conduct of his or her companies.

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

The objectives of the present study are:

- a) To study the parents awareness towards juvenile delinquency.
- b) To suggest remedial measures for preventing juvenile delinquency.

### **Review of related literature**

The investigator is made an attempt to report the literature based upon the various aspects of juvenile delinquents.

**Calvin (2001)** made a study to identify and explore personality characteristics of juvenile delinquency, to compare those characteristics with those of the general population and determine if there are significant differences, as measured by the Myers-Briggs type indicator (MBTI), between the personality characteristics of juvenile delinquents and the general population.

**Gibson and Ann (2001)** made a qualitative effort towards understanding a possible connection between the student- teacher relationship and an outcome of delinquency for African-American males.

**Seizer (2001)** examined juvenile delinquency from an ecological perspective. Study participants were referred by Lexington county department of juvenile justice after being arrested on first time non-violent charges.

According to **Schiller (2001)** until recent years, female juvenile delinquency has been associated with sexual promiscuity and with an inequality of gender incarceration for female juvenile delinquents than male juvenile delinquents regardless of their offences.

**Hoshino (1995)** studied students and juvenile delinquents attitudes towards community activity programs designed to prevent delinquency.

**Maki et al. (2001)** notes that delinquents and offenders use games as defence mechanism to avoid anxiety, as well as to avoid responsibility and accountability for their behaviour.

In a study by **H. Juby and D. Farrington**, delinquency rates were found to be higher among the children who live in permanently disrupted families compared to those living in intact families.

**D.G. Myers** identified one reason why people believe so strongly in the nature assumption is that they can see parents influencing their childhood.

### **Importance of the study**

It has been clear by now what juvenile delinquency is and how it affects society. A juvenile is a youth teen ranging from as young as 9 years old till the age of 18 who engage in illegal criminal behaviour. The study of juvenile delinquency is important because it provides us with trustworthy and reliable theories that can help with understanding the motives of juveniles. This study would lead to the understanding of both the individual characteristics and the background variables behind the delinquent behaviour at present. Earlier, there was not much impact of media such as television and internet on the young minds. The massive use of mobile phones among youth was also a rarity but with changing times and technological advances, children are more exposure to sensitive materials changing patterns of familial relationships owing to fast and stressful lifestyle also add to the risk of delinquent behaviour. This study would help to know how today's parents treat the problem of juvenile delinquency, how much they are aware about their adolescent child. The study would also help in suggesting the measures for the improvement of the condition of the inmates at observation home to ensure safe and healthy environment and proper rehabilitation.

### **Methodology:**

#### **Population**

Parents of youth of Raha Block of Nagaon district of Assam were the population of the present study.

#### **Area of the study**

The researcher selected Garmari village for the present study on "Parents awareness about Juvenile Delinquency". The Garmari village is a revenue village and it covers a large area. The Garmari village is falls under the Raha Bidhan Sabha constituency. More over Raha College itself located at Garmari revenue village. All class of people are inhabited in this area. Most of the peoples belong to middle class family. Some are govt. service holder, businessmen, agriculturist and daily wagers. The 37 NH goes through the Garmari village. Beside that paddy is the main cultivation of the inhabitant. On education level percentage of educated people is high. Inhabited living population pattern is moderate.

**Sample**

For the present study, samples were selected by using simple random sampling technique. 50 parents were selected from the Garmari village at Raha Block to study the “Parent’s awareness about Juvenile Delinquency”.

**Delimitation**

The present study is delimited to the parents of the youth of Raha Block.

**Tools**

For collecting data the researcher has used a self designed questionnaire.

**Analysis and interpretation of data**

After the collection of research data, analysis of the data and interpretation of result are necessary data analysis and interpretation is the process of assigning meaning to the collected information and determining the conclusion, significant and implication the findings. At the present study data are analysed with help of simple percentage technique and following results are found.

**Table 1: shows the responses of the people in percentage**

Questions	Responses
1. Do you know about juvenile delinquency?	Yes:94% No:6%
2. Is juvenile delinquency a problem in today’s society?	Yes:100% No: 0%
3. Does your child ever engage in criminal activities?	Yes: 0% No:100%
4. Do you agree that young generation are responsible for the majority as anti social behaviour in your community?	Yes:66% No:34%
5. Do you think number of children committing crimes in our society increasing day by day?	Yes:98% No:2%
6. Do juvenile sex offenders continue to commit sex offenders as adults?	Yes:44% No:56%

**Table 2: shows the responses of the parents in percentage to different category**

7. Problem of Juvenile delinquency is:	1.cruel:4%      2.Harmless : 4% 3.immature: 30%    4.don’t care: 62%
8. Young people are more likely to be involved in:	1.Vandalism:6%    2.Drugs:28% 3.Alcohol:42%    4.sexual offence:24%
9. Major causes for juvenile delinquency:	1.parentalnegligence: 48%    2.Poverty:16% 3.poor education:24%    4.Jealousness: 12%
10. Best solution would be for helping a juvenile delinquent:	1.Boot camp:48%    2.detention facility: 18% 3.Counseling:      26%      4.School programme:8%

### **Interpretation of the collecting data**

- a) It has been found that 94% parents know about juvenile delinquency and 6% parents don't know about juvenile delinquency.
- b) It has been found that 100% parents think that juvenile delinquency is a problem in today's society.
- c) All parents said that their children are ever not been engaged in illegal activities.
- d) It has been found that 66% parents agree that young people are responsible for the majority as anti-social behaviour in our community .On the other hand 34% parents not agree this statement.
- e) It has been found that 98% parents aware of the increasing number of children committing crimes in our society and 2% parents are not aware.
- f) It has been found that 44% parents think that juvenile sex offenders continue to commit sex offenders as adults. On the other hand 56% parents are not agree this statement.
- g) It has been found that 62% parents think that they don't care about the problem of juvenile delinquency. On the other hand cruel 4% parents consider juvenile delinquency as cruel act, 4% think as harmless act and 30% parents think it as immature behaviour of adolescent.
- h) It has been found that 42% parents think that young people are more likely to be involved in alcohol. On the other hand 6%, 28%, 24% parents think that young people are involved in vandalism, drugs and sexual offence respectively.
- i) It has been found that 48% parents think that parental negligence is the main cause for juvenile delinquency. On the other hand 16%, 24%, 12% parents think poverty, poor education, jealousy respectively, are the cause for juvenile delinquency.
- j) It has been found that 48% parents think that boot camp is the best solution for helping juvenile delinquents. On the hand 18%, 26%, 8% parents think detention facility, counselling, school programming respectively are the best solution for juvenile delinquents.

### **Result and findings**

#### **Findings related to the parents awareness about Juvenile delinquency**

1. On the basis of the current analysis it has been found that most of the parents are aware about juvenile delinquency. It shows that most of the parents think juvenile delinquency is a problem in today's society.

2. On the present study parents told that their child ever not been engage in illegal activities. On the other hand most of the parents (66%) agree that young people are responsible for all criminal activity in our community. It shows that most of the parents (98%) aware of the increasing number of children committing crimes in our society.

3. Most of the parents (62%) told that don't care about the problem of juvenile delinquency. At the same time most of the parents agree that young people are more likely to be involved in alcohol, drugs and sexual offence and they also think that parental negligence, poverty and poor education is the main cause for juvenile delinquency.

4. Although juvenile delinquency is a social offence so, most of the parents think that boot companying and counselling is the best solution for helping a juvenile delinquents.

### **Findings related to remedial measures for preventing juvenile delinquency**

To prevent the juvenile delinquency we have to deal with socially maladjusted youth as well as with those children also who are creating disharmony in schools and streets. Prevention is necessary for such type of children's. If they are not prevented they are gradually become more offenders. First of all we should try to identify such juveniles timely and thereafter they should give proper treatment. In the following some controlling measures are given -

The first institution for the development of children is the home. Home condition affects them a lot. So suitable home condition should be given to a child to prevent juvenile delinquency.

In our society still many people are there who cannot recognize the importance of education. There is a need of some youth awareness program that can highlight the importance of education to youth.

Employment opportunities should be created by both the governments and private entities for the youth of employable ages. The society should also ready to provide professional guidance and counselling services in schools, particularly at adolescence to overcome the evil impact of the peer pressure that influences these young into crime and delinquency.

Parents have the power to control their adolescence child. They can take responsibility over their children up to the time when they would be in the position to stand on their own. They should take care of their material need as well as moral guidance also. Parents should know that values come in to the child from the family, religious and educational background. They must give a good environment to cope up with the good moral values to their child.

Proper educational facility should be provided to adolescent boys and girls. If they get proper education they may not get enough time to involve themselves in juvenile crimes. Parent



must co-operate their child in their education. School can play an effective role in preservation and control of juvenile delinquency because school is the second home for the child where they spent enough time for their development.

Spiritual atmosphere should be create at home as well as in educational institutional also. It is necessary for the authorities of the after care organization to create a spiritual environment.

Yoga and meditation classes for the youth should be organized at the school level.

Drug addiction of the youth increases the crime rate among them. If they cannot finance their drug expenses then they engaged themselves in to steals others asset and selling them in market to buy drugs. So drug mafia is needed to be targeted to safe our adolescents from drug addiction.

Cinemas projecting violence, robbery, rape and theft which stimulate the innocent children to indulge in such activities must be strictly banned.

In the system of police force there should be arranged some effective delinquency prevention program. The police force should be provided with a lady staff because they can handle the juvenile in a better way.

If juvenile found guilty they should not be sent to prison, they should be kept in observation homes and correctional institution. There they should provide vocational, educational, spiritual and moral training for a better future.

### **Conclusion**

Juvenile Delinquency is social offence committed by young persons, below the age of 18. One of the most important issues in crime today's society is juvenile delinquency. Causes leading to delinquency are poverty, low intelligence, conflicts within the family, a broken home, lack of affection from parents, lack of success in school, poor housing conditions and inferiority feelings arising from real or imagined physical deviations.

Present study was conducted by concerning the parents of Garmari village of Raha Block regarding "Juvenile Delinquency". It can be concluded that most of the parents of Garmari village aware about juvenile delinquency and they think juvenile delinquency is a problem in today's society. So they wanted to remove this burning problem from our society.

Proper, skilled and vocational Education, Parents awareness about their child's behaviour and activity, proper parenting style can help the youth from Juvenile Delinquency. The youth should be given friendly treatment and environment by parents, seniors and teachers so that they could express any problem they face without any hesitation, grow freely without losing

the bliss of their childhood, such as innocents, playfulness, which are the basic attributes of childhood and ultimately turn out to be good human beings.

We can proudly say teenagers are the valuable human resource in our country. So, parents, teachers and society should take care of teenagers. Otherwise teenagers go more deep in criminal activities. It was not only the parent's problem but also creates tremendous problem to society as well as for country.

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