

## Juvenile Delinquency: An Identifiable Feature

\* Dr. M.P. Baligar

### Introduction

It is very well maintained in all the human societies that today's children are tomorrow's citizens. Therefore it is the duty of elders to socialize and indoctrinate every best of thing in our society in the children properly. If we do not give good education and inculcate proper cultural values to them it is likely that they deviate in their expected behaviour and eventually would become delinquents. There are many reasons to delinquency. Whatever may be the cause, punishment is not a remedial measure. As a society we should avoid the environment of crime. It is very much necessary to the future of our society to have developed such a social environment which is largely free from crime, delinquency etc. which are viewed as the serious problems of all the civilized societies in the world. Social problems are increasing day-by-day with the development of society. Society is changing fast due to economic growth, urbanization and industrialization. With the urbanization and industrialization the problems like slums, poverty, alcoholism, crime, delinquency etc. have also increased. They have become highly conspicuous situations in all the fast emerging societies in the world today.

### Behavioural Patterns and Interpersonal Relations

This arrangement of change for long was so natural, slow and tardy. Changes in the economy are coupled with new developments in the area of science, technology, communication, transportation, globalizing market etc., have all a very significant alterations effected in the social systems all over the world. Such changes occurred fast first in the western societies due to increased emphasis on machine based production system which transformed their economies from traditional and prototype ones to the most modern one. Along with this occurred changes in every way of arrangement in which those societies had been obtained. The changed western societies laid importance to individualism, meritocracy, freedom etc., eventually which brought about total transformation in those societies. Most importantly, the traditional institutions like family, kinship, and neighbourhood etc., obtained changes within those changed situations. These changes provided the individuals a total freedom from the traditional methods of regulating individuals in terms of behavioural patterns and interpersonal relations.

The misbehaviour issues like crime, alcoholism, delinquency, prostitution etc., though they have been there since the time of emergence of organized way of living arrangements that man evolved, but they were never a problem nor perceived so in those societies. As these behavioural forms grew out of proportion in modern societies there comes a concern expressed from all quarters to view them in a perspective since they are considered having detrimental effect on the society. The changed institutional arrangements in fast changing society would leave people in which encouraging those who have the tendency to deviate from the normal and expected behaviour to follow their way leading to social chaos in every-day- life of community organization.

Social deviance has been the character of every human society as has the social cohesiveness been. However, in a fast changing society which is to develop and find a settled new social order is likely to have more social dispense than social consonance. Perhaps it is in this transitory period when people find a chance to behave the way they think, and hence social deviance becomes a conspicuous feature of any such social situation. Rapid industrialization and urbanization have led to such social order to get

developed in which crime and delinquency are recorded in their high incidences.

**Delinquency is a Kind of Abnormality**

When an individual of less than 18 years aged deviates from the course of normal social life, his behaviour, within the ambit is called delinquent behaviour. When a juvenile who is below that of the age specified under a statute or law exhibits such behaviour which may prove to be dangerous to society and or to him he may be called a 'Juvenile delinquent'. Juvenile delinquency has been the cause of concern of all the modern societies. If a person goes astray at this stage of life it goes very difficult to bring him back on normal track of life. Hence, juvenile delinquency viewed seriously in all the societies and for the purpose of its location the state has evolved conceptual frame works. In India, the Juvenile Justice Act of 1986 maintains a conceptual frame for a Juvenile delinquent is as that offender, who is either a boy or a girl who is normally under 16 or 18 years of age. The Juvenile delinquency may include running away from home without the permission of parents; Habitual truancy beyond the control of parents; spending time idly beyond limits; use of vulgar languages; wandering about railroads, streets, market places; visiting gambling centres; committing sexual offenses; shop lifting and or stealing etc.

Juveniles may do such activities singly or through a gang. This is the legal definition of Juvenile delinquency differs from one country to another country depending on the standards of bodily as well as mental growths of individuals. Even the basic concept of child and misbehaviour or delinquent behaviour itself differs considerably. As the delinquent behaviour, like criminal behaviour, is the defined behaviour it is likely to differ in terms of the conceptual framework. However, by and large, the juvenile delinquency is conceptualized as stated above due to the same standards taken into account for measuring the behavioural features among children in most of the human societies in the world.

**Neglected Juvenile**

In India, Juvenile Justice Act of 1986 is treated as a model legislation to provide uniformity in the country in respects of identification of juvenile delinquents. The Act defined Juvenile as a boy who has not attained the age of 16 years, or girl who has not attained the age of 18 years, and 'delinquent' as a 'juvenile' who has committed an offence. The Act refers to certain children as 'neglected juvenile'. Neglected Juvenile is the one who is found begging, without having home, without having ostensible means of subsistent, a destitute, an uncontrollable, and victimized. This kind of a behaviour among such children who are noticed doing so is either due to negligence by their parents or a kind of situation in which the family from which such children come has been obtained. There have been attempts made to define and provide a meaning to the term Juvenile delinquency across the societies. We may look into few of them which provide adequate basis for understanding and locating the phenomenon in its empirical situation.

Sociologists considered juvenile delinquency as a course of conduct of the child which is socially undesirable and unrecognized so when a child fails to confirm to the social norms and his act connotes a deviation from the established cultural usages. We may call it an act of delinquency.

As viewed above, the problem of Juvenile delinquency is mainly due to the growing complexities in social structure and the breakdown of traditional patterns of social organization. With the advance of industrialization urbanization and modernization our traditional pattern of social organization fails to cope with the pace of time. Hira Singh (1979) has rightly pointed out that the process of rapid industrialization; urbanization and modernization have brought their offshoot an unprecedented erosion of social values making the children more vulnerable to delinquent acts than ever before.

The process of industrialization in a society has in fact brought a multitude of effects on social life. In the

wake of industrialization a large number of families migrate from rural areas to industrial urban area in search of gainful employment. Due to cultural differences these people have to struggle hard to secure a place in urban community as they have to face with the condition of social deprivation and neglect. They either flat about of cluster around over crowded location and socially unhealthy environment. In this process, the children of such families suffer more than adults because they face more problems in adjusting and competing with urban children, socially, culturally, psychologically as well as economically. The impact of such a social disruption is worst on the children of lower strata of society as they have also to bear the brunt of the family disintegration. In the absence of the who go out to work parents, the children are ordinarily, left to themselves unsupervised and unguarded ultimately creating favourable condition for the rise of the problem of juvenile delinquency. The other effect of industrialization and urbanization is the increasing partial and superficial relationships between children and parents and others which generate stress, frustration and strain on the children, Due to this it is likely that children develop the tendencies towards male adoptive behaviour which might lead to juvenile delinquency in such children.

### Conclusion

Thus the problem of juvenile delinquency is to a large extent a community problem while that of the problem of family too. Delinquent conduct is involved in the whole social life and organization of the community. It is from the histories of delinquents that the experience and behaviour trends of delinquents reflected the culture and spirit of the community in which they have lived. Delinquency subsequently become an established social tradition in certain gangs and was transmitted from the older members to the younger, hence if the delinquent behaviour is to be adequately understood we should study the behaviour from the point of view of the individual and particular act, situation, environmental conditions and social context in which it occurs. It is this complex situation which needs thorough exploration, examination and explication of the phenomenon.

**\* Assistant Professor**

**Department of Studies and Research in Sociology  
Karnataka State Women's University Vijayapura**

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