

A Study to Compare the Behavioural Problems and Family Background Between Juvenile Delinquents and Normal School Children in Selected Institutions of Bangalore Urban

Sateesh Kumar B N

Lecture, Sri Atal Bihai Vajapayee College of Nursing, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Abstract: Background: Juvenile delinquency is a growing concern worldwide, influenced by behavioral, psychological, and socio-economic factors. The present study aimed to compare behavioral problems and family background between juvenile delinquents and normal school children in Bangalore urban. Methods: A descriptive comparative study was conducted among 20 juvenile delinquents from Boys' Observation Home and 20 normal school children from Royal Concorde International School. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and interviews covering demographic details, behavioral, and psychological parameters. Results: The study found that majority of juvenile delinquents belonged to the 14–15 years age group (45%) and were male (100%). Most had parents with no formal education (mother 50%, father 60%), belonged to nuclear families (75%), and parents were daily wage earners (70%). Their family income mostly ranged between ₹5,000–₹10,000 (70%). In contrast, school children's parents were better educated (65% fathers and mothers were graduates), engaged in stable occupations (65% farmers, 20% self-employed), and had higher income levels (70% above ₹20,000). Behavioral assessments revealed more moderate to severe behavioral problems among delinquents compared to mild issues among school children. Conclusion: Family background, parental education, income level, and type of occupation appear to play a significant role in the development of behavioral problems among juveniles. Interventions aimed at family support, parental education, and socio-economic upliftment could reduce delinquent tendencies among youth.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, behavioral problems, family background, adolescents, Bangalore

1. Introduction

Juvenile delinquency refers to illegal or antisocial behavior committed by individuals below the legal adult age. It poses serious challenges to public safety, mental health, and societal development. Risk factors such as poverty, parental neglect, lack of education, peer influence, and exposure to substance abuse are strongly linked with delinquent behavior. Understanding the behavioral problems and family backgrounds of juvenile offenders compared to normal children can provide insights for preventive and rehabilitative strategies.

2. Methodology

- Design: Descriptive comparative study
- Setting: Boys' Observation Home and Royal Concorde International School, Bangalore
- Sample: 40 children (20 juvenile delinquents, 20 school children) aged 9–17 years
- Sampling technique: Purposive sampling
- Tool: Structured questionnaire (socio-demographic data and behavioral problems assessment)
- Data collection: Interviews with participants
- Analysis: Descriptive statistics (percentages)

3. Results

- 1) Age: Juvenile delinquents – 45% aged 14–15 years; school children – 70% aged 14–15 years.
- 2) Gender: Juvenile delinquents – 100% male; school children – 55% male, 45% female.

- 3) Parental Education: Majority of delinquents' parents lacked formal education, while school children's parents had graduate-level education.
- 4) Occupation & Income: Most delinquent parents were daily wage laborers with low income, whereas school children's parents had stable jobs with higher income.
- 5) Family Type: Both groups had majority nuclear families, but delinquent families showed greater instability.
- 6) Behavioral Problems: Juvenile delinquents exhibited moderate to severe behavioral issues; normal school children mostly had mild issues.

4. Discussion

Findings support the hypothesis that socio-economic disadvantages, lack of parental education, and low income are strongly associated with delinquent behavior. This aligns with previous studies highlighting poverty, broken families, and lack of supervision as major contributors to juvenile delinquency.

5. Conclusion

Juvenile delinquents differ significantly from school children in terms of behavioral problems and family background. Improving parental education, providing socio-economic support, and implementing early intervention programs could help reduce delinquent tendencies.

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