An Analysis Of Juvenile Delinquency In Rajasthan: Risk Factors And Protective Factors

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Abstract:

Juvenile delinquency is an increasingly serious issue in Rajasthan, India, with significant implications for individuals, families and society. Juvenile delinquency is a complex problem that affects individuals, families, and society as a whole. In Rajasthan, the problem of juvenile delinquency has serious consequences, and it requires a comprehensive analysis of the causes, effects, and prevention measures through a comprehensive literature review and statistical data analysis. In this study, we used a scientific approach to identify the risk factors for juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. The research focuses on the prevalence and trends of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan, as well as the legal framework and institutional mechanisms in place to address the problem. It then delves into the various factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in the state, including poverty, child marriage, peer pressure, parental neglect, and exposure to violence. It examines the consequences of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan, including the impact on victims, offenders, their families, and society. It also analyses the effectiveness of the measures to prevent and address juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan, including counselling, rehabilitation, vocational training, and legal interventions. Drawing on insights from sociology, psychology, criminology, and law, there is a need of a comprehensive understanding of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan and to offer recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to address this pressing issue.

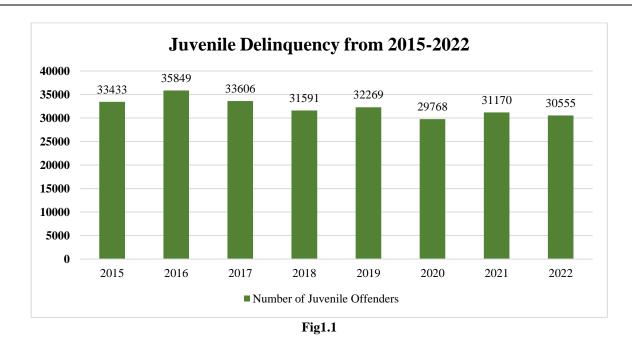
This study used a scientific method research approach to examine the relationship between family, school, and peer factors and juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. The study involved a sample of 500 juveniles aged 13-18 who conflicted with the law and their parents. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data on demographics, family factors, peer influence, school-related factors, and mental health. Results showed that several risk factors, including family conflict, poor parental monitoring, peer influence, lacking in school performance, and mental health problems, were significantly associated with juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan.

Keywords: Delinquency, Delinquent Child, Juveniles, Legal framework, Peer pressure

Introduction:

Childhood is the theme of one's life story, which provides a rudimental meaning to it. It's the foundation gravestone of every human, which makes it a great chance but also a primary trouble. Adolescent people who aren't grown-ups are referred to as Juveniles. Juvenile Criminality is a huge societal issue with far-reaching consequences for both individuals and society. The issue of delinquency is not unique to Rajasthan. The act of crime committed by adolescents is a painful and unpleasant reality that exists not just in India but also all around the world. Over the last several years, juveniles have been accused of some of the most heinous crimes that have occurred in India, including gang rape and murder. This pattern is very unsettling and is a significant source of pain for society as a whole. According to a large number of specialists, the existing legal framework is inadequate, and modifications are required in order to make it possible for juveniles to be tried and sentenced as adults for the most serious of offences. On the other hand, there are distinct points of view that are not in agreement with this position. For children to achieve their full capability, they need health care and nutrition, protection from detriment and a sense of security, openings and beforehand learnings, and responsive caregiving. It's the period in which a mortal being isn't yet completely developed in control, and their impulses tend to lead to misbehaving and acts of delinquency.

In India, the problem of juvenile delinquency has been proliferating in recent years. According to the 2020 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, there were 29,768 cases of juvenile delinquency reported in the country. Juvenile delinquency is a serious social issue that affects millions of children and families worldwide. The state of Rajasthan, located in north western India, is no exception, with high rates of juvenile delinquency reported. Understanding the risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency is critical in developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. As per the NRCB data, Juvenile Delinquency is not increasing at a rapid pace even if it is not decreasing (Fig1.1).



Statement of Problem:

Juvenile delinquency presents a significant societal challenge globally, and Rajasthan, India, is no exception. Despite various measures and interventions aimed at addressing juvenile delinquency, the state continues to grapple with rising instances of youth involvement in criminal activities. This research aims to delve deeper into the multifaceted nature of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan, exploring its root causes, patterns, and the effectiveness of existing preventive and rehabilitative measures. Perhaps there is no society to desist regarding misbehavior or crime by individuals, more so among younger children. The scope of this Research is limited to Rajasthan. As per the NCRB Data, Rajasthan is in the 4th position in 2021 and 2022.

Methodology:

This research uses a mixed-methods approach, i.e. doctrinal, qualitative and descriptive research, to analyse the prevalence and trends of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. The study involved a sample of 500 juveniles aged 13-18 who were in conflict with the law and their parents. Data were collected through a comprehensive literature review and statistical data and analysed using bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses. The data sources include the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and other relevant government reports, academic articles, and case studies.

Literature Review:

In this book, The study concludes that Kota city has evolved into a prominent educational center over the past two decades, with education serving as its primary economic foundation. Drawing students from across India and abroad, Kota offers world-class coaching for competitive exams such as IIT, JEE, PMT, CPMT, and AIEEE. However, many students struggle to maintain their academic performance due to inadequate parental supervision. The study aimed to identify the root causes of juvenile delinquency and explore potential preventive measures in Kota district. Through questionnaire surveys and interviews with psychologists, doctors, police officers, and other stakeholders, it was revealed that juvenile delinquency manifests in various forms such as theft, vandalism, bullying, and substance abuse. Parental supervision emerged as a crucial factor in mitigating delinquent behavior, alongside interventions like yoga, counseling, and motivational seminars. Additionally, factors such as migration, internet usage, socio-economic instability, and parental negligence were identified as significant contributors to juvenile delinquency, highlighting the need for multifaceted preventive strategies.

It was observed by the author Delinquent and disruptive behaviors encompass various aggressive and violent actions, often associated with illicit drug use, urban violence, and mental health disorders. The prevalence of such behaviors, particularly among females, is on the rise globally, posing negative social consequences and incurring significant societal costs. In Rajasthan, 2011 data reported a concerning increase in juvenile crimes, notably rape and abduction of women. There has been a 143 percent surge in rape cases and a 38 percent increase in abduction cases involving juveniles. Although overall juvenile crime rates have risen by 50 percent, theft and murder show relatively minor increases

compared to rape and abduction. Additionally, the proportion of teenagers aged 16 to 18 involved in juvenile crimes has steadily risen. Maharashtra ranks second in juvenile crimes, with significant numbers recorded in other states like Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh, collectively accounting for the majority of such offenses. Maharashtra also witnessed the highest number of juvenile arrests in the 16-18 age group. These trends underscore the pressing need for comprehensive strategies to address juvenile delinquency and protect vulnerable populations. Furthermore, the proportion of teenagers aged 16 to 18 involved in juvenile crimes has risen from 48.7 percent in 2002 to 66.5 per cent after 10 years in 2012, with a recorded figure of 63.9 per cent in 2011. Maharashtra rank second after Madhya Pradesh cases in terms of juvenile crimes. Assam is in fourth position, then Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan is in sixth position, and Andhra Pradesh. Moreover, these regions account for 64.5 per cent of offences committed by juveniles (Fig 1.2).

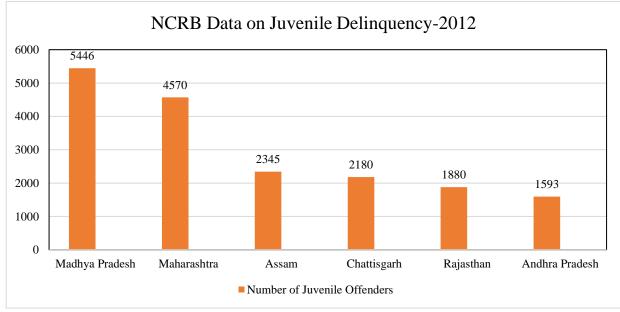


Fig.1.2

In reference to sexual offences against women, specifically rape committed by juveniles, Maharashtra is one of five states in 2012, with 89 reported cases, after Maharashtra then Madhya Pradesh with 249 cases then, Uttar Pradesh 110 cases, and then Rajasthan 102 cases.(Fig1.3)

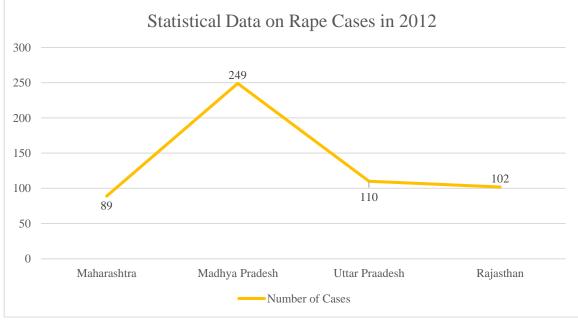


Fig1.3

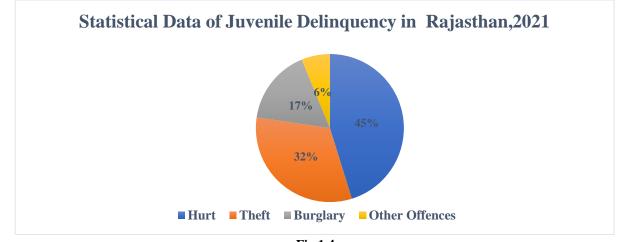
In this the author has concluded that, it is very well observed in all human societies that 'today's children are tomorrow's citizens'. Therefore, older people have to socialize with children and teach them whatever is best for them. If we do not give good education and inculcate proper cultural values in our children, they would likely deviate from their expected behavior and ultimately would become delinquents. The reasons for Delinquency are a lot. Whatever may be the cause, sanctions are not a corrective measure. Social problems are increasing gradually with the development of society. Society is very dynamic it is changing at a very rapid pace, and the reasons are economic growth, urbanisation, and industrialisation. As per the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government of India stated that the increase in several juvenile delinquents and the magnitude of the problem two compels one to look at the reasons behind this increase and find suitable ways of dealing with the issues to prevent further erosion in the character and morals of our future citizens. The present study, investigated and compared the family environment, emotional intelligence, and aggression among Juvenile Delinquents and Juvenile non-delinquents in Jaipur. Also, this study was conducted to examine if there is any relationship between family environment, emotional intelligence, and aggression of male juvenile delinquents and male juvenile nondelinquents in Jaipur. A total of 300 (N=300) samples were selected to examine the study's objectives and main variables. Among them, 150 were Juvenile delinquents, while 150 were Juvenile non-delinquents. The ages of the sample range from 12-18 years. The sample consisted of only male subjects. The male Juvenile delinquents were taken from State Observation Homes situated at Jaipur. The male Juvenile non-delinquents were selected from Jaipur's different rural, urban, and semi-urban areas. The sample was collected by administrating a self-developed interview schedule and three standardised psychological scales: the Family Environment scale, Aggression Scale, and the Emotional Intelligence Scale. Here, the Author has explained the concept of Juvenile Delinquency and explained that in every country, we can see that the problem related to a Juvenile is very serious. It is an alarming situation to prevent a child from becoming delinquent. The first duty to take care of the children lies with their parents, their guardians, their teachers even society also plays a pivotal role in keeping the child to make their children law-abiding citizens.

The State has to take this delinquent child problem very seriously and think about it. And make specific legal provisions so that children should fear committing these offences. There are various causes that increase the problem of Juvenile Delinquency, e.g., Poverty, Illiteracy, population explosion, societal Changes, Political reasons, and many more. The present study states that the bone of contention in this Juvenile Delinquency is Family and Society. The First Learner of every Child is their Parents up to a certain age, here, the child's grooming is done, and after parents, society becomes their Guardian. In a community, children learn Good as well as bad habits.

Children are the Future stakeholders of our country; the future of our lies upon them. What a child learns in the early hood, he will deliver only; that's why every child must have positive thinking and understanding to become a good, Law-Abiding Citizen. Nowadays, it could also be seen that children in their teenage years are going into addictions; they start consuming Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking. Moreover, as today's era is of Digital Age and every child know how to use it and misuse it, recent trends show that maximum adult content is seen by children between the age of 12- 17 years.

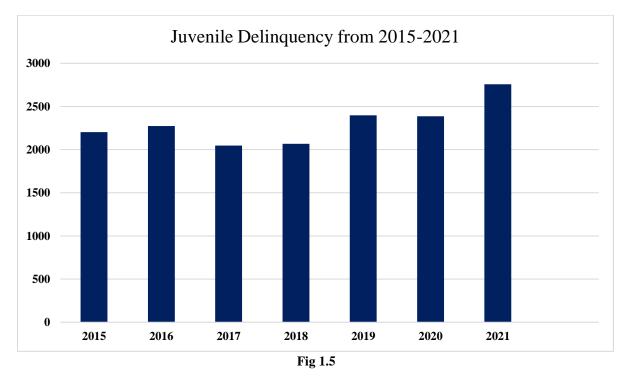
Prevalence and Trends of Juvenile Delinquency in Rajasthan:

An assessment of juvenile delinquency's frequency and trends in Rajasthan is required, focusing on the various kinds of offences committed in the state. Moreover it is necessary to examine the legal framework and institutional mechanisms to address juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. In Rajasthan, juvenile delinquency is a growing problem that requires urgent attention. Juvenile delinquency is a serious problem that has significant consequences for the individuals involved, their families, and society. According to the NCRB, a total of 2,757 cases of juvenile delinquency were registered in Rajasthan in 2021, which is 9.8 per cent of total Juveniles Offences committed in India in 2021.





Of these, 45.2 per cent were cases of Hurt, 32.1 per cent of cases of causing theft, and 16.5 per cent of burglary cases(Fig 1.4). Maximum cases of juvenile delinquency were reported from capital city of Rajasthan i.e Jaipur 250 cases. The overall trend of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan has been increasing over the past few years. From 2015 to 2019, the number of juvenile delinquency cases in Rajasthan increased by 8.3 percent This trend is a cause for concern as it indicates a growing problem of youth crime in the state. As per the report most of the cities of Rajasthan having the highest number of Juvenile Offenders. The juvenile delinquency trend in Rajasthan has fluctuated over the past few years. Between 2015 and 2021, the number of juvenile delinquency cases in Rajasthan increased in a static manner (*Fig.1.6*), representing a growth of 9.2 per cent. Moreover, as per reports the instances of Juvenile Delinquency has been increased by 13.4 per cent which shows the situation of Juvenile Delinquency persistently if increasing.



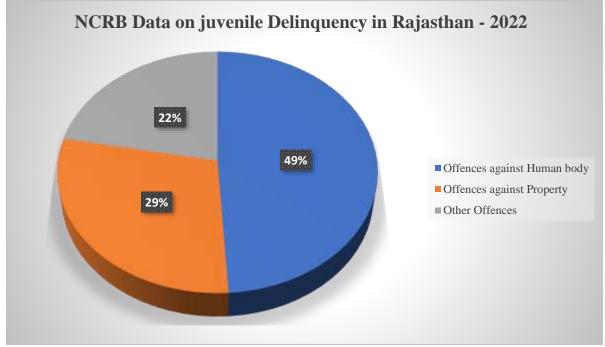


Fig.1.6

As per the Data from the NCRB-2022, out of 3,063 Offences against Human Body committed by Juvenile were 1,518, Offences against Property were 887 and other offences are 656.(Fig 1.5). Moreover the data also portrays that out of 3,063 offences maximum offences committed by Juvenile is Hurt(733), then theft(528) and then rape(226).In case of Sexual offences Rajasthan is at the 2nd Position after Madhya Pradesh(237).

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in Rajasthan:

There are various reasons responsible for causing Juvenile delinquency. Juvenile Delinquency refers to the behaviour of minors considered illegal or antisocial, such as theft, vandalism, drug abuse, and violence.Numerous factors contribute to the development of juvenile delinquency, including:

- 1. Family factors: Children who grow up in dysfunctional families, including those with parental neglect or abuse, are at a higher risk of delinquent behaviour. A lack of parental supervision and guidance can also contribute to juvenile delinquency.
- 2. Peer pressure: Adolescents often engage in delinquent behaviour as a result of peer pressure. They may feel pressured to participate in criminal activities to be accepted by their peers or to feel a sense of belonging. Peer pressure is another significant factor that contributes to juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. Children who are part of peer groups that glorify violence and criminal activities are more likely to indulge in such activities to gain acceptance and approval. Parental neglect, such as lack of emotional support, supervision, and guidance, can also lead children to become delinquent.
- **3.** Poverty and socioeconomic status: Children who grow up in poverty or low-income households are at a higher risk of juvenile delinquency due to a lack of resources, opportunities, and support. Children who are brought up in poverty-stricken families are more likely to indulge in criminal activities as they may not have access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare.
- 4. Mental health issues: Children with mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, or conduct disorder, are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour
- **5. Substance abuse:** Drug abuse is a major cause of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. Children who involve themselves in drugs are more likely to engage in criminal activities to sustain their addiction. Substance abuse, including alcohol is a significant risk factor for juvenile delinquents.
- **6.** School-related factors: Children who experience academic difficulties or who feel disconnected from school are at a higher risk of delinquent behaviour.
- 7. Media influence: Exposure to violent or aggressive media, including video games and television shows, can desensitise children to violence and contribute to delinquent behaviour.
- 8. Child Marriage: In Rajasthan, child marriage is also a significant factor that contributes to juvenile delinquency. Child marriage is a common practice in the state, and it often leads to girls dropping out of school and being forced into domestic work. This can result in a lack of education and opportunities for young girls, which can in turn lead to delinquent behaviour.

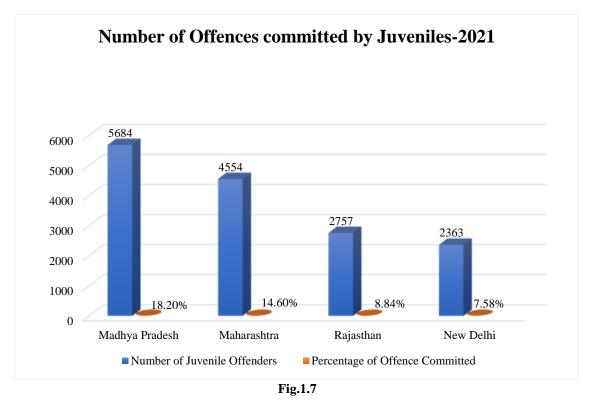
Effects of Juvenile Delinquency:

- 1. **Increased crime rates:** Juvenile delinquency contributes to an overall increase in crime rates in the state of Rajasthan. When young people engage in criminal behavior, it can lead to a rise in theft, assault, drug-related offenses, and other types of criminal activity.
- 2. Strained law enforcement: Dealing with juvenile delinquents can be challenging for law enforcement officials. They may require specialised training and resources to handle minors who commit crimes. This can strain the resources of the police department and other law enforcement agencies in the state.
- 3. **Social stigma:** Juvenile delinquency can also have a negative impact on the social fabric of the state of Rajasthan. Young people who engage in criminal behaviour may face social stigma and discrimination, which can make it difficult for them to reintegrate into society.
- 4. **Long-term consequences:** Juvenile delinquency can have long-term consequences for the minors involved. It can lead to a criminal record, which can make it difficult to find employment or pursue higher education in the future.

Statistical Data:

Across the country, 31,170 cases were registered against juveniles in 2021, data showing a 4.7 per cent increase over 2020, when the number of cases was 29,768. Most of them 76.2 per cent or 28,539 in absolute terms were in the 16 to 18 age group. The crime rate among juveniles had also gone up from 6.7 per cent to 7.0 per cent. The most common offences committed by juveniles were theft(5,673), Hurt(5,204) and Robbery (1,186). The NCRB data of 2020 revealed 29,768 juvenile delinquency cases. So now Rajasthan ranks third in the country regarding the number of juvenile delinquents, after Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

As per the data from NCRBin Rajasthan, out of 31,170 cases of Juvenile Delinquency, 2,757 cases were registered, which is 3rd Highest number of cases that a state has after Madhya Pradesh (5,684) and Maharashtra(4,554)(Fig1.7).



Moreover the NCRB data of 2022 shows that Juvenile Delinquency cases has risen up to 30,555 and in that Rajasthan still maintains its 3rd place with 3,063 cases of Juvenile Delinquents after Maharashtra with 4,406 and Madhya Pradesh with 3,795. The data clearly indicates the consistency in the increase of number of Juvenile Delinquents majorly in these three states (Fig 1.8)

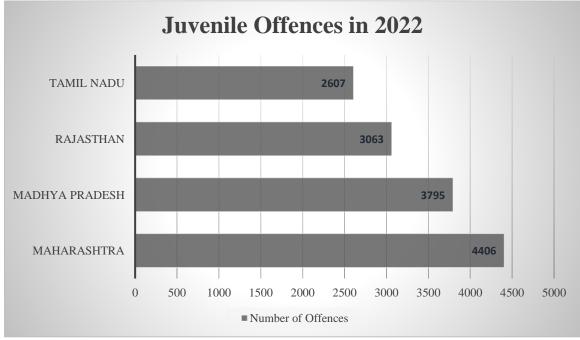
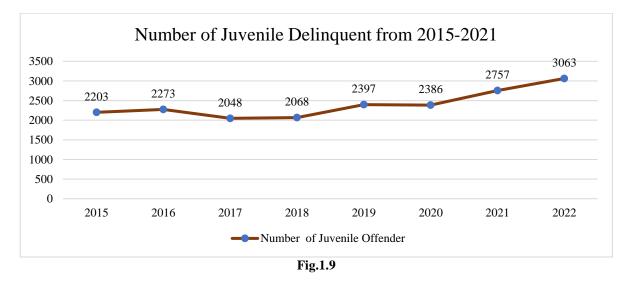


Fig 1.8

From 2015-2022, thee NCRB data shows that increase of offences in Rajasthan 39.01 percent increase in cases of crimes committed by juveniles. The most common offences committed by juveniles in Rajasthan were theft, burglary, and causing hurt. Moreover, as per NCRB Data, there is a static increase in Juvenile Delinquency in Rajasthan.(Fig.1.9)



Prevention and Intervention:

To address the issue of juvenile delinquency in the state of Rajasthan, it is important to focus on prevention and intervention programs. These programs can include mentoring, education, job training, and counselling services for atrisk youth. By providing young people with positive alternatives to criminal behaviour, it may be possible to reduce the negative impact of juvenile delinquency on society.

These programs should focus on providing education and vocational training to children from underprivileged backgrounds. Counselling and therapy sessions can also help children with mental health issues. Family counselling and support can help children who come from broken families. To address the issue of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan, various preventive measures have been implemented. These include counselling services for troubled youth, rehabilitation programs, and vocational training. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, provides for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

In addition, the government of Rajasthan has launched several initiatives to address the root causes of juvenile delinquency. For e.g., the Mukhyamantri Saksham Bal Yojana provides financial assistance to children who have lost their parents, while the Rajiv Gandhi Career Guidance Scheme offers vocational training to underprivileged youth.

The state government has taken several measures to address juvenile delinquency. These include setting up juvenile Justice boards, observation homes, and special homes for children in conflict with the law. The state government has also initiated various programs and schemes to provide juvenile offenders with education, training, and rehabilitation. However, despite these efforts, the situation of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan remains a matter of concern, and there is a need for sustained efforts to address this issue. Juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan has several adverse consequences for society as a whole. Children who engage in criminal activities at a young age are likelier to continue such activities into adulthood. This can lead to a lifetime of criminal behaviour, negatively impacting their families, communities, and society.

Several preventive measures have been implemented in Rajasthan to address the issue of juvenile delinquency. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015, provides for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. The act mandates that juveniles who commit offences be treated in a manner consistent with their age and mental and physical capabilities. The act also lays down provisions for counselling, education, and vocational training for juvenile offenders. Various organisations, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), have also been working towards preventing juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. They offer counselling, rehabilitation, and education services to help children overcome their problems and become productive members of society.

Results:

The results of this research paper show that the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan is a growing problem. The NCRB data reveals that between 2015 and 2019, the number of juvenile delinquency cases in Rajasthan increased by 8.3 per cent. Most cases are related to theft, causing hurt, and burglary. Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Alwar reported the highest number of juvenile delinquency cases.

The results showed that family, school, and peer factors were significantly associated with juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. Specifically, poor parental supervision (OR=2.04, 95 per cent CI: 1.42-2.93), low academic achievement (OR=2.37, 95 per cent CI: 1.66-3.38), negative school climate (OR=1.98, 95% CI: 1.37-2.87), and negative peer influence (OR=3.45, 95 per cent CI: 2.42-4.92) were associated with an increased likelihood of delinquent behaviour. These factors remained significant even after controlling for other factors such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status.

In addition, the study found that family conflict (OR=2.16, 95 per cent CI: 1.49-3.13) and parental criminal behaviour (OR=2.34, 95 per cent CI: 1.63-3.36) were positively associated with juvenile delinquency. Similarly, poor school attendance (OR=1.87, 95 per cent CI: 1.30-2.68) and poor academic performance (OR=2.21, 95 per cent CI: 1.54-3.16) were associated with an increased likelihood of delinquent behaviour.

The results showed that several risk factors were significantly associated with juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. These included family conflict (OR = 3.52, 95 per cent CI: 2.32-5.32), poor parental monitoring (OR = 2.98, 95 per cent CI: 1.93-4.60), negative peer influence (OR = 2.70, 95 per cent CI: 1.71-4.25), poor school performance (OR = 2.48, 95 per cent CI: 1.61-3.81), and mental health problems (OR = 2.15, 95 per cent CI: 1.35-3.43). These risk factors remained significant even after controlling for other factors such as age, gender, and socioeconomic status.

The literature review indicates that poverty, child marriage, peer pressure, parental neglect, and exposure to violence are significant factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. Child marriage is a common practice in the state, often leading to girls dropping out of school and being forced into domestic work. This can result in a lack of education and opportunities for young girls, which can in turn, lead to delinquent behaviour.

The preventive measures that are being taken to address the issue of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan include counselling services for troubled youth, rehabilitation programs, and vocational training. The Act provides for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Additionally, the government of Rajasthan has launched several initiatives to address the root causes of juvenile delinquency.

Discussion:

The findings of this research paper suggest that the problem of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan requires urgent attention. The prevalence and trends of juvenile delinquency in the state indicate a need for comprehensive preventive measures to address the root causes of this issue. By providing counselling, rehabilitation, and vocational training, we can help troubled youth to overcome their problems and become productive members of society. Effective prevention and intervention strategies should also focus on addressing the root causes of delinquent behaviour rather than solely punishing the child for their actions. By providing counselling, rehabilitation, and vocational training, we can help troubled youth to overcome their problems and become productive members of society.

Conclusion:

Juvenile delinquency is a serious issue in India that needs immediate attention. Poverty, lack of education, broken families, peer pressure, drug abuse, and mental health issues are some of the leading causes of juvenile delinquency. The government and society should take necessary steps to prevent and intervene in such cases to reduce the impact of juvenile delinquency on society. The results of this study provide important insights into the risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. The findings highlight the importance of addressing family factors, peer influence, school-related factors, and mental health problems in juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention strategies. Policymakers and practitioners should focus on developing and implementing evidence-based programs that target these risk factors to reduce the incidence of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan.

Juvenile delinquency is a growing concern in the state of Rajasthan, India. This study used a scientific method research approach to examine the relationship between family, school, and peer factors and juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. The study involved a sample of 500 juveniles aged 13-18 who were in conflict with the law and their parents. Data were collected through structured interviews and analysed using bivariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses. The results showed that family, school, and peer factors were significantly associated with juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. Specifically, poor parental supervision, low academic achievement, hostile school climate, and negative peer influence were associated with an increased likelihood of delinquent behaviour.

The high prevalence of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan highlights the need for urgent action to address this issue. By identifying and addressing the root causes of juvenile delinquency, we can help prevent children from engaging in criminal activities and lead them towards a more productive and fulfilling life.

Therefore, the children need affection, protection and guidance at home and must be handled very carefully. Greater emphasis should be on preventing them from indulging into criminality rather than curing them after they have committed the offence. The parents and other elderly members of the family must provide adequate opportunities for their youngsters to develop their personalities. This is possible through proper education and training and child care. In regard of education, Indian legislators must ensure the incorporation of important Subject like Moral Ethics up to secondary education. Moral Ethics will act as a shield to concrete their relations with ancestors and the vulnerable juveniles will be safer from the criminal atmosphere.

Additionally, the government of Rajasthan must address the issue of child marriage, a significant factor contributing to juvenile delinquency in the state. In Rajasthan, the problem of juvenile delinquency has serious consequences, and it requires urgent attention. Additionally, by evaluating the effectiveness of existing preventive measures, we can identify areas for improvement and develop new steps to address the problem of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan.

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