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# **DISORIENTED FAMILIES AFFECTING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This Article focuses on the analytical research of the factors and circumstances of the causation of the disoriented families and the adverse family environment promoting the tendencies of criminal behavior amongst juveniles. It deals with techniques and programme for prevention and control of juvenile delinquency. The child simply becomes victim (directly or indirectly) of the wrath and torture of the attributes of such negative family environment and it leads to the birth of catastrophic emotions like aggression, depression and anxiety, which ultimately pushes the child in the endless pothole of darkness. Such darkness is manifested in the form of delinquent behaviour.

## INTRODUCTION

A juvenile is a child who has not yet attained the age at which he, like an adult, can be held legally responsible for his criminal actions. A juvenile is a youngster who is accused of violating or misusing a law that defines his or her behaviour or omission as an offence. There are several causes of juvenile delinquency. The concept of delinquency varies depending on who is presented with it. Ferdinand classified juvenile offenders into two categories: neurotic offenders and those with character problems. Delinquency, according to *Recklers*, is a form of maladjustment.<sup>1</sup>

Family is the initial agent of socialisation for a child, and the effect of family on the child throughout his or her formative years has a significant impact on his or her subsequent life. The environment at home, as measured by discipline and healthy relationships, paves the path for a child to adopt socially acceptable behaviours. The infant and child are completely reliant on their parents to provide all of their requirements. His family, peers, and school all aid in the development of his views and values, which are the foundations of his personality. The values are instilled in the personality of the child through the process of praise and punishment. From the beginning, he is taught not only the social laws and regulations, but also what is good and evil, moral and immoral, right and wrong. However, if these are lacking during the developing period, the child's personality is certain to suffer.

The child is always in need of parental protection. In a child's upbringing, good family relationships are crucial. According to studies, households where the father fails to give an adequate model for the growing child are more likely to have delinquent offspring. Another key issue is a shattered family. According to statistics, only around a third of delinquent boys and girls come from households where both parents are present. In more than a quarter of the cases, the minors lived only with their mother. The character of a child is also affected in homes when the father or mother has unlawful sexual connections outside of marriage. Another significant impact is a lack of parental attachment. Anomie, or a sense of being unconnected, has been linked to inner tensions, angry, and harmful behaviour. Deviant behaviour is the result of this type of feeling in a child.

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<sup>1</sup> G K Bhoomanagoudar, *Juvenile in conflict with law and family a sociological study*, available at [https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/98848/10/10\\_chapter%204.pdf](https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/98848/10/10_chapter%204.pdf) (last visited on June 23, 2022).

## THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN DEALING WITH JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The family has been seen to be a critical element for child development and as a determining factor for children's subsequent involvement in crime. Child development has emotional, intellectual, social and physical aspects, with the family being the foundation upon which this development occurs. The family structure plays an important role in shaping a child by providing security and developing their, values and skills.

As per the concept of **Development of the Security of a Child**, basic requirements of children, such as clothing, housing, and food are met by their families, who also provide their primary sense of physical protection. They also receive emotional comfort from their families that they cannot obtain elsewhere, allowing them to grow in confidence and completely express themselves. Giving children a consistent home schedule makes them feel safe because they know they will be able to eat, drink, bathe, and sleep at regular intervals.<sup>2</sup>

As far as **Development of Values of children** are concerned, the family plays a critical role in instilling values and customs in children. Understanding of right and wrong, respect, justice, compassion, and responsibility are among them. These values are instilled in children via witnessing and imitating their behaviour of their parents, as well as being taught by their parents. As a result, children learn the importance of these values as well as the repercussions of failing to uphold them.

Highlighting the another phenomenon of **Development of a Child's Skills** which could be explained by the notion that children begin developing cognitive, emotional, interactional, and verbal skills from the minute they are born. These abilities are developed over time and are crucial in shaping a person's ability to reach their full potential.<sup>3</sup>

## THE IMPACT OF FAMILY DISORIENTATION AND STRUCTURE DETERMINING CHILD DELINQUENCY

Family is the primary source of connection, affection, and reassurance for children. The quality of a child's relationship with his or her parents can influence whether or not he or she becomes

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<sup>2</sup> Mary, J.B. (2016) *Role of Parents in Inculcating Values*, available at [http://ijariie.com/AdminUploadPdf/ROLE\\_OF\\_PARENTS\\_IN\\_INCULCATING\\_VALUES\\_c1264.pdf](http://ijariie.com/AdminUploadPdf/ROLE_OF_PARENTS_IN_INCULCATING_VALUES_c1264.pdf) (last visited on June 23, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Kruttschnitt, C., *Abuse-Resistant Youth: Some Factors That May Inhibit Violent Criminal Behavior. Social Forces*, available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2578752> (last visited on June 24, 2022).

a delinquent. Because a positive family environment leads to healthy personality development, affectionate, supporting, and understanding households are more likely to foster conformist and constructive social conduct. On the other hand, a lack of parental care and support, or, in more severe circumstances, parental indifference, hostility, or rejection, makes children feel emotionally insecure and leads to poor personality development, which encourages antisocial or delinquent behaviour. Scolding and a lack of love are common examples of negative parenting attitudes.

Another unfavourable approach is authoritarian parenting, in which children are deprived of their freedom to express themselves by excessive control and harsh and tight demands. Suppression of free expression and a lack of love cause youngsters to rebel against their parents, flee their homes, and, as a result, engage in criminal behaviour. Children have been proven to experience emotional and social instability as a result of negative parental attitudes such as withholding information or neglecting to reply to questions. Insecurity can lead to mental health issues or delinquent behaviour in children.<sup>4</sup>

"**Uninvolved parenting**," according to *Hearne*, refers to situations in which parents are emotionally distant from their children, show little warmth and love for them, provide little supervision, intentionally avoid them, have few expectations or demands for their behaviour, never attend school events, and are generally too overwhelmed by their own problems to deal with their children. According to *Sarantakos*, adolescent criminals are more likely to originate from families where the parents are uninvolved than from families where the parents are involved. He discovered that almost two-thirds of offenders came from families where the children believed their parents were uninterested in them, while only one-third came from families where their parents were interested in them.

Similarly, 86% of non-offenders came from homes where their parents were "involved" in their children.<sup>5</sup>

The family dynamics and structure which directly influence in building the psychological and emotional process, pushing the child to enter into habits and thinking patterns which ultimately

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<sup>4</sup> Prof. N V Paranjape, *Criminology, Penology, Victimology* 664 (Central Law Publication, Allahabad, 8<sup>th</sup> edn., 2018).

<sup>5</sup> Shields, G. and Clark, R.D., *Family Correlates of Delinquency: Cohesion and Adaptability*, *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, 22, 93-106, available at <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=> (last visited on June 24, 2022).

leads to development of criminality tendencies among child are being critically analysed.

### **The repercussions of the Single parent families**

A nuclear family unit is becoming increasingly valued in today's modern societies. Deviations from this structure, on the other hand, have been blamed for a number of societal issues, including delinquency. Although the popular press and legal experts blame broken homes for failure of children to socialise as consenting members in an orderly social structure, this conclusion is based on a misunderstanding of the facts. Spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, single parents have an impact on their children. Because they lack adequate time to aid their children along with the interruption of having just one parent present in the home, single employed parents may miss parent-child development. Children and their criminal behaviours in single parent families have a tremendous conclusion. As a result, the children commonly demonstrate their aggressiveness by engaging in criminal activity. Children with single parents are more likely to be exposed to factors that can lead them to commit criminal acts, such as family strife and being taken advantage of.<sup>6</sup>

Factors affecting contribution of single parenthood to delinquency include economic conditions inherent to single-parent families which may place children at greater risk. Some people believe that youngsters learn how to become adults from their own parents. According to this notion, boys raised without a resident father would be deprived of the necessary association for proper maturity.<sup>7</sup>

### **The impact of Separation, Divorce and marital discords of parents**

Parental divorce and separation contribute to juvenile delinquency because there is no stability in the family and a lack of discipline because single parents are raising children on their own and are frequently absent from the home owing to the need to work to support their children. Teenagers are frequently left alone at home while their parents or other family members go to work, which leads to a lack of discipline and leaves the teenager exposed to outside influences and experimentation, which can lead to juvenile delinquency. This is not to claim that a child

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<sup>6</sup> Dr.V. Reeta, *Broken Families and Impact on Juvenile Delinquency*, International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, available at [https://www.ijhssi.org/papers/vol9\(5\)/Series-3/F0905033338.pdf](https://www.ijhssi.org/papers/vol9(5)/Series-3/F0905033338.pdf) (last visited on June 25, 2022).

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, *Family Life and Delinquency and Crime* (office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) available at <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/Digitization/140517NCJRS.pdf> (last visited on June 25, 2022).

who has separated or divorced parents or who lives in a mixed family would become a juvenile delinquent; nonetheless, these are circumstances that can play a part or contribute to such behaviour.<sup>8</sup>

According to the report in The Indian Express, **Dr Chandra Chud Vanapalli**, consultant psychiatrist, cited “The first impact of marital discord between couples will not be on the husband or the wife but on the children. This is because even before divorce, the parents are constantly fighting amongst themselves. One thing that child cannot tolerate is their parents fighting in front of them. These marital disputes affect children’s studies, their sleep and their social skills. A child, who is normally jovial, will not talk much with others and its social interaction would drastically reduce. They will lose fear of being punished by their parents. It is important for children to think that they must not commit a certain act or their parents might feel bad. Otherwise, they feel that they can do whatever they want to because the parents will not mind it. This would not happen to them over one or two days but they gradually this mindset is developed while growing up.”<sup>9</sup>

### **Dysfunctional Family interaction and environment negatively impacting criminal behaviour of the child**

The idea is that children reared in supportive, affectionate, and welcoming surroundings grow up to be self-aware people who can choose their own long-term goals and lead socially and economically rewarding lives. Children of harsh, unloving, overly critical, and dictatorial parents, on the other hand, are frequently self-absorbed as adults. Their impulsivity might lead to violence and drug misuse.

Individual’s personalities and behaviour are shaped by the social circumstances in which they are raised, regardless of the features they may have inherited. Environmental effects do not prevent genetic transmission. Those programmes that improve parental management skills and so benefit siblings are perhaps the best basis for assuming that family interaction effects behaviour. Such programmes are built on the foundation of consistent and fair guidance.

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<sup>8</sup> EduBirdie, *Family Dynamics Affecting Juvenile Delinquency*, available at <https://edubirdie.com/examples/family-dynamics-affecting-juvenile-delinquency/> (visited on June 26, 2020).

<sup>9</sup> Suhas Yellapantula, *Marital Discord Impacts Children, Warn Docs*, The New Indian Express, Oct. 7, 2014, available at <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/2014/oct/07/Marital-Discord-Impacts-Children-Warn-Docs-669012.html> (last visited on June 26, 2022).

According to social control theory, connection of children with their parents offer a foundation for them to give up immediate pleasures in return for distal benefits associated with socialised conduct. On the road to developing well-socialized teenagers, consistent punishment and supervision add social control to the internalised ties. Parental rejection can have an impact on how children view themselves and others. When parents fail to provide consistent direction, their children miss out on opportunities to receive acceptance by choosing to follow parental rules. If parents treat their children with contempt, the children are likely to consider themselves as undeserving of care and to believe that they should treat others the same way they are treated.<sup>10</sup>

It may appear that the question of whether family rejection or neglect influences delinquent inclinations through attachment problems or role ideas is only a fascinating academic topic. However, in order to determine which tactics to take, designers of intervention strategies have relied on these beliefs. It has been proven that parental attachment and reasonable parental supervision enhance socialised behaviour. Substitutes have often proven ineffectual when youngsters do not receive these early in life. As a result, the traits of children may have an impact on the association between early parenting and later child difficulties. Parents who are aggressive and antisocial themselves are more prone to apply harsh punishments, and their children are more likely to be aggressive and antisocial.<sup>11</sup>

Considering the aspect of sibling structure, **Sibling Structure** and position among siblings of a delinquent not only tell us about his or her role and status in the family, but also about how he or she interacts with his or her siblings. The younger brothers did not receive assistance and protection from their elder brothers in sibling structures with more brothers. The younger sisters, on the other hand, received support and were in a better position where there were more sisters. As a result, data on having brothers and sisters is gathered.

Family economics is another important factor in juvenile misbehaviour. A child often seeks material support and stability outside the house and inability of family to provide for the child's

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<sup>10</sup> Reach Out Strengthening Communities, *Juvenile Delinquency Family Structure*, available at <https://family.jrank.org/pages/1006/Juvenile-Delinquency-Family-Structure.html> (last visited on June 26, 2022).

<sup>11</sup> G.S. Bajpai, *Juvenile Justice- Impact and Implementation in India* 115 (Bloomsbury India, 1<sup>st</sup> edn., 2018).

material requirements can produce insecurity and alter the amount of control the family has over the child.<sup>12</sup>

### **Child Abuse directly affecting the delinquent behaviour**

According to the research study conducted by *Lemmon (1999)*<sup>13</sup>, there is mounting evidence that childhood abuse and maltreatment contributes to a wide range of mental health problems in children and adolescents. It has been shown that abused and neglected children are sent to the juvenile justice system at far earlier ages than their non-abused and non-neglected. Those who have been abused are more likely to be repeat offenders who use violence, as opposed to youth who have not been abused, who are more likely to be low-risk offenders who commit minor offences seldom. Understanding the causes of juvenile delinquency sometimes requires looking at factors like child maltreatment. It is also true that not all children who are abused grow up to be juvenile offenders, and vice versa.

Different types of abuse have different effects. When children and young people are subjected to different types of abuse, they respond emotionally and behaviorally in unique ways. People's propensity to commit crime varies according to the type of abuse they suffered. As per *Zingraff, Leiter, Johnson, and Myers (1994)*, it has been claimed that children who have been victims of physical abuse have a 9.3 percent chance (1 in 11) of being delinquent, while children who have been victims of neglect have a 1 in 10 chance of becoming involved in criminal behaviour. Yet, there is evidence that people who have been physically abused are more likely to commit violent crimes.<sup>14</sup>

As a consequence, these youngsters develop what Fleisher calls a “**defensive world view**”, characterized by six attributes: (1) a feeling of vulnerability and a need to protect oneself, (2) a belief that no one can be trusted, (3) a need to maintain social distance, (4) a willingness to use violence and intimidation to repel others, (5) an attraction to similarly defensive people,

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<sup>12</sup> Deka Rupali Sen, Thesis on *Family environment emotional intelligence and aggression among juvenile delinquents* 27, available at <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/235536> (last visited on June 25, 2022).

<sup>13</sup> Criminal Justice, *Child Abuse and Juvenile Delinquency*, available at <http://criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/crime/domestic-violence/child-abuse-and-juvenile-delinquency/> (last visited on June 26, 2022).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.



and 6) an expectation that no one will come to their aid.<sup>15</sup>

A review by *Widom* concluded that abuse breeds abuse. There appears to be a higher likelihood of abuse among parents who were abused themselves. . Evidence suggests that some victims of abuse become self-abusive and self-destructive. Not all children who grow up in violent homes become violent adults; however, being abused as a child may increase the risk for becoming an abusive parent, a delinquent, or a violent adult criminal. While victims of physical abuse tend to act more aggressively just after the assault ends, victims of sexual abuse frequently commit their first sexual offences at a later age and with less intent on violence.<sup>16</sup>

While victims of physical abuse tend to act more aggressively just after the assault ends, victims of sexual abuse frequently commit their first sexual offences at a later age and with less intent on violence. There is evidence that children who witness domestic violence are more likely to act out aggressively and engage in delinquent behaviour as well as experience higher levels of anxiety, PTSD symptoms, depression, and temperament problems than their non-violently-exposed peers. Furthermore, children who are exposed to violence are more prone to develop drug and alcohol issues. Any exposure, or a combination of exposures, can be harmful, resulting in long-term negative consequences and trauma.<sup>17</sup>

### **Synthesis of role of parents in determining the impact on the delinquent cognitive faculties of the child**

Relationship of juveniles with parents has a direct relationship with their mental makeup and behavioural traits. Any disharmony in the relationship with parents may result in their mental unrest. The potential delinquent juveniles are prone to quarrel frequently with their parents and ultimately become delinquents. Emotional stability of children is ensured by their time spent with their parents, and such close proximity to their parents is likely to protect them from developing aberrant behaviour.

When parents place too many limits on their children, they are more likely to rebel. Parents have become accustomed to the traditional methods of reprimanding children and establishing

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<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, *Family Life and Delinquency and Crime* (office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) available at <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/Digitization/140517NCJRS.pdf> (last visited on June 26, 2022).

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Harshit Sharma, *Juvenile Delinquency and Parental Responsibility Laws* 203 (Whitesmann Publishing Company, New Delhi, 2022).

discipline boundaries, which may result in opposition from the children. The absence of cordiality and understanding in the family can be seen in the quarrels of brothers and sisters with their parents. Such an environment may have a negative impact on children, leading to deviant behaviour.

**As far as the aspect of Parental Discipline is concerned**, the attitude of parents toward their children has a significant impact on their behaviour. Children are more likely to acquire aberrant behaviour if their parents are irritable. When parents are too strict, inconsistent, or disinterested, it leads child towards delinquent behaviour. Considering the aspect of the **Parental Punishment**, Punishing the children for their erratic behaviour and indiscipline has been a common feature but punitive actions may sometimes lead to the children becoming more aggressive and developing deviant behaviour. Evaluating the concept of the role the parents, one factor that cannot be left unnoticed is that aspect of **Parental Criminality**. As per the theory established by *Gluecks (1950 and 1968)*, it was determined that delinquents were more likely than non-delinquents to have delinquent fathers and mothers. Children with two parents with criminal histories were at extremely high risk of delinquency.<sup>18</sup>

In order to prevent the catastrophic impact that has been discussed above regarding the role of the parents, the most required attribute to inculcate is the aspect of **positive parenting**. The central concept of the model of positive parenting is that parents who clearly explain their expectations for appropriate and mature behaviour, as well as monitor and promote adherence to those goals, help their children develop a sense of social responsibility. As per the conceptualization of **Baumrind**, he labelled this type of parenting as authoritative, in contrast to authoritarian and permissive parenting. Authoritarian parents rely heavily on coercive controls, but tend to be inconsistent in their application. Permissive parents are not inclined to discipline but, in avoiding confrontation over the child's misbehavior, fail to define and encourage mature behavior.

Apart from the aspect of positive parenting, the other assertion that could be followed is “**monitoring**”. In the study conducted by *Patterson (1980)* following actions are listed: notice what the child is doing, monitor it over long periods of time, model social skill behavior, clearly state house rules, consistently provides some punishments for transgressions, provide reinforcement for conformity, and negotiate disagreement so the conflicts and crises do not

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<sup>18</sup> Dr. S S Srivastava, *Criminology, Penology, Victimology* 432 (Central Law Publication, Allahabad, 1<sup>st</sup> edn., 2021).

escalate. Monitoring children involves awareness of their companions, whereabouts, and free-time activities. It also includes appropriate communication, accountability of the child to the parents, and the amount of time spent with parents. As the child enters adolescence, **supervision** becomes increasingly vital. Parents can influence their children's choice of companions and activities, express disapproval, and sanction antisocial and delinquent behaviour with adequate monitoring.<sup>19</sup>

Youth who stayed home alone after school were more susceptible to peer pressure to engage in antisocial activities than youth who were monitored by a parent, another adult, or an older sibling. Youth, on the other hand, become more vulnerable to peer pressure as they go further distant from adult supervision. Delinquency is more likely when normative development is incomplete, such as when children are unable to distinguish right from wrong, feel very less or no obligation toward behavioural standards and have little respect for the rights and welfare of others. Parents play a critical role in moral development.

If parents fail to provide the amenities that children require, they are likely to become frustrated. This frequently resulted in deviant attitudes and behaviour. Parents must do everything possible to keep their children happy by giving the bare minimum of amenities, failing which they may develop deviant behaviour.

Truancy and staying away from homes has been a common feature among the delinquent children. There are two conditions which made children run away from home. One, the stresses and strains of adverse family conditions, and second, attraction towards outside lure as far as the young children are concerned and adverse family environments, ill-treatment by parents/guardians, and a lack of friendly interactions are all possible causes of delinquency in youth. As a result, psychological and social variables play a big role in children's deviant behaviour, and they try to avoid their families.<sup>20</sup>

### **Reasons for Developing Deviant behaviour**

A variety of factors have been identified as contributing to children's aberrant behaviour. The

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<sup>19</sup> Criminal Justice, *Child Abuse and Juvenile Delinquency*, available at <http://criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/crime/domestic-violence/child-abuse-and-juvenile-delinquency/> (last visited on June 26, 2022).

<sup>20</sup> Priyanka Yadav, *Juvenile Delinquency as a Behavioural Problem*, The International Journal of Indian Psychology, available at [https://ijip.in/wp-content/uploads/ArticlesPDF/article\\_d234861e69403dfb6a1b82592911782d.pdf](https://ijip.in/wp-content/uploads/ArticlesPDF/article_d234861e69403dfb6a1b82592911782d.pdf) (last visited on June 26, 2022).

members of the family's deviant habits and activities were a source of parental carelessness, contributing to children's deviant behaviour. The criminal habits of parents in general, and the father in particular, such as drinking, gambling, and extramarital sex activities, contributed to the deviant behaviour. Deviant behaviour of children can as well be attributed to the approach of step mothers who lack motherly affection towards the step children.

Towards the end note, it can be asserted that a range of home conditions have been identified as factors in children's delinquent behaviour. Children who are rejected by their parents, who are not properly monitored, and who grow up in households where there is a lot of conflict are the ones who are most likely to become delinquents. Any of the family conditions elements enhances the likelihood of parenting a delinquent child. When more than one cause is present, the chances of misbehaviour increase even more. This impact is called the cumulative effect. But not all children follow the same path to delinquency; different combinations of life experiences may produce delinquent behaviour. Lastly, that the positive parenting methods in the early years and later in adolescence appear to operate as buffers, avoiding delinquent behaviour and supporting adolescents in abstaining from it.

## **FAMILY LIFE AND RISKS OF DELINQUENCY**

A healthy family environment, marked by affection, coherence, and parental involvement in their children's life, is the single most essential component. Parents can provide the love, support, and acceptance that children require. When these elements are missing, such as when parents are harsh, unloving, overly critical, and dictatorial, a child's healthy development is hampered, and his or her risk of delinquency rises. The most powerful predictor of juvenile misbehaviour appears to be parental rejection.

According to research, the problem of rejection is not just the responsibility of the parents. Some children are more difficult to control than others; they may exhibit impulsive, violent, or antisocial behaviours as early as kindergarten. In order to achieve some calm in the family, parents may avoid interacting with their children and even come to despise them.

As a result, rejection is a collaborative process including both parents and children's maladaptive behaviour.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> United Nations Guidelines for the *Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency* (The Riyadh Guidelines), adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 45/112 of 14 December 1990, available at [http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/h\\_comp47.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/h_comp47.htm). (last visited on June 27, 2022).

Inadequate supervision is the second most important home life element that puts children at risk of delinquency. Children who are not sufficiently supervised by their parents, who do not teach them right from wrong, do not monitor their movements, friends, or activities, and reprimand them inconsistently and harshly, are more likely to turn delinquent. Children require clear rules, constant monitoring, and consequences for wrongdoing. Delinquency is more likely to occur when there is a family fight about discipline and the parents fail to follow through.<sup>22</sup> Many exceptional families suffer from an issue with supervision. Parents who are criminals, for example, are unlikely to encourage their children to break the law. In reality, these parents regulate their children's delinquent behaviour in the same way as noncriminal parents do. Involvement in a criminal lifestyle, or, for that matter, drug and alcohol misuse, interferes with a parent's ability to maintain social control in the home. As a result, criminal parents manage their children less successfully than noncriminal parents.<sup>23</sup>

Some single parents appear to be in the same boat. As a family structure, single-parenthood is not inherently unhealthy. It does, however, predispose a situation in which parental control is limited. Because there is only one parent, there is likely to be less interaction with the children and less monitoring. As a result, the child may be more vulnerable to peer pressure.

In the lives of latchkey youngsters, supervision has been demonstrated to be a significant issue. Children who are left home alone after school are no more likely than those who are monitored by a parent or another adult to participate in misconduct. Evidence reveals that youngsters must be educated to recognise the impact of their actions on others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to know the difference between right and wrong. They must be taught to value others' rights and to treat others with compassion. Parents play a significant influence in the moral development of their children. When moral ideas aren't well-developed, delinquency is more likely.<sup>24</sup>

Children who grow up in families where there is a lot of conflict, marital strife, and possibly even violence are more likely to become delinquent. While this third familial trait is linked to delinquency, it is not as effective as rejection or monitoring in forecasting future difficulty.

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<sup>22</sup> S Lavania, *Juvenile Delinquency* 15-17 (Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 1983).

<sup>23</sup> S. Venkatesh, "The social organization of street gang activity in an urban ghetto", 103 *American Journal of Sociology*, 182 (1997).

<sup>24</sup> Singhal's, *Criminology* 267 (Singhal Law Publication, 1<sup>st</sup> edn. 2018).

The weaker association makes sense. Rejection and monitoring have a direct impact on a child's self-perception and conduct, whereas family conflict has a less direct impact. A child may adopt violent conduct through watching his or her parents fight, but after seeing the consequences, he or she may develop an aversion to such behaviour.

From a policy standpoint, it is also critical to acknowledge that marital strife is a stronger predictor of delinquency than divorce or a single-parent family structure. Family relationships, not simply divorce, have an impact on delinquency. Although abuse has a direct impact on the child, the link between abuse and delinquency is not as strong as rejection. Children who have been abused are more likely to exhibit troublesome and violent behaviour than youngsters who have not been abused, yet some abused children withdraw, become self-destructive, or channel their anger inward. Other youngsters show minimal signs of abuse in their conduct. Although being abused increases the likelihood of being delinquent, the majority of mistreated children do not become delinquent. During early life, family events receive far less emphasis.<sup>25</sup>

Second, the few studies that have looked into the family situations of adult criminals have found a wide range of results. Some studies have looked at the relationship between marital status and criminality, while others have looked at the adjustment results of married and unmarried released inmates. Other studies have looked into the environmental influence of single-parent families on crime rates in a town. Because of the diversity of perspectives and the small number of research, it's difficult to spot any recurring trends in the findings and draw broad conclusions about what we know about the impact of family on the occurrence of adult criminality.

## **PREVENTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY**

Early intervention is generally accepted as the most effective method for reducing juvenile delinquency. In order to effectively address juvenile delinquency, the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 must be implemented with widespread public education and extensive orientation and training for professionals and law enforcement agencies.

Juveniles should be encouraged to join society through the provision of more substantial and alluring long-term advantages, as suggested by the government. As a result, people are able to restore the confidence that harsh treatment from others has taken from them. Participating agencies, such as the police, may have a more restorative than punitive stance towards offenders. The purpose of law enforcement can shift from punishment to rehabilitation. The

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<sup>25</sup> Dr. ASHOK K Jain, *Criminology, Penology, Victimology* 456 (Ascent Publication, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, 2018).

mainstream media, particularly film and television, are extremely helpful in informing parents about their children's needs and how to assist them in meeting those requirements.<sup>26</sup>

A sense of security and trust must be instilled in the child. Parental promises that are not fulfilled, are not good for trust of the child. The child must be able to speak openly with his parents about his wants and requirements. Discipline does not imply that spontaneity and freedom of expression are to be suppressed. In a democratic setting, an authoritarian parent is useless. The growth of parental awareness of needs of children is a crucial factor, particularly in light of rapidly changing social situations as a result of urbanisation and industrialization. Despite the fact that ahimsa is seen as a valuable social norm, there is a lot of violence in the correction of children. When their children make mistakes, the reaction of their parents is dominated by anger rather than love. It is vital to provide training to parents in cities on how to raise their children.<sup>27</sup>

Preventive programmes of juvenile delinquency includes Individual Programme and Environmental programme, which covers various aspects such as-

1. Parental education opportunities should be made available in all neighbourhoods since they promote the development of stable households, healthy family dynamics, and the proper upbringing of children. Some programmes teach parents how to promote a healthy environment for their children to grow up in.

2. Unconditional, quick, and genuine love, care, and protection from mom and dad are necessities for this child. If a child does not receive this kind of love and care, he or she may act out destructively. Therefore, the child needs the parental love, care, and protection in order to either not commit or commit the crime.<sup>28</sup>

3. Some family factors that may affect juvenile delinquency include the amount of supervision children get, the severity of discipline, the presence or absence of parental conflict or separation, the presence of criminal parents or siblings, and the strength of the parent-child relationship. Multiple studies have identified a strong correlation between a lack of parental

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<sup>26</sup> Ms. Abhilasha Belwal and Mr. Ashish Belwal, Juvenile delinquency in India, 23 *Bharati Law Review* 27 (2016).

<sup>27</sup> Varun, *Juvenile Delinquency: Treatment and Prevention*, available at <https://www.indiaessays.com/essays/india/juvenile-delinquency/juvenile-delinquency-treatment-and-prevention-essay-india-law/2261> (last visited on June 27, 2022).

<sup>28</sup> Anjali Dhingra, All About Juvenile Justice Act, iPleadrs, available at <https://blog.ipleaders.in/all-about-juvenile-justice-act> (last visited on June 27, 2022).

supervision and criminal behaviour, suggesting that this may be the most important familial influence on criminal behaviour.<sup>29</sup>

### **Methods of reformation and crime prevention-**

The various methods have been suggested for the purpose of reformation and crime prevention-

**1.) Mechanical Methods-** The mechanical methods of reformation suggest reformation is a mechanical manner. The methods which we include under this category are as follows:-

**a) Meditation-** This method was based on the notion that “crime is the result of a failure to reflect, and that meditation will create guilt and repentance.”

**b) Moralizing-** the exhortations elicit hostility from the inmates. When members of a group employ exhortation on other members of the same group, it is a very effective means of social control.

**c) Pledge:** Offenders were convinced to sign a pledge in order to make up their minds about reformation using this strategy. This strategy is founded on the notion that criminals can only change themselves if they decide to do so.

**2.) The Clinical Method-** The clinical method allows for personalised reformation. These techniques give individualised care and do not suggest any reforming technique or theory. However, under the clinical manner, the focus was on the criminality rather than the crime. As a result, an attempt is made to identify the source of criminality. Certain assumptions underpin the clinical procedure. It views criminality as a sort of disorder that may be treated on an individual basis; in other words, it views criminality as a biological disorder. As a result, this strategy is founded on a psychiatric and individualistic perspective of criminality.

**3.) The Group-relations Method-** It is a method for analysing relationships between groups of people. According to this concept, an individual's behaviour is a result of his group relationship. The features that show in an individual's personality are his group's properties. An individual's behaviour, attitudes, ideas, and values are firmly founded on the group to which

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<sup>29</sup> Priyanka Yadav, Juvenile Delinquency as a Behavioural Problem, 4 *The International Journal of Indian Psychology* 20 (2016).



he belongs. As a result, treating an individual offender can only be done in the context of his group interaction.

**4) Information and professional services-** Professional services for the therapy and reformation of criminals are relatively new. Professional professionals are specifically trained in the subject of crime and delinquency, and numerous sciences contribute to this effort. Psychologists have provided a framework for interpreting and analysing tests and interviews. Psychiatrists provide their own ideas. Psychologists have provided a framework for interpreting and analysing tests and interviews. Psychiatrists have established a foundation for the study of behavioural issues. They aimed to understand crime through the lens of psychopathology.<sup>30</sup>

## CONCLUSION

This article aims to focus on the factors which impact negatively the clean state mind of the innocent, encouraging towards delinquent tendencies. Broken families or single-parent households, especially mother-only homes, generate more delinquent children than two-parent families due to their associations with delinquent conduct. Non-participation of fathers in the lives of their children is one of the noteworthy causes of child welfare issues such as rising rates of juvenile criminality, sorrow and eating disorders, teen suicide, and exploitation. Nursing the infant also has a significant impact on the development of delinquency. There are numerous observable characteristics that produce aberrant behaviour. Having a consistent supper hour and reviewing homework can have a significant impact on a child's sensitivity and dependability. According to studies, a strong parent-child bond helps reduce juvenile delinquency. Involvement and education of the community regarding the complexities of juvenile delinquency are crucial. In the administration of Juvenile Justice, preventative measures are of the utmost importance. If members of society are knowledgeable of abandoned children and youngsters living in challenging circumstances, they can play a key role in rehabilitation. Some casual forms, such as documented occupied connotations in different zones, can make it difficult to report substances of teenagers who engage in deviant behaviour or whose actions cannot be coordinated resourcefully by their parents. Families are essential

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<sup>30</sup> Susan Young, Juvenile delinquency, welfare, justice and therapeutic interventions: a global perspective, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5288089/> (last visited on June 26, 2022).

social regulating and socialisation councils. Therefore, families, together with other essential groups, might be more positively involved in preventive actions.