
PSYCHO-SOCIAL IMPACT OF FAMILY AND SOCIETY ON JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

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ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquents are minors who commit crimes and are below the age of 18 years, these acts of the minors are not called as crimes since they are used to denote the acts of the adult person, and hence the act of the minor child that results in violation of law are called as “Delinquent acts”. Usually a child commits crime under two circumstances: one is in order to satisfy their need of life and the other is due peer pressure, the society and the environment impacts a child's behavior in various different ways. Earlier during a person's life could also be associated with surroundings and the society where they live, the report moves on to think about the role of early experiences with parents and family on subsequent delinquents and how they impact the child to commit any offense. Children neglected by their parents, and are not properly supervised, then they are at greatest risk of committing some crime or delinquents and it appears to be that the ones who are ignored by society and family are the ones who became a delinquent. Not every child will become a delinquent, sometimes they can also be prevented by taking proper care, love and support. The objective of the research is to study juvenile delinquency, To examine how this juvenile delinquency has an impact on family and siblings and to analyze and understand the psycho-social impact of juvenile delinquency among the family and siblings. The current study is based on empirical research. The major contribution of the study was to collect the information pertaining to the particular area and test the hypothesis of a cause-effect relationship between variables. The research design was exploratory and experimental. It involved exploring the problem, testing the hypothesis and providing the solution from the analysis. Convenience sampling method was used. The sample size was 200. Data was analyzed with the help of primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire is used as the primary data collection and journals, reports and newsletters were the secondary sources of data. Data was analyzed using SPSS 21 version.

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The analysis was carried out for demographic statistics of Gender, Educational qualification, Income and Occupation.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, Family, Siblings, Children, Behaviour, Crime.

INTRODUCTION:

Juvenile delinquents are minors who commit crimes and are below the age of 18 years, these acts of the minors are not called as crimes since they are used to denote the acts of the adult person, and hence the act of the minor child that results in violation of law are called as “Delinquent acts”. Usually a child commits crime under two circumstances: one is in order to satisfy their need of life and the other is due peer pressure, the society and the environment impacts a child's behavior in various different ways. Earlier during a person's life could also be associated with surroundings and the society where they live, the report moves on to think about the role of early experiences with parents and family on subsequent delinquents and how they impact the child to commit any offense. Children neglected by their parents, and are not properly supervised, then they are at greatest risk of committing some crime or delinquents and it appears to be that the ones who are ignored by society and family are the ones who became a delinquent. Not every child will become a delinquent, sometimes they can also be prevented by taking proper care, love and support. It is also seen a child gets affected due to the marital problem between the husband and wife since a child learns from their parents and the parents are the first teacher for their children. Due to their violent and aggressive behavior the child tends to learn that and there might be a chance of developing a criminal behavior. Sometimes there is also a chance that the child may be directly influenced by the parents in order to commit a crime. In most of the cases research seems to be obvious that single parenting can also be a reason the children delinquent behavior due to their economic conditions and they also lack in providing necessary care for the child and the time spent with the child is also less than that of the two-parenting. Most of the research has revealed that proper parenting and care can prevent a child from being a delinquent.

OBJECTIVES:

- To study about juvenile delinquency.
- To examine how this juvenile delinquency has an impact on family and siblings and how the family problem gives rise to juvenile delinquency
- To analyze and understand the psycho-social impact of juvenile delinquency among the family and siblings.

METHODOLOGY:

The current study is based on empirical research. It consists of the scientific frame of research. It began with the finding of research problems based on the review of literature. The major contribution of the study was to collect the information pertaining to the particular area and test the hypothesis of a cause-effect relationship between variables. The research design was exploratory and experimental. It involved exploring the problem, testing the hypothesis and providing the solution from the analysis. Convenience sampling method was used. The sample size was 200. Data was collected through primary and secondary sources. Questionnaire is used as the primary data collection and journals, reports and newsletters were the secondary sources of data. Data was analyzed using SPSS 21 version. The analysis was carried out for demographic statistics of Gender, Educational qualification, age and Occupation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The family is the fundamental building block of human society. Consequently, the foundation of our Nation is only as strong as families. **(Decker and White)** There is much to be learned about the effects of family life on delinquency and crime. This report provides a good base for what is known and what is yet to be learned. I encourage those most directly involved in helping children reach adulthood to read this report with an eye to addressing these variables in their prevention and intervention efforts **(Decker and White; Prevention et al.)** Juvenile delinquency is a serious and common problem. To date, several studies have focused on possible psychosocial risk factors for delinquency among youths and on the implications of childhood mental illness on child criminality. However, the literature on prevalence of psychopathology and predictors of crime severity among delinquent youths in Turkey is sparse. Therefore, the aim of this study was to show the associations between crime severity and psychosocial factors such as gender, age, criminal history, concomitant attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other comorbid psychiatric conditions, along with

behavioral problem domains of Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL).**(Decker and White; Prevention et al.; Ljubicic)**Sibling's delinquency explains part of adolescents' delinquency in early adolescence, beyond the influence exerted by peers, parents, and school. Analyzing early and late adolescence in separate models provided a more detailed insight in the influence of sibling's delinquency over time, and controlling for sex composition reveals that development of sibling similarity in delinquency differs between brothers, sisters, and mixed-sex sibling pairs.**(Decker and White; Prevention et al.; Ljubicic; D. C. May)**Crime is a phenomenon that has continued since the emergence of people. The concept of crime, which is defined as the action punished by the law, has been used with the concept of child in recent years. Juvenile delinquency is the crime of under-18s, suggesting the existence of a social problem. Therefore, in order to solve the problem, it is important to consider and evaluate the psycho-social factors that cause the problem. For this purpose, in this study, an investigation was made on the psycho-social causes of juvenile delinquency. The phenomenon of a child dragged into crime, which is used to indicate that the child himself is a victim, has been widely used in our country's agenda since the beginning of 2000s. **(Decker and White; Prevention et al.; Ljubicic; D. C. May; Emmert and Lizotte)**The relationship between youth offending and family background is still unclear in the literature. This study explored the role of family factors and psychological distress in relation to delinquency and youth offending to try and explicate the relative importance of family structure, family relations, and psychological distress. The study used the Brief Symptom Inventory, the Family Environment Scale, and the Delinquency Scale in a structured interview format to measure psychological distress, family structure and relations, and levels of youth offending, in 219 older children and adolescents aged between 12 -17 years living in areas associated with high levels of youth offending in the UK.**(Gray)**Even though youth crime rates have fallen since the mid-1990s, public fear and political rhetoric over the issue have heightened. The Columbine shootings and other sensational incidents add to the furor. Often overlooked are the underlying problems of child poverty, social disadvantage, and the pitfalls inherent to adolescent decision making that contribute to youth crime. From a policy standpoint, adolescent offenders are caught in the crossfire between nurturance of youth and punishment of criminals, between rehabilitation and "get tough" pronouncements.**(Gray; Alfulajj and Associate Professor of Psychology University of Bahrain)**The phenomenon juvenile delinquency is an enormous concern for communities in the ZFM district, Northern Cape, South Africa. Juvenile offences have increased since 2010 in this area. From existing theories, it is clear that the causes of this phenomenon are complex and interrelated. Some of these contributing factors are rooted in the

character of the delinquent and his or her family. Other factors are peer, community or economic related. Against this background, it is clear that each community/area should be individually assessed concerning its contributing factors as these factors can differ from community to community, individual to individual and family to family (**Gray; Alfulaj and Associate Professor of Psychology University of Bahrain; Jenkins and Friedlander**). Juveniles are children under the age of eighteen. Juvenile delinquents are children who commit crimes knowing or unknowingly. Juvenile delinquents commit crimes due to their psycho-social behavior being disturbed by certain circumstances. Psycho-social behavior is the combination of the psychological and social behavior of a person. The psycho-social behavior of a person or group influences and determines their relationships, their ability to work and their attitude towards others. A personality of a human is also influenced by their psycho-social development through eight stages as stated by Ericson. (**Douglass**)

Children may be affected by poor parental guidance or the lack of parental guidance, which could lead to their involvement in juvenile offenses (**Epstein & Sanders, 2002; Kordi & Baharudin, 2010**). Researchers found that parenting practices have an impact on criminal behavior of children (**Brown & Lyengar, 2008**). Although research showed parenting styles impact children's societal behavior (**Baker-Becker, 2005; Brown & Lyengar, 2008; Flynn & Nolan, 2008; McLaughlin, 2006; Rytönen, Aunola, & Nurmi, 2005**), (**Schroeder et al.**) researchers have not looked at the relationship between experienced parenting style and psychosocial maturity levels. In the current study, I examined whether there is a difference in levels of psychosocial maturity based on experienced parenting style in juvenile offenders. (**Schroeder et al.; Mentaberry**) Juvenile delinquency is becoming very prevalent in today's society. In 2008 there were 6,318 arrests for every 100,000 youths age 10 to 17 in the resident population (Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime, 2008). In 2009 juvenile courts in the United States handled an estimated 1.5 million delinquency cases that involved juveniles charged with criminal law violations (Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime, 2008). Moreover, delinquency is more prevalent today than in the past, as juvenile courts handled 30% more cases in 2009 than in 1985. (**"Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases SIXTEEN KEY PRINCIPLES"**) Juvenile delinquents and students with learning disabilities possess many of the same characteristics. Poor academic achievement, short attention spans, impulse control problems, and lack of motivation are characteristics associated with both learning disability and delinquency. Other shared characteristics include negative self concepts, low frustration tolerance, greater prevalence of

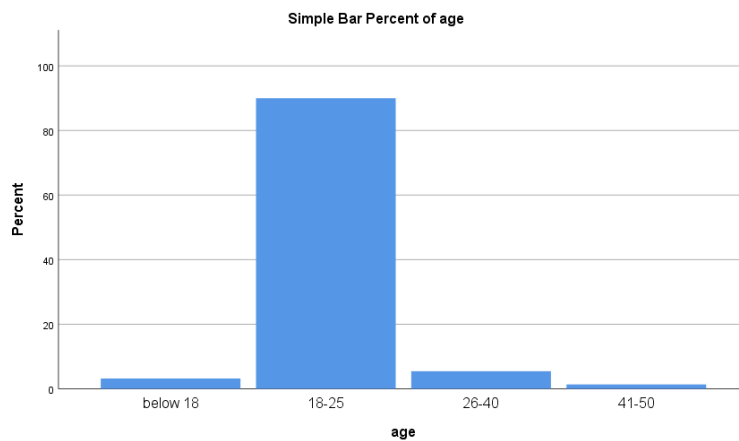
males than females, poor academic problem solving, and weak social skills (Gallico, Burns, & Grob, 1988; Smith, 1998; Winters 1997; White, Moffitt, Earls, Robins & Silva, 1990). Researchers have used three main hypotheses to establish a connection between individuals with learning disabilities and juvenile delinquency. (“Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases. SIXTEEN KEY PRINCIPLES”; **Abdurasulova and Umirzakov**)The family is the fundamental building block of human society. Consequently, the foundation of our Nation is only as strong as America's families. There is much to be learned about the effects of family life on delinquency and crime. This report provides a good base for what is known and what is yet to be learned. I encourage those most directly involved in helping children reach adulthood to read this report with an eye to addressing these variables in their prevention and intervention efforts (“Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases. SIXTEEN KEY PRINCIPLES”; Abdurasulova and Umirzakov; Michaels).Juvenile delinquency is a serious and common problem. To date, several studies have focused on possible psychosocial risk factors for delinquency among youths and on the implications of childhood mental illness on child criminality. However, the literature on prevalence of psychopathology and predictors of crime severity among delinquent youths in Turkey is sparse. Therefore, the aim of this study was to show the associations between crime severity and psychosocial factors such as gender, age, criminal history, concomitant attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other comorbid psychiatric conditions, along with behavioral problem domains of Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL).Sibling’s delinquency explains part of adolescents’ delinquency in early adolescence, beyond the influence exerted by peers, parents, and school. Analyzing early and late adolescence in separate models provided a more detailed insight in the influence of sibling’s delinquency over time, and controlling for sex composition reveals that development of sibling similarity in delinquency differs between brothers, sisters, and mixed-sex sibling pairs.(Hoffmann; Goncalves)Crime is a phenomenon that has continued since the emergence of people. The concept of crime, which is defined as the action punished by the law, has been used with the concept of child in recent years. Juvenile delinquency is the crime of under-18s, suggesting the existence of a social problem. Therefore, in order to solve the problem, it is important to consider and evaluate the psycho-social factors that cause the problem. For this purpose, in this study, an investigation was made on the psycho-social causes of juvenile delinquency. The phenomenon of a child dragged into crime, which is used to indicate that the child himself is a victim, has been widely used in our country's agenda since the beginning of 2000s.(**Hoffmann; Goncalves; G. May**) Psychological functioning will be defined both in

terms of mental health problems and positive self-attributes, because to this date, positive psychological functioning has not been reviewed separately from negative psychological functioning. This is important, since the presence of negative functioning does not imply the absence of positive functioning and vice versa. Negative psychological functioning can be defined in terms of internalizing problems (e.g., depression and anxiety) and externalizing problems (e.g., behavioral problems, aggression, and social problems). Positive psychological functioning can be defined as age-appropriate, normative, healthy affective, and social functioning in response to stresses engendered by a pediatric CHC. **(Institute of Medicine et al.)** Socioeconomic status (SES) encompasses not just income but also educational attainment, occupational prestige, and subjective perceptions of social status and social class. Socioeconomic status can encompass quality of life attributes as well as the opportunities and privileges afforded to people within society. Poverty, specifically, is not a single factor but rather is characterized by multiple physical and psychosocial stressors. Further, SES is a consistent and reliable predictor of a vast array of outcomes across the life span, including physical and psychological health. Thus, SES is relevant to all realms of behavioral and social science, including research, practice, education and advocacy. **(Institute of Medicine et al.; Kerig)** A child is born with purity and innocence. Nurturing a child is crucial in every child's life and if given proper care and attention in the right way after that child grows in a constructive manner. Children show good performance when children's surrounding environment is positive and supportive towards them. Child's physical, psychological, moral and spiritual development builds them competent to become conscious to understand their capabilities. On the other side, detrimental environment, lack of basic needs, poor parenting supervision, other factors may turn a child to a delinquent i.e. a juvenile delinquent. In India, juvenile delinquency is one of social problems affecting not only children with conflict in law but it affects families, communities, and society. Child's criminal behavior makes family suffer. *(Siegel and Welsh)* The family is the fundamental building block of human society. Consequently, the foundation of our Nation is only as strong as America's families. There is much to be learned about the effects of family life on delinquency and crime. This report provides a good base for what is known and what is yet to be learned. I encourage those most directly involved in helping children reach adulthood to read this report with an eye to addressing these variables in their prevention and intervention efforts. *(Siegel and Welsh; Feld and Bishop)* Juvenile delinquency is a serious and common problem. To date, several studies have focused on possible psychosocial risk factors for delinquency among youths and on the implications of childhood mental illness on child criminality. However, the literature on

prevalence of psychopathology and predictors of crime severity among delinquent youths in Turkey is sparse. Therefore, the aim of this study was to show the associations between crime severity and psychosocial factors such as gender, age, criminal history, concomitant attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other comorbid psychiatric conditions, along with behavioral problem domains of Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL).**(Friedlander)**

ANALYSIS:

FIGURE: 1



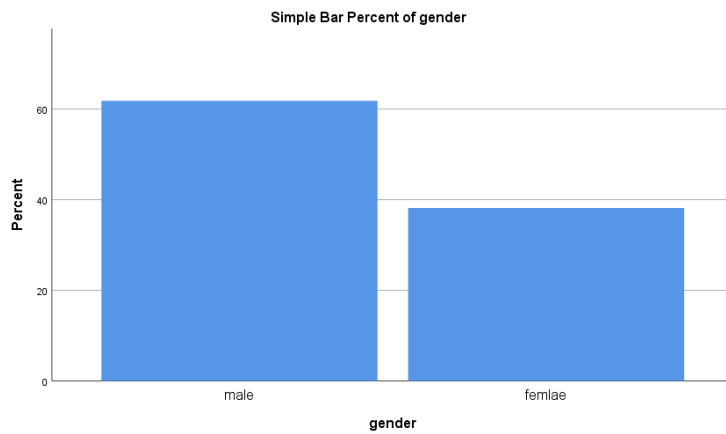
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the age group of the responded.

RESULT:

From the above figure it is seen that above 80% of the people who responded are from the age group 18-25.

FIGURE: 2



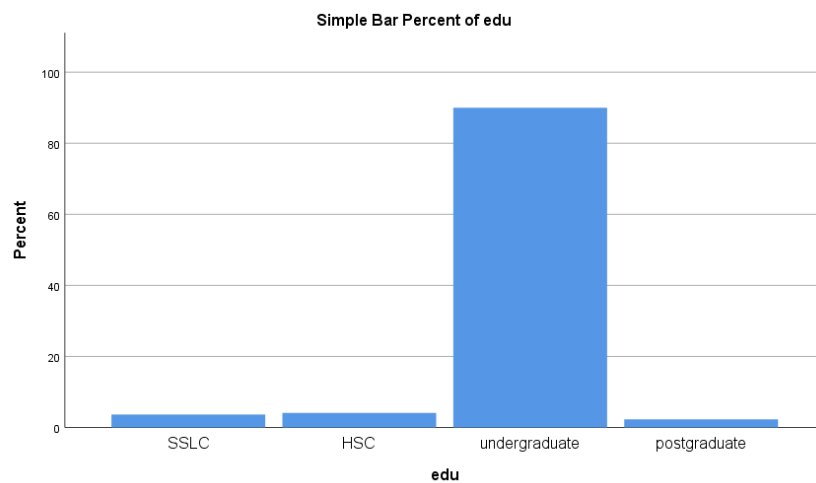
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the gender of the responded.

RESULT:

From the above figure it is seen that above 60% of the people who responded are male and 40% of the respondents are female.

FIGURE: 3



LEGEND:

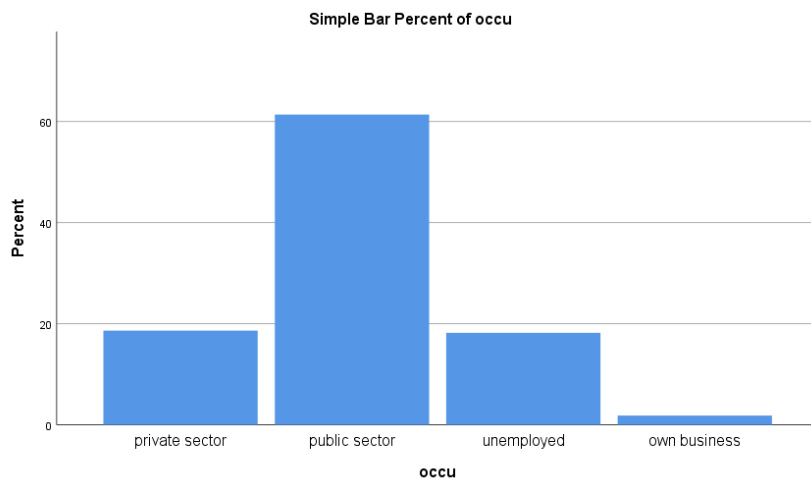
The above figure shows the educational qualifications of the responded.

RESULT:

From the above figure it is seen that above 80% of the people who responded are undergraduate

people 5% are SSLC, 10% are HSC, 2% are postgraduate.

FIGURE: 4



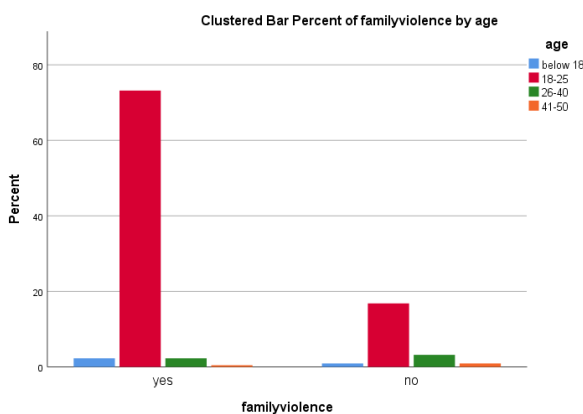
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the occupation of the responded.

RESULT:

From the above figure it is seen that above 60% of the people who responded are in the public sector, 20% are in the private sector, 19% are unemployed, 5% of the people do their own business

FIGURE: 5



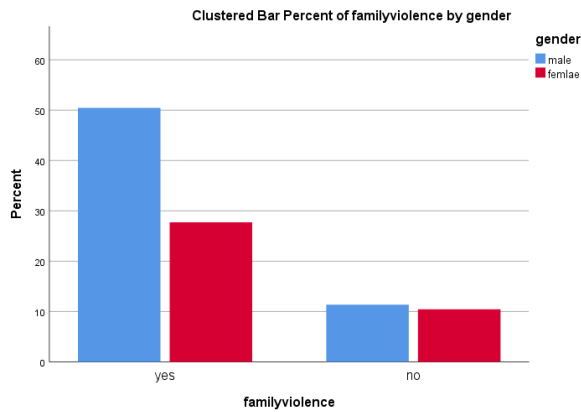
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency with the age group of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency is high it is high in the case of the age group between 18-25.

FIGURE: 6



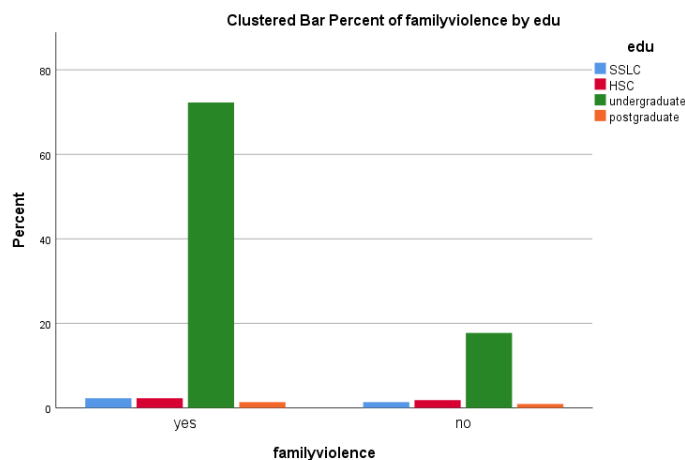
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency with the gender of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency is high it is high in the case of the male group

FIGURE: 7



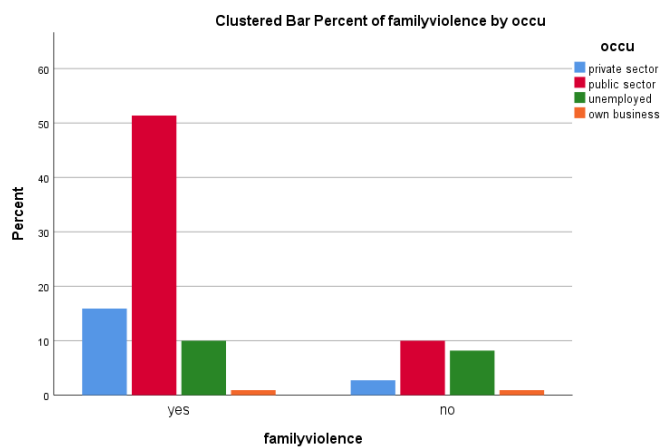
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency with the educational qualifications of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency is high, it is high in the case of the undergraduate people.

FIGURE: 8



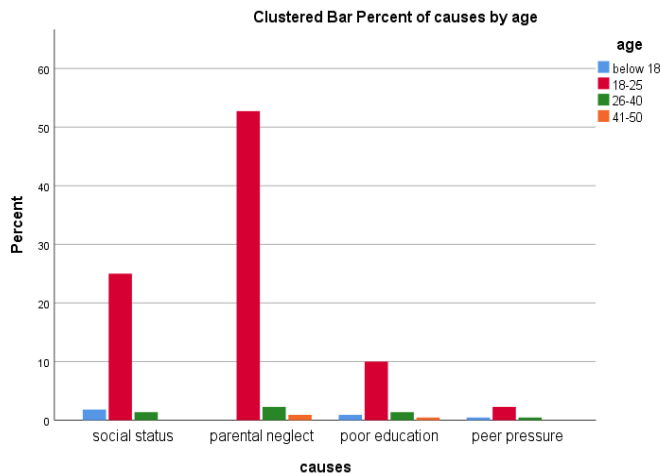
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency with the occupation of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency is high, it is high in the case of the public sector people

FIGURE: 9



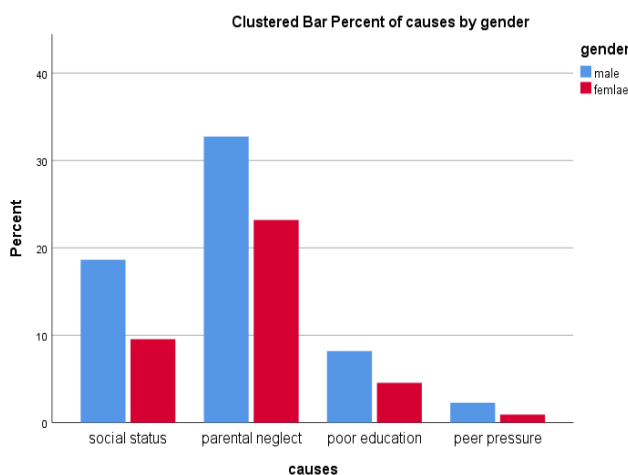
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of causes which contributes to juvenile delinquency with the age group of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of causes which contribute to juvenile delinquency is parental neglect, it is high in the case of the age group of 18-25.

FIGURE: 10



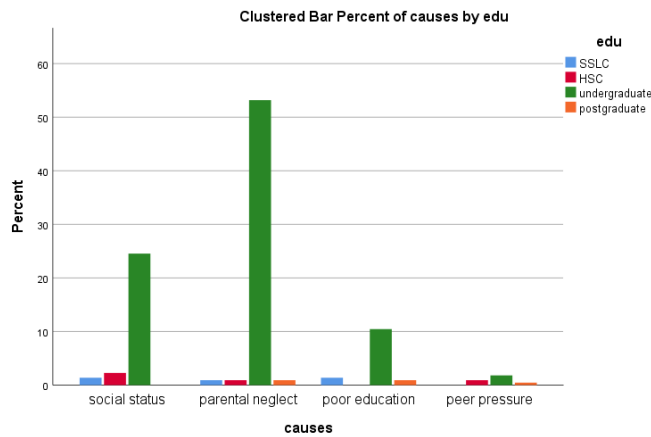
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of causes which contributes to juvenile delinquency with the gender of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of causes which contribute to juvenile delinquency is parental neglect, it is high in the case male group.

FIGURE: 11



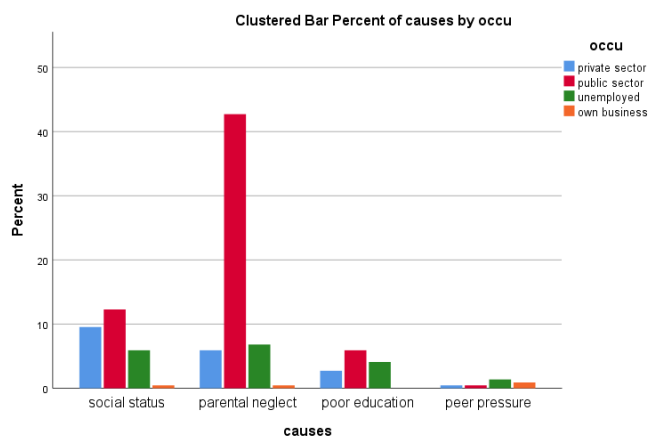
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of causes which contributes to juvenile delinquency with the educational qualifications of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of causes which contribute to juvenile delinquency is parental neglect, it is high in the case of the undergraduate people.

FIGURE: 12



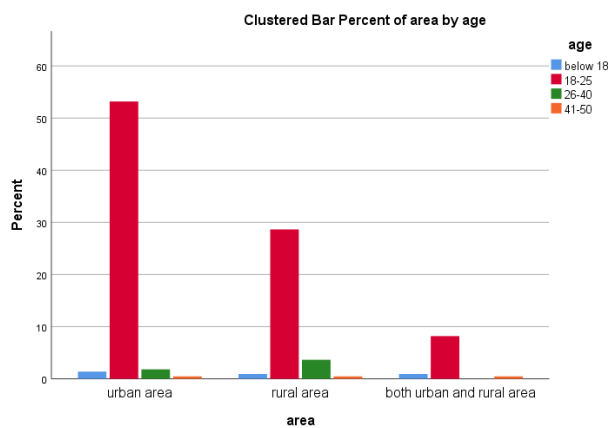
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of causes which contributes to juvenile delinquency with the occupation of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of causes which contribute to juvenile delinquency is parental neglect, it is high in the case of the public sector people

FIGURE: 13



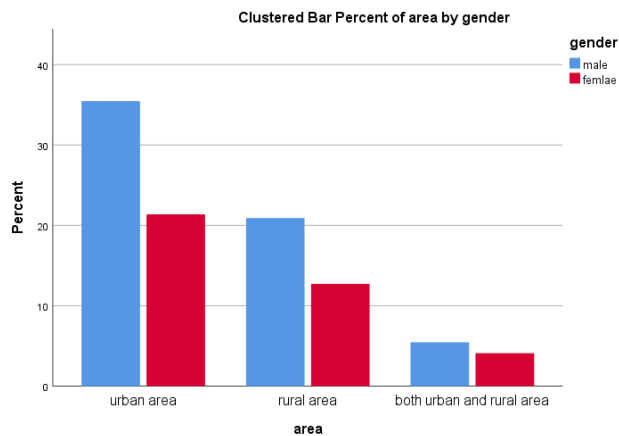
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of areas which have more juvenile delinquency with the age group of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of areas which have more juvenile delinquency is high in the urban area, it is high in the case of the age group of 18-25.

FIGURE: 14



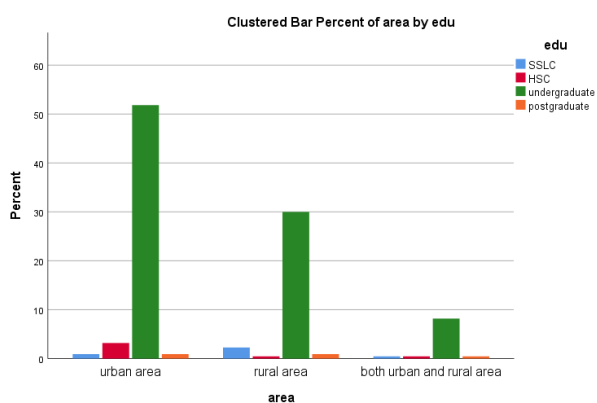
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of areas which have more juvenile delinquency with the gender of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of areas which have more juvenile delinquency is high in the urban area, it is high in the case of the male group.

FIGURE: 15



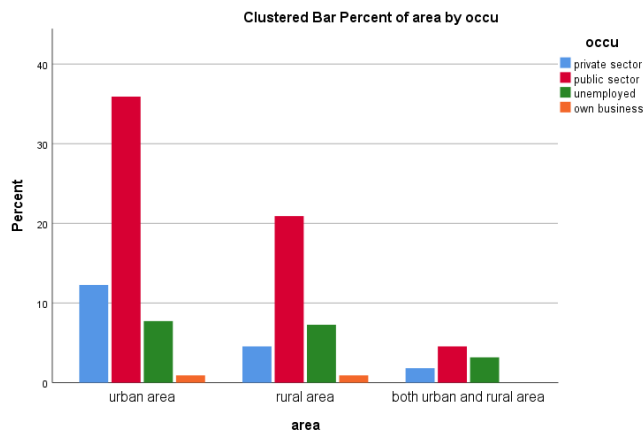
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of areas which have more juvenile delinquency with the educational qualifications of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of areas which have more juvenile delinquency is high in the urban area, it is high in the case of the male group.

FIGURE: 16



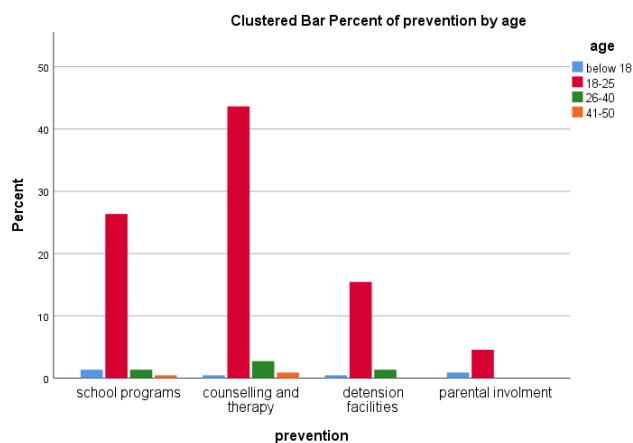
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of areas which have more juvenile delinquency with the occupation of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of areas which have more juvenile delinquency is high in the urban area, it is high in the case of the male group.

FIGURE: 17



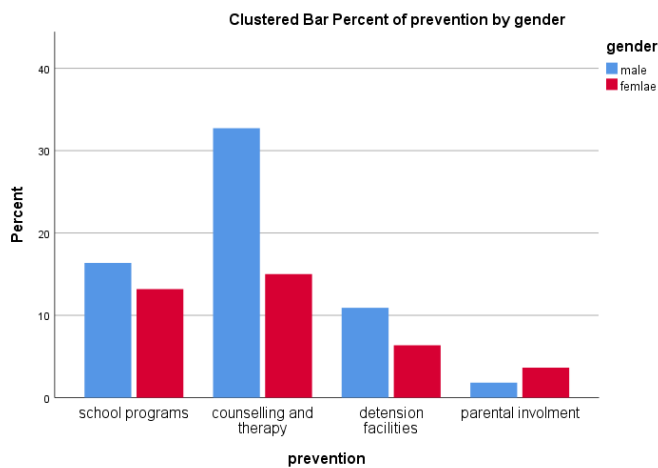
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of prevention methods of juvenile delinquency with the age group of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of prevention methods of juvenile delinquency is counselling and school programs, it is high in the case of the age group of 18-25.

FIGURE :18



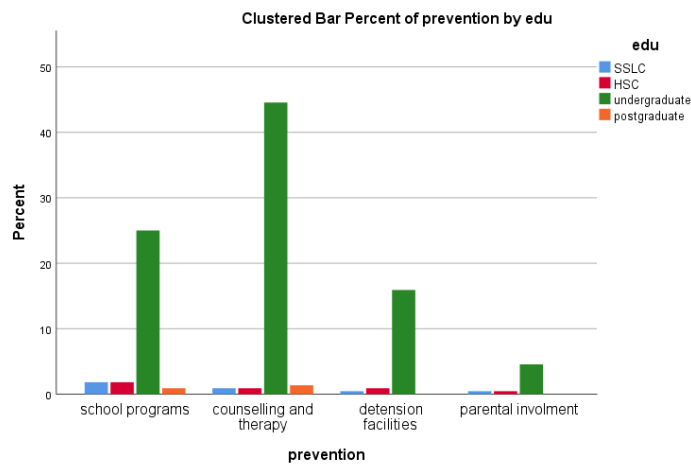
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of prevention methods of juvenile delinquency with the gender of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of prevention methods of juvenile delinquency is counselling and school programs, it is high in the case of the male group.

FIGURE: 19



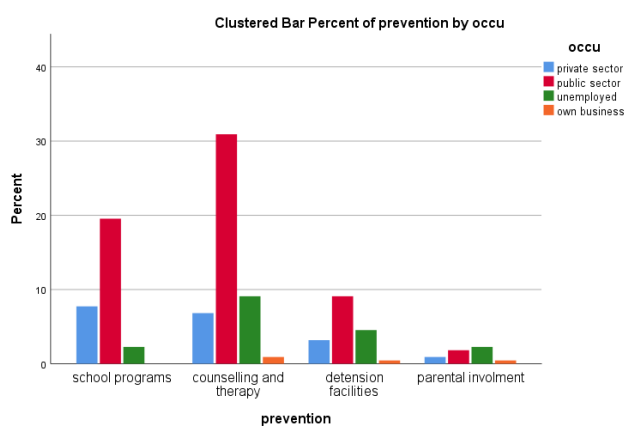
LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of prevention methods of juvenile delinquency with the educational qualifications of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of prevention methods of juvenile delinquency is counselling and school programs, it is high in the case of the undergraduate people.

FIGURE: 20



LEGEND:

The above figure shows the variability in the percentage of prevention methods of juvenile delinquency with the occupation of the respondents.

RESULT:

From the figure, the percentage of prevention methods of juvenile delinquency is counseling and school programs, it is high in the case of the public sector.

DISCUSSION:

From the analysis part it can be clearly seen that family violence and parental neglect contribute a lot to juvenile delinquency, improper parenting and improper supervision leads to juvenile delinquency. From the figure 5-8, the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency is high it is high in the case of the age group between 18-25. From the figure, the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency is high it is high in the case of the male group. From the figure, the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency is high, it is high in the case of the undergraduate people. From the figure 9-12, the percentage of family violence which contributes to juvenile delinquency is high, it is high in the case of the public sector people. And from figure 13-16 the main cause of juvenile delinquency is parental neglect, and it is also seen that juvenile crime has increased a lot in urban areas when compared to rural areas, most of the respondents have responded that juvenile delinquency is increased in urban areas, and from the figure 17-20 the prevention of juvenile delinquency can be done through counseling and therapy most of the respondent responded that juvenile delinquency can be corrected through counseling and therapy.

LIMITATION:

The main limitation of the study is that the survey was taken in a very confined manner as to the sample size and the frame. The respondents were only 200 and it is not possible to cover the maximum population and also due to the current COVID situation, the respondents were selected only from my contacts.

CONCLUSION:

The study sought to investigate the psycho-social factor that leads to juvenile delinquency and the causes of juvenile delinquency, further studies would be the psychological intervention that assists juvenile delinquents. From the above discussion and data, I may conclude that the family environment and the society is important for the development of the child since a child develops its behavior from observing the parents and the surroundings. Sometimes due to poor family

conditions such as economic problems, parental problem, child neglect contributes to the child delinquency since their basic needs aren't satisfied and the child longs for a proper care and protection that might certainly lead to criminal behavior in them. A parent with an utmost care and protection can lead a child to have a happy and healthy life and that's the primary step towards parenting if that is not properly done it might affect the child many ways, for example continuously shouting and yelling at the child cause depression and anxiety for a child, failure to satisfy their basic needs can trigger the child to commit small theft and petty offenses in order to satisfy their need and that's the stepping point for all the further crimes some child may or may not be able to handle the situation and certainly they will change to a delinquent or might face serious health problem sometimes it might lead to death of the child. Family constitutes a major part in a society as we know every family together forms a society, in that case if any family deviates and disintegrates then certainly society is also affected at large, so it is important that a family has to be strong enough and properly organized in order to raise a child in proper way. It is in the family that the child acquires important qualities of life such as sincerity, humbleness, respecting others, responsibility and other behavioral qualities. Therefore, as it's clear in this study, the physically, emotionally and psychologically broken families contribute a large to the increasing rate of delinquency.

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