

## CAUSATIVE FACTORS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY- A STUDY

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***Abstract:** Juvenile delinquency in today's generation has slowly begun to be a severe problem. This is a serious threat to the society. As the Nation is developing day by day so is juvenile delinquency. The present investigation focused on to understand the leading contributing factors of juvenile delinquency is a fundamental part of preventing young people from committing illegal, antisocial and detrimental conduct .The work also tries to analyze the role of Observation Home for correcting the behaviour of juvenile delinquents as well as social and psychological improvement in returning the offenders back to the right path.*

**Keywords:** Juvenile Delinquency, Observation Home, Correctional Measures.

### I. Introduction

“Juvenile Delinquency” is a universal phenomenon. Like other social problems, it affects the society as a whole and it covers a bigger area of human society. Especially from a few decades, the increasing rate of delinquency made a huge imbalance in society and it becomes a major sensitive issue. The increasing rate of juvenile delinquency has drawn the attention of social scientists and social researchers. It is sensible because the delinquent child of today maybe turned out to be a habitual offender tomorrow. At the same time today's children are the future of any Nation. Therefore it is important to pay attention to this social issue.

In context of India, the rate of juvenile delinquency is increasing day by day mostly in the major states like Pune, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and capital Delhi etc. Assam is one of the major states of India. And according to the Times of India report Assam has topped the list of North-eastern states with highest rate of juvenile delinquency. With the latest report of the

State Child Protection Society (SCPS) revealing that children's mostly engage themselves in horrible crimes like rape, murders as well as petty ones like cheating, theft and dacoity. These are only a few examples of juvenile delinquency. Besides there are plenty of cases of juvenile delinquency are still pending in Assam.

Therefore the present work has been focused on this social issue of Assam. In Assam there are only 5 Observation Home in 5 districts for both boys and girls who are effectively deal with this social issue. These homes are namely- Jorhat Observation Home for Boys (Jorhat), Nagaon Observation Home for Girls (Nagaon), Jalukbari Observation Home for Girls (Kamrup Metro), Boko Observation Home for Boys (Kamrup Metro), and Silchar Observation for Boys (Cachar). The present study is conducted in the Jorhat Observation Home. This home is based on a place named Lichubari, Jorhat District of Assam. Jorhat Observation Home has covers total 11 district of Assam to deal with the Juvenile Delinquents such as Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Sonitpur, Nagaon and Morigaon. The present study will seek to understand the factors responsible for juvenile delinquency and the measures taken by the Jorhat Observation Home for correcting the behaviour of juvenile delinquents as well as their social and psychological improvement.

## II. Objective of the Study

The main objectives of the study is-

- i) To study the factors responsible for juvenile delinquency.
- ii) To examine the correctional measures taken by the Jorhat Observation Home.

The present work has been based on three theoretical approaches. These are accordingly the Differential Association theory, Economic theory, and Containment theory of crime and delinquency would help to understand the systematic and logical understanding of the particular problem.

**Differential Association Theory:** Eminent criminologist Edwin Sutherland proposed the Differential Association theory. Sutherland's theory is one of the best sociological perspectives on crime. According to this theory deviance behaviour is a learning behaviour. Through cultural transmissions and interactions one can learn the values, attitudes, techniques, rationalization and motives for criminal behaviour. Thus, criminal behaviours can

be explained as a product of learning interaction with other persons inevitably assimilated the surrounding cultures unless other patterns are in conflict (Sutherland & Cressey, 1960). The influence of peer groups is at the heart of the theory, with competing positive and negative perspectives on delinquency determining a person's likelihood of turning to criminal (Konch, K., 2017).

**Economic Theory:** Willem Adriaan Bonger developed the Economic theory of crime in his work 'Criminality and Economic Conditions' published in 1905. He believed that there is a casual relation between crime and economy. Bonger's theory is influenced by Marxist approach on economy. According to this theory, capitalistic economy is the major cause of increasing crime in modern day period. Bonger stated that capitalistic mode of production is responsible for individual's criminal behaviour. This theory states that people commit crime for the economic gain. This theory mainly focused on the economic factor that leads to juvenile delinquency.

**Containment Theory:** Containment theory of crime and delinquency is developed by Walter Reckless in the 1960s. It is basically a control theory. Like all the self-control theories Reckless's theory is also build on the basis of internal and external control of self which Reckless named inner and outer containment. According to this theory there are tendencies of young children's that pushed and pulled them into antisocial or illegal activity. Push factors are always forced young children to commit delinquent activity whereas pull factors draw them away from established forms of behaviour. Pull and push factors are the impact of individual's inner and outer containments. Inner containment includes self-concept, goal orientation, frustration tolerance and norm commitment and retention. The outer containment includes the social environment in which the individuals lives and reflects socialization within the community (Cardwell, 2013). The key aspect of Reckless's theory is the fact that only some youths are found in a magnitude of high delinquent. The assumption for this is that all youths are facing similar pushes and pulls towards delinquency that externally control family and neighbourhood (Konch, K., 2017).

### III. Methodology of the Study

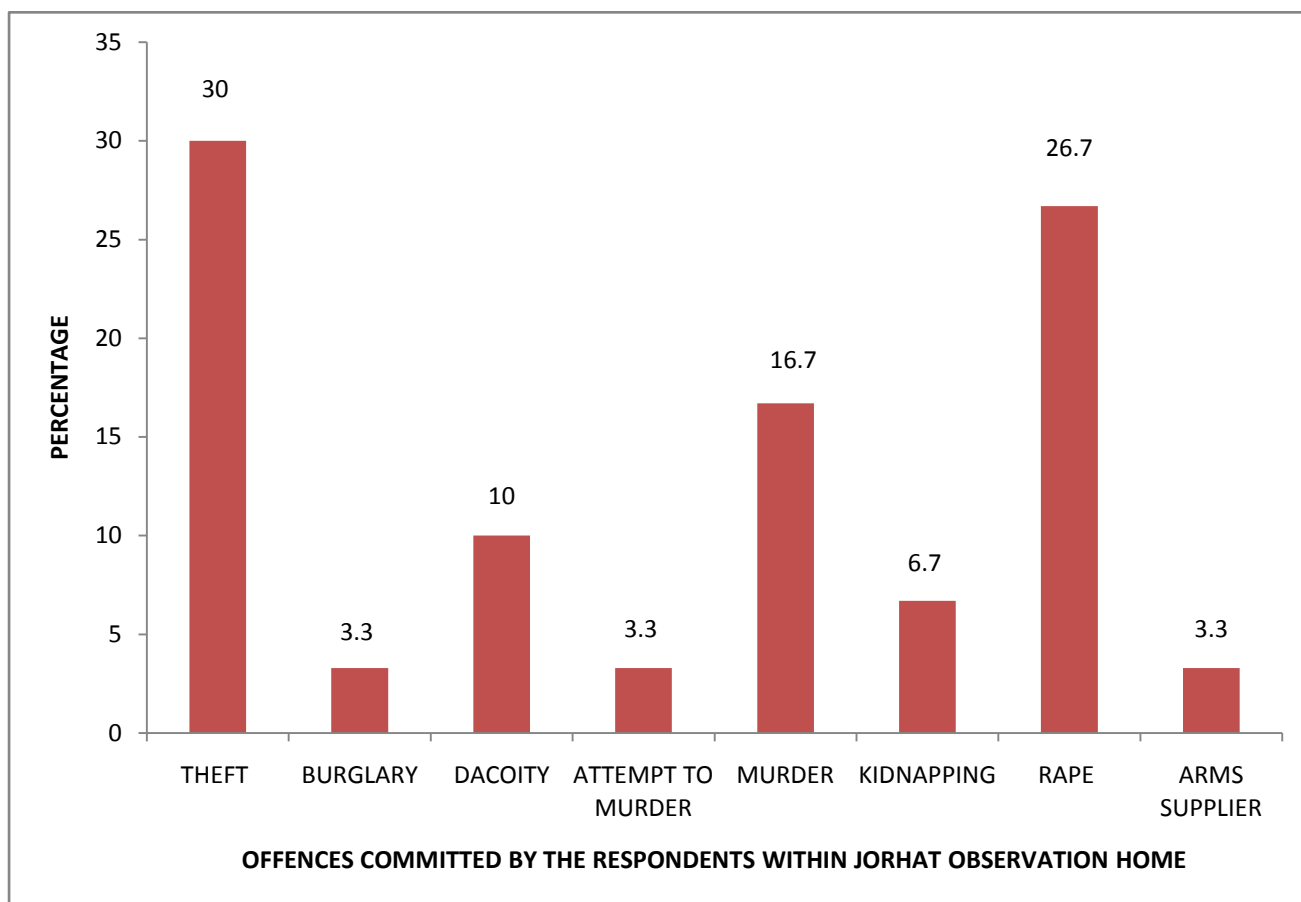
For the present study the Jorhat Observation Home has been selected for the area of the study. Out of total five observation home in Assam, purposive random sampling has been applied to select Jorhat Observation Home as the area of the study. For the present study

total 30 respondents has been selected between the age group of 10 to 18 years of age. Both primary and secondary data has been collected for the study whereas the primary data collected from the inmates who are lodged in the concern observation home in Jorhat District of Assam. Purposive sampling technique has been used to collect primary data from the sample. And the secondary data has been collected data from various books, journals, articles, theses, concerned websites, and reports.

#### **IV. Results and Discussion**

The present work has been focused to find out the factors which are responsible for the growing rate of juvenile delinquency. This paper aims to describe briefly about the root factors of juvenile delinquency and the role of Jorhat Observation Home to moulding their behaviour. Children's involved themselves in different kinds of antisocial activity. Especially in the Jorhat Observation Home, it has been found that different kinds of illegal acts like theft, burglary, dacoity, kidnapping and abduction, arms supplier etc. where young children's directly or indirectly involved. Apart from that severe crimes like rape, attempt to murder and murder has been also found between the inmates of the Jorhat Observation Home. So, understanding the leading contributing factors of juvenile delinquency is a fundamental part of preventing young people from committing illegal, antisocial and detrimental conduct here the researcher tries to find out the code of conduct of the offenders through this work.

**Figure 1: Offences Committed by the Respondents within Jorhat Observation Home**



Above the figure 1 shows that from the 30 respondents highest 30% caught in theft. The second highest 26.7% caught in brutal crime rape. Then 16.7% juvenile were murderer. 10% caught in dacoity; 6.7% juveniles were found kidnapping and other 3.3% were found accordingly burglary, attempt to murder and arms supplier.

From the present study, the researcher has been found some major factors which are mainly responsible for the young children’s criminal behaviour. These are mentioned below:

**A. Family and Juvenile Delinquency**

Family is the backbone of every individual. It is that primary institution who helps to mould a person’s overall personality. But from the study researcher found that family as one of the major contributing factors of juvenile delinquency. Because in this present work indicated that a great number of respondents were from broken families. Domestic violence, extra marital affair, family tension, alcoholic parents and family economic crisis are mainly responsible in the development of juvenile delinquency.

Raja, a 15 year old inmate of Jorhat Observation Home confessed that he killed his alcoholic father. It was the situation that made Raja did that because he often brutally tortured by his father. He also mentioned that he has no regret of his past did.

It is also found from the study that rejection of parents, lack of proper parental control, lack of moral guidance and defective socialization process is responsible for the children's antisocial behaviour.

### **B. Neighbourhood and Juvenile Delinquency**

The impact of neighbourhood has been found as another factor of juvenile delinquency. Apart from family, neighbourhood also exert an influence in the shaping of the social behaviour of the growing child. But from the study it has been found that most of the offenders growing up in poor and unhealthy neighbourhood. It reflects in their behaviour. Antisocial acts like stealing, destroying property, refusing to follow societal rules and regulations etc. are the impact of defective neighbourhood. Also involved in severe crimes like rape and kidnapping.

Sumit, an 18 years old boy admits that he raped a 4 year old girl. He also reveals that some of his neighbourhood friends motivated him to do so.

### **C. Peer Group Pressure and Juvenile Delinquency**

Like the neighbourhood peer-group pressure also has positive and negative impacts on young people engaged in illegal acts. An individual's behaviour is mostly influenced to a considerable extent by the behaviour of his companions. Edwin Sutherland in his Differential Association Theory viewed that criminal behaviour is learning behaviour which is acquired through interaction with others. And the influence of peer-group is the heart of this theory. In this study, the researcher found a number of offenders committing illegal acts with the help of peer-group.

Lalit (13) raped his classmate. He said that he was influenced by two of his friends. They gagged, gang raped, doused in kerosene and set on fire by him, her cousin and a 19 year old boy. That girl was also a minor (13 years). (Nagaon Gang rape, murder case, 2018)

### **D. Education and Juvenile Delinquency**

Low educational background is the prime attribute for juvenile delinquency. Researcher has found that most delinquents are from illiterate and less educated families. Similarly 73.3%

delinquents are only literate up to primary level. 13.3% illiterate and other high school and metric (6.7%) and above matriculation (6.7%). From the study, the researcher also found that the atmosphere of educational institution, both inside and outside of the classroom environment, cases of school drop outs, apathy in academic activities, peer group pressure, rejection and negligence of parents and teachers leads to their children's delinquent behaviour.

#### **E. Economic Condition and Juvenile Delinquency**

Poor economic back ground is another significant factor contributing juvenile delinquency. Because crime and economic status of an individual is so related to each other. According to Bonger there is a causal relationship between crime and economy. Bonger's economic theory states that individual commit crime for economic gain. From the study, the researcher found that children's belonging to poor families have many desires that remain unfulfilled. Thus to satisfy their needs and desires they involved in illegal activities. The impact of low socio-economic status is revealed most strongly goes deeper into the delinquency adjudication process.

Raga (15 years) works as an arms supplier. He admits that he engaged himself into illegal acts just to look after his old and diseased mother.

#### **F. Psychological Factor and Juvenile Delinquency**

Psychological factor also contributes the development of juvenile delinquency. From this study it has been found that psychological factors like mental sub normality, instability of mind, imbalanced personality, emotional conflicts, and intolerance for ambiguity and such other negative factors which pushes and pulls children to the delinquent behaviour.

Karim, 17, a habitual offender, He was caught in dacoity. He is a past offender. This was his third time in the Observation Home. He explains that his instable mind and peer groups often motivates him doing illegal activity.

Above mentioned factors are considered as the most contributing factor of juvenile delinquency as found by the researcher after interviewing the inmates of Jorhat Observation Home.

For the reformations of the children conflict with law Jorhat Observation Home is registered for the purposes specified in sub-section (1) of section 47 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and

Protection) Act, 2015. During the time of research, researcher found that a number of rehabilitation and social reintegration measures have been provided by the observation home for the children in conflict with law and those in need of care and protection. Under the institutional care, children are provided with various services including food, shelter, education, health, rehabilitation, nutrition and treatment of disease. Also provide different kinds of vocational trainings, skill development, life skill education, proper counselling etc. So that they can play a constructive role in society once they return back to their daily life.

### **V. Major Findings**

From the study that has been conducted by the researcher the discovered that the major factors responsible for the increasing rate of juvenile delinquency are malfunctioning family, peer group pressures, defective neighbourhood, faulty education, poor economic conditions, and socio-psychological impact. These all factors are directly or indirectly responsible for a children's delinquent behaviour.

### **VI. Conclusion**

The mounting rate of juvenile delinquency in India as well as in Assam is a very concerning matter and need to be focused upon. As some of the reports already mentioned Assam is one of the most susceptible and multi hazard risk prone states in India. Although the Government has laid various rules and legislation to discontinue the incidents of juvenile delinquency but due to the lack of proper knowledge and unawareness of people the results are not fruitful and legislative objectives is not accomplishing.

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