



Juvenile Delinquency


Ku. Sakshi Bansal ^{1*}, Dr. Richa Shrivastava ², Dr. Niti Nipuna ³

¹ Student, Sage University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

^{2,3} Associate Professor, Sage University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author: * Ku. Sakshi Bansal

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Abstract	Manuscript Information
<p>Juvenile delinquency refers to criminal or antisocial behaviour by individuals under the age of 18. It is a complex and growing societal issue with multiple causes, including family problems, peer influence, poverty, lack of education, and mental health challenges. This assignment explores the root causes, types, psychological aspects, and legal responses to juvenile offenses. It also examines the role of media, the importance of rehabilitation, and international approaches to juvenile justice. By focusing on preventive strategies and reformative measures, this paper emphasizes that early intervention, education, and community support are key to addressing and reducing juvenile delinquency. The ultimate goal is to support the reintegration of young offenders into society as responsible citizens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ISSN No: 2583-7397 ▪ Received: 26-05-2025 ▪ Accepted: 12-06-2025 ▪ Published: 22-06-2025 ▪ IJCRM:4(3); 2025: 474-477 ▪ ©2025, All Rights Reserved ▪ Plagiarism Checked: Yes ▪ Peer Review Process: Yes
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INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency refers to participation in illegal behaviour by minors — individuals typically under the age of 18. These behaviours can range from minor infractions like truancy or curfew violations to more serious crimes such as robbery, assault, or even homicide. Juvenile delinquency has far-reaching implications for society, as it impacts not only the victims and families involved but also the broader social and legal systems.

Understanding its root causes and finding ways to mitigate them is essential to promoting a safer and more just society.

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency cannot be attributed to a single cause. Rather, it emerges from a combination of personal, social, economic, and environmental factors.

A. Family Factors

- Lack of parental supervision
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Single-parent households or parental neglect
- Overly permissive or excessively strict parenting

B. Peer Influence

- Adolescents may feel pressured to conform to the behaviours of their peer group.
- Gang involvement and peer approval can lead to criminal behaviour.

C. Poverty and Economic Deprivation

- Financial hardships can drive young people to seek illegal ways of making money.
- Poor living conditions, lack of recreational facilities, and overcrowded neighbourhoods are contributing factors.

D. Educational Disengagement

- School dropouts and poor academic performance can result in low self-esteem and frustration, pushing youth toward delinquent behaviour.
- Bullying and lack of supportive school environments can also have a negative impact.

Psychological Aspects of Juvenile Delinquency

Psychological issues play a significant role in many juvenile cases. Common traits among juvenile offenders may include:

- Impulse control problems
- Low frustration tolerance
- Antisocial behaviour patterns
- Mental health disorders such as conduct disorder or ADHD

Some juveniles may also exhibit signs of trauma from early childhood experiences, leading to behavioural issues.

Types of Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile crimes are usually classified into the following categories:

A. Delinquent Acts

These are criminal acts such as theft, burglary, vandalism, or assault that would be crimes even if committed by an adult.

B. Status Offenses

Offenses that are only illegal due to the age of the offender, like running away from home, underage drinking, or truancy.

C. Violent Crimes

Though rare, some juveniles commit severe crimes like rape or homicide. These cases often receive media attention and stir public debate.

Role of Media in Juvenile Delinquency

Media can influence young minds in both positive and negative ways:

- **Negative Impact:** Exposure to violence in television shows, movies, and video games can desensitize young people and normalize aggressive behaviour.
- **Positive Impact:** Media campaigns can be used to spread awareness and educate youth about the consequences of crime.

Legal Framework and Juvenile Justice System

The juvenile justice system exists to rehabilitate rather than punish. In India, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is the main legislation that governs juvenile offenders.

Key features include:

- Establishing Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs)
- Provision for “Children in Conflict with Law” and “Children in Need of Care and Protection”
- Emphasis on reformatory measures such as counselling, education, and rehabilitation
- In serious cases (heinous offenses), juveniles aged 16–18 may be tried as adults after due assessment by the JJB.

Rehabilitation and Prevention Strategies

Rehabilitation is more effective than punishment in reducing repeat offenses. Some important strategies include:

- Family-based interventions: Helping parents improve communication and parenting skills.
- Education and Vocational Training: Helps juveniles gain skills for employment and become productive members of society.
- Therapy and Counselling: Addressing behavioural and emotional issues.
- Community Programs: Youth clubs, sports, and mentoring programs.
- Police-Community Partnerships: Working together to identify at-risk youth and intervene early.

International Perspective on Juvenile Delinquency

Different countries approach juvenile delinquency in different ways:

- United States: Juvenile courts focus on rehabilitation, but some states allow minors to be tried as adults in serious cases.
- Scandinavian countries (e.g., Norway, Sweden): Emphasize rehabilitation with strong support systems and minimal incarceration.
- Japan: Focuses on community involvement and moral education through schools and families.

Internationally, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) emphasizes the need to treat juvenile offenders in a manner consistent with the promotion of their dignity and worth.

Case Studies

- Delhi Gang Rape (2012): One of the accused was a juvenile, sparking debates in India over whether the age limit should be lowered in cases of heinous crimes.
- Chicago, USA: Numerous gang-related shootings involve juveniles; the city has implemented outreach programs and educational reforms to curb the problem.
- Juvenile Correction Programs in Germany: Focus on vocational training and individualized therapy — showing low re-offending rates.

Juvenile delinquency remains a pressing concern, but it is not an irreversible condition. With the right interventions — at the family, school, community, and judicial levels — it is possible to steer young individuals away from crime. Emphasizing rehabilitation over punishment, addressing mental health needs, and promoting education and community engagement can significantly reduce juvenile offenses. Ultimately, the goal should be to help juveniles reintegrate into society as responsible and productive citizens, rather than labelling them permanently for actions often driven by circumstances beyond their control. Juvenile delinquency refers to participation in illegal behaviour by minors — individuals typically under the age of 18. These behaviours can range from minor infractions like truancy or curfew violations to more serious crimes such as robbery, assault, or even homicide. Juvenile delinquency has far-reaching implications for society, as it impacts not only the victims and families involved but also the broader social and legal systems. Understanding its root causes and finding ways to mitigate them is essential to promoting a safer and more just society.

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CONCLUSION

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About the Author



SAKSHI BANSAL
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Sakshi Bansal, born on September 13, 2001, is a dedicated and ambitious legal scholar from Sabalgarh, Madhya Pradesh. At the age of 23, she has successfully completed her postgraduate education, earning an LL.M. (Master of Laws) degree from SAGE University, Indore. Throughout her academic journey, Sakshi has exhibited a deep commitment to the field of law, driven by discipline, intellectual curiosity, and a strong sense of purpose. She continues to build a promising career grounded in legal knowledge and a passion for justice.