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## **Socio-Legal Aspects of Juvenile Delinquency: Role of Societal Institutions in Delinquency**

**By : Vishal Anand**

### **Abstract**

No person is a born criminal. Similarly, no person wants to become a criminal. Then the question arises as to why some people or more specifically the children deviate or commit crime and become criminals. It can be said that criminals are made by the different agencies of society. The making of criminals generally occurs in the early stages of the children that is right from the birth till the period of adolescence. It depends upon the various factors such as lack of quality education, peer pressure, violence, socio-economic factors, political factors, lack of moral support or guidance, neglect etc. There are various societal institutions like parents, family members, school, peer-groups etc responsible for the juvenile delinquency. This happens due to the formation of multiple strata like the rich class, middle class and poor class in the society. The rich enjoy all the powers and privileges which is not enjoyed by the poor or needy ones. This creates differentiation in the upbringings of two different kinds of children i.e., one belonging from a rich class and other from the poor class which further leads in juvenile delinquency. Therefore, it can be said that society plays a very important role in juvenile delinquency

### **1. Introduction**

The concept of child is an old age phenomenon and has drastically evolved during the past few years. In the era of modern world, the concept of child has taken a very strange meaning altogether. In spite of having several national and international definitions of child, it has always been a problem in fixing a particular age limit with respect to the mental capacity or maturity of the child. This means that there could be situations where a ten-year-old child may think like a fifteen-year-old child and a fifteen-year-old child may think like an adult. It has always been

difficult to identify the mental capacity or maturity of a child with respect to his / her age. For example, in India, Sec. 83 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 states that nothing is an offence which is done by a child above seven years of age and under twelve years of age who has not attained the sufficient maturity to understand and judge the nature and consequences of his conduct. This means that the court has to rely on the maturity of a child to bring him/her under the ambit of offence committed which is very difficult to compute.

Gradually the world progressed and so the concept of juvenile. Juveniles are the children who are generally considered as adolescence between ten to eighteen years of age. The word 'Juvenile' has been derived from a Latin term 'juvenis' meaning 'young'. Similarly, the term 'Delinquency' has been derived from the term 'delinquere' meaning do (away from) and liqueur (to leave). This means that crimes committed by children are not called as crimes rather delinquent acts. Every crime is a delinquency but not vice-versa. Prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, young offenders basically children were treated with adult or hardcore criminals which lead in making those children becoming criminals in future. This defeated the concept of reformative punishment where a criminal is given a chance to reform and become a law-abiding citizen. This led to the evolution of juvenile homes or juvenile detention centre where the juveniles were given special care, protection and given a chance to reform or rehabilitate by becoming a normal law-abiding citizen instead of hardcore criminals in future.

There is no universal definition of a child. Childhood is basically a social and cultural construction with physical and psychological development. Due to the lack of physical as well as mental strength, maturity and independence, children are considered to be the most vulnerable group in the society. A child cannot be only defined by his biological age rather the mental age should also be taken into consideration. The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child below the age of eighteen years unless he/she attains majority under the law applicable to the child.

## 2. Historical overview of Child and Juvenile Delinquency

A child is considered as the most precious gift of the god. Some people even consider it equivalent to god. In ancient period, child was considered as the pure soul with positive source of energy. People desired of having children and they were considered precious. Children were provided education, given independence and future adult role to contribute in the development of the society. Girls and boys were treated equally and had the universal right to education.

Education was considered to be one of the most precious gems, given the highest status in the society. It was considered that a learned person is more respectable than a king which is not seen in today's society. Manu smriti has also recognised the same with respect to different "(sixteen) sanskars" given to the children right from the time of their birth to that of their death<sup>1</sup>. Family or more specifically, parental care was considered to be the important factor in development of the child in his/her initial age. After this, the child has to be imparted with quality education, learn "vedas" and took blessing of his/her "guru" or "acharya" in later stages<sup>2</sup>. This resulted in the good overall development of the child and society at large.

But, now a days, the concept of child has completely different meaning from that of vedic or ancient period. The mindset of the people and society has changed regarding the child. In some families, girls are considered as burden and are not treated equally with that of boys. They do not enjoy all the basic facilities which are given to boys due to traditional myths. Even in a family of two sons, the younger one is given more love and care than the older one. So, in these cases, a child will definitely not enjoy his early childhood, would not get the parental love and care and would not learn the basic moral values or etiquettes which is considered to be one of the most important part in the development of a child.

Seeing this kind of approach towards the children regarding the infringements of child rights by the group of people, the United Nation came up with different Conventions and Treaties on the rights of child to combat these situations specifically regarding the upliftment of basic human rights of the child which included right to live, right to food, right to shelter, right to care and protection, right to education and many more.

### 3. Sociological Aspects of Juvenile Delinquency

Children are the future of a nation and as said by Abraham Lincoln, "*the child of today is the citizen of tomorrow.*" We have come across these types of statements several times in our life. There is no doubt that children are the future of a nation or a society as what we are doing today is something that they will do tomorrow. They are the future building blocks of the society. But are they considered to be the part of the society or even they find a place in the society to live peacefully? I agree that there are exceptions in every situation but there are few children who are

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<sup>1</sup> Arun Raj GR, Shailaja U, Prasanna N Rao, The Childhood Samskaras (Rites of Passage) and its Scientific Appreciation, Ayurpharm IJAAS, Vol.2, No. 12 Pg. 372-383, (2013), file:///C:/Users/Vishal/Downloads/ayurpharm2123.pdf.

<sup>2</sup> Prabhat Sitholey, Vivek Agarwal, Satya Vrat, Indian Mental Concepts on Children and Adolescents, Indian Journal of Psychiatry, 55(Suppl 2), Pg. 277-282, Jan, 2013, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3705696/>.

not considered to be the part of the society. They are sometimes even disowned by their own family as well. So, if a society does not care for the well-being of a child, then how will that child contribute for the advancement of the society. The neglected or abandoned child would definitely develop in a very different way with respect to a child who is considered to be the part of the society.

### *3.1 Sociological Factors*

Anti-Socialisation is considered as one of the important factors in the delinquent behaviour of juvenile. Socialisation is nothing but the process by which a human being or the members of the society learns the social norms adopted by the particular society by interaction and communication of different people. These social norms must be legitimate and is generally based on customs, morality, cultural and religious beliefs. Due to the diversity of members in a society it is quite possible that there is a chance of conflict of interest amongst them. One member may adopt certain norms and the other may not. This is a general human behaviour which happens in every society. That is why we need a set of rules to regulate the conduct of human beings and particularly the society at large. Therefore, there are certain social organisations to maintain the balance and interests of its members in the society.

Delinquency is to deviate from the existing path or prevailing legitimate path in the society and adopting illegitimate ways to achieve certain goals. It is basically the crime committed by a child or a juvenile. This happens due to multiple factors such as superiority or inferiority present in the society. A child is born with certain behavioural pattern and personal traits which is unpredictable. Now this behavioural pattern of a child is needed for the social interaction in the society. If it differs from that of the social norms of the society, delinquency occurs. Now there are some cases where the society sometimes forces or compels a person or a child to adopt certain social norms. In these cases, a child may be beaten or tortured by his parents or by the other members of the society with regard to the socialisation process.

One of the core features of the socialisation is that a particular person or individual may accept or reject the social norms of that particular society. Acceptance is highly appreciable but rejection is backed with sanctions. That is why it is very important for a child to interact with the members of the society, especially of his/her own age groups, and become familiar with the other people as well. Now for a child or young ones this interaction should be with the educated and influential people so that they can learn all the good moral and ethical principles. A child needs a



good exposure in the society and similarly, a society should also give this to a child in a positive and fruitful way. If the initial teachings are wrong then how can a child become a good person. So, the process of socialisation of a child is dependent on the members of the society, how they treat, teach and help or aid in the overall development of the child.

### *3.2 Political Factors*

Political factors are based on the forms of government by which a country or society is being governed. Irrespective of the forms of government governing a particular society or nation, good governance should be the prime function of the government or the political party who is in power. Like in a democratic set-up the voice of people prevails and as said by Abraham Lincoln, the 16<sup>th</sup> U.S. President, democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. This is because people choose their representatives and enjoy the privilege of guaranteed fundamental rights. On the contrary to this, the authoritarian form of government is generally considered as rule by one. This is more rigid in nature where it is very difficult to uphold the voice of people.

Now the question arises as to what factors are contributing or leading to juvenile delinquency. The answer to this is first to identify whether the political party or the government is taking any kind of initiative or measures for the upliftment of a juvenile in the society or not. The government should also provide the basic human needs like food, shelter, clothes etc for the poor or needy children. We also need to find that if there are any political factors leading or contributing to that of juvenile delinquency or not. Whether the government, directly or indirectly, is encouraging this kind of behaviour for their own political or economic profit? It is the responsibility of the people or the members of the society and the duty of the government to bring an end to all these encouraging behaviours and make certain arrangements in contribution to the well-being of children. One of the most important function of government is to make competent laws regarding care, protection and reformation of the child. This is important for the overall development of the children who are in conflict with the law or deviate from the legitimate path. Laws pertaining to the children should be different from that of the traditional laws prevailing for the adult.

### *3.3 Economical Factors*

Economy plays a very vital role in the development of the society or nation. The gap between the rich and poor may lead in juvenile delinquency. Poverty is one of the main reasons for the

increase in crime committed by children and is not only restricted to them but in adults also. The lack of employment, lack of opportunities, untimely distribution of salary or income has not only created a room for the commission of crime but has also compelled the people to commit crime for getting their basic needs like food, clothes etc. Globalisation has also created an impact on the increase in juvenile delinquency as crime against children especially child trafficking, child prostitution, drugs etc has grown a lot over the period of time. Children are forced into these illegal businesses and in some cases, voluntarily involving of the children is witnessed. This could be due to multiple reasons but the main reason is lack of money to survive in this tough and competitive world. The mindset of the society also plays an important role regarding the economic factors leading to juvenile delinquency. We know that financial success is considered the most important part in the life of a common man especially in country like America. In India, people want to become rich and powerful but not by legitimate means rather through illegitimate methods as it is easy and gives quick results but is backed by heavy costs such as imprisonment or fine.

Every people have certain goals in their receptive life and they adopt certain means to achieve those goals. Now these goals and means can be legitimate or illegitimate. In case of a child, let's say that there are two different children born in two different kinds of families, one being economically stable or belonging from a rich family and the other belonging from a poor family. Now both these children would have certain goals to achieve in their life and to achieve those goals they need money in the form of good education, good coaching to achieve their desired goals. The child from the rich family would easily get all these facilities and may become achieve the desired goals in future and the one from the poor family might not get all of these facilities and may adopt illegitimate means to achieve the desired goals. This creates a kind of discrimination amongst the children on the basis of economic factors. This is the time where the government and/or with the help of social organisations such as different NGOs who are working for the welfare of the children can contribute in the development of the children belonging from the poor family.

#### 4. Role of Societal Institutions in Delinquency

It is said that crime is dependent on certain factors as every criminal has a motive behind the commission of crime and every crime is committed for a purpose. Similarly, it can be said that delinquency does not occur on its own and therefore, is dependent on numerous factors which

are either directly or indirectly contributing in the delinquent behaviour of the juveniles.

#### *4.1 Parents / Guardians*

The role of parents or the guardian, according to me, is very much important in the development of a child. It is said that if a tree needs to be strong, it must be born strong. Similarly, it can be said that the upbringing of a child is very important and it has been observed that where the upbringing of a child is strong, the child is less likely to deviate. This upbringing should be in a systematic way by providing physical, mental and moral support to the children. This is where the role of parents come right after the birth of the child achieves maturity. A child is generally very close to his / her biological parents. The age between five to ten years is very crucial for the overall development of the child and can be done by educating them with good moral values, customs, ethics, teachings of right and wrong or good and bad etc. But now a days, it has been seen that a child is considered as burden to their parents. In some cases, parents don't have enough time to sit and talk with their child. This is the reason that in large metro cities, a child after he / she attains the age of five is given or admitted in a play school for the whole long day. This is because both the parents are working and don't have the time to look after their child. In some cases, a baby minder is kept for the purpose of looking after the child. There is no doubt that the child gets all the economic facilities from their parents but does not get the most important of all that is the parental attention which includes physical presence, psychological support, emotional love and care. Only financial support will not help in the overall development of a child.

#### *4.2 Family members*

Family members are considered to be the second most important category of people for the development of child. It can be said that they are the near and dear ones of the child which includes the grandparents, uncle, aunt, cousins etc of a child. A child needs a joint family in which he / she can interact with different family members, learn good behaviour, play and grow with them. This helps the child in the overall physical, mental and emotional development of the child. It is common notion that a child is very close to his / her grandparents and vice-versa. They obey and follow the advice given by the grandparents instead of their parents. The more the interaction the higher will be the development of the child. This makes the child extrovert and more interactive. But now-a-days, the concept of nuclear family has evolved and the notion of joint family is diminishing day by day. As said above, since both the parents are working to for

their livelihood, children are left with no one to talk, interact and play. Rather they are given mobile phones or tablets at a very low age so that they do not disturb their parents. Virtual mode of communication has superseded the physical mode and has resulted in depression, anxiety, loneliness in the child which hampers their mental and physical development.

#### *4.3 Peer groups / Friend's circle*

Friends play an important part in our lives. But it is quite difficult to have a good, trustworthy and a selfless friend in the today's selfish world. The journey of making friends basically starts after the age of five. A child living in a particular society interacts and plays with the other children of that particular society. Gradually they become friends. But there may be difference of opinion in two different children like one may be from a rich family who's all the needs and desired are fulfilled and the other from the middle-class family whose all needs and desires could not be fulfilled and may feel jealous of the same. Due to this the child belonging from the middle-class family may indulge in frequent quarrels, fights with the other child belonging from the rich family. Sometimes, it has been seen that few children instigate others to create pressure on their parents to fulfil certain demands and if not, then they try to indulge them to achieve those demands through illegitimate ways. This is a constant phenomenon and prevails in every part of the society.

#### *4.4 Society / Community*

A society consists of different kinds of people belonging from different class, creed, religion etc. Though Article 14 of The Constitution of India says that all people are equal before the law but this doesn't seem to be seen in practicality. The common notion of the society is that the people of high status are considered more educated, knowledgeable and hold certain kind of respect and dignity in the society. They are always praised and, in some cases, even worship by others. It can be said that there are some people who are blind supporter of the same. But this is not the same with the people coming from middle class of the society. So, what happens is that a child from the middle class gets inferior kind of treatment such as neglect, disrespect etc and the child from the high class gets superior treatment such as respect, pampering etc. This differentiation in the treatment of the two different child creates an adverse impact on the child who is from the middle-class family and the child may feel neglected, depressed, anger etc which further may result in taking revenge from the society. This differentiation is not only based on status but could also be on the grounds of race, colour, caste, creed, religion etc. Sometimes, society

doesn't pay attention to the wrongs done by the child of rich family or even if they commit wrong, the middle-class child is blamed because of the blind supporters of the high-class people.

#### *4.5 School*

This is considered as the second most important part in the life of a child after the parents / family. This (school) is the place where a child spends most of his / her time with other people who are unknown to them. Gradually they dissolve and adjust in the surrounding. The role of school, being the part of the society, is to help the children build self-confidence, self-respect and provide good quality education. There should be good quality teaching as well as non-teaching staffs. Education is considered as the most important part of one's life, and is guaranteed under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. There is also an act for the free and compulsory education for children between six and fourteen year of age in India by virtue of The Right to Education Act of 2009. But today education is no more seen as providing good quality or value-based knowledge rather it has become a business for the schools or franchise to make or generate more and more profit. The quality of education has deteriorated and the same with respect to the teachers. Good schools and quality education is now very costly which comes as a hindrance in the path of the children coming from the middle-class or poor family who want to study but could not due to lack of money. So, they get depressed or frustrated and are compelled to follow illegitimate path to fulfil their basic needs.

### **5. Legal Aspects of Juvenile Delinquency in India**

A crime is a crime whether done by an adult or a juvenile. Since it is common notion that children are considered as innocent and sensitive therefore, they should be treated in a lenient way. This is also because of the various unavoidable reasons such as poor upbringing, financial restraint, lack of education etc which compels the child to deviate for the legitimate path or commit a crime. So, a proper legal mechanism or a juvenile justice system was required to treat those delinquents' juvenile rather than the current traditional criminal justice system which is generally for the traditional hardcore criminals. Also, the International Conventions and Treaties of the United Nations created an International Obligation on the member States / Nations to implement the rules or provision regarding child rights, child education, child care and protection, child in conflict with the law etc by making special legislations in their respective territories.

#### *5.1 Evolution of Juvenile Justice System – Historical Overview*

The concept of juvenile justice system evolved in the England by one of the most important English lawyers namely “William Blackstone” who wrote about “Infants and Adults at Common Law” in one of his Commentaries on the Laws of England in 1760s where he identified a group of people who are incapable of committing a crime. It was based on vicious will and unlawful act which he said that children were too young to fully understand their actions and its consequences.<sup>3</sup> The concept of juvenile justice system then originated in the late 1800s in the United States to protect the rights of youth and avoiding the prison or jail amongst them.<sup>4</sup> The first juvenile court in the United States was founded in 1899 in Chicago under The Illinois Juvenile Court Act of 1899. The main focus of the court was to shift from the punitive form of punishment to the rehabilitative form with respect to children in conflict with law. Gradually the juvenile justice system evolved and because of the numerous International Conventions regarding Rights of Child it spread throughout the different countries including India.

### *5.2 Evolution of Juvenile Justice System in India*

Juvenile Justice System in India originated in the mid-1800s during the British rule. In pre-independent India, the first legislation regarding juveniles was the Apprentice Act, 1850. The said act provided some kinds of extra-curricular activities such as vocational training to the children in the age group of 10-18 years who were convicted by the courts. This training helped the children in the rehabilitation and reformation process. Similarly, during the pre-independent period in India, after the recommendations of The Indian Jail Committee (1919-1920), Children Act was enacted in Madras in 1920 which was followed by Bengal in 1922 and Bombay in 1924. The aforesaid three acts were extensively amended after the independence of India between 1948 – 1959 which resulted in the enactment of a Central Act, The Children Act, 1960 which was further amended in 1978. Since, child or juvenile is a State subject and fell in the State List therefore, it was difficult for the Indian Parliament to make a uniform legislation regarding juvenile justice for the whole country. But India being the signatory to the United Nations and in conformity with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules, 1985), the Indian Parliament exercised its power under Article 253 of the Constitution of India read with Entry 14 of the Union List to make the law regarding juvenile

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<sup>3</sup> Gaurav Mohunta, Juvenility Determines Juvenile Justice: A Comparative Analysis – India and USA, Law Finder, March 18, 2019, <https://www.lawfinderlive.com/Articles-1/Article28.htm>, (Last Accessed on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> History of the Juvenile Justice, Impact Law, <https://www.impactlaw.com/criminal-law/juvenile/system/history>, (Last Accessed on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021).

justice system for the whole of India to fulfil the International obligation.<sup>5</sup>

### *5.3 Development of Juvenile Justice Act in India*

The Juvenile Justice Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in the year 1986 with the objective to provide higher attention to the children who were found in neglected situation, socially ill-treated or in destitution. It was considered that the prevailing justice system for the adults was not appropriate to be applied to juveniles. The Children Act of 1960 was replaced by The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.<sup>6</sup> This new act laid down the provision regarding the age of a male juvenile as 16 years and female juvenile as 18 years. Since, there existed some loopholes like no uniform age for male and female juveniles, no provision regarding care and protection of juvenile etc in the 1986 act.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 came which repealed the previous Juvenile Justice Act of 1986. The objective of this act was to prevent juvenile delinquency by providing uniform age for male and female juveniles; dealt with juvenile in conflict with law; child in need of care and protection; protection, treatment and rehabilitation of the juveniles as per the juvenile justice system. This act was also due to the result of the International Conventions such as United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989 which India signed and ratified in 1992; The United Nations Rules for The Protection of Juveniles deprived of their Liberty, 1990; The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1992 and The Hague Convention on Adoption, 1993. There were some more lacunas in the act and the major issue was with regard to determining the age of a juvenile offender, where the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by a Constitution Bench held that "reckoning date for the determination of the age of the juvenile is the date of an offence and not the date when he is produced before the authority or in the Court".<sup>7</sup>

The country witnessed certain types of heinous crimes committed by the juveniles which were increasing day by day due to the protection under the Juvenile Justice Act meaning that the juveniles under the age of eighteen years who are in conflict with the law will be sent to remand home or correctional homes for rehabilitation purpose instead of traditional punishment even for the heinous offences. After the brutal incident of Nirbhaya gang rape case in Delhi on December

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<sup>5</sup> Gaurav Mohunta, Juvenility Determines Juvenile Justice: A Comparative Analysis – India and USA, Law Finder, March 18, 2019, <https://www.lawfinderlive.com/Articles-1/Article28.htm>, (Last Accessed on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021).

<sup>6</sup> Sheela Barse v. Union of India, 1986 (2) Scale 1.

<sup>7</sup> Partap Singh v. State of Jharkhand, 2005 (3) SCC 551.

16, 2012, not only India but the whole global community was in deep shock. Various debates were going on amongst the legal fraternity and other social activists regarding the age of a juvenile as in the above incident, one of the accused was just six months short of attaining the age of eighteen years. This incident triggered the need for a much more stringent laws regarding the juvenile who were in conflict with law and therefore, by an amendment a new law known as Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015 came into force on 15 January, 2016. There were several objective and features of this new act but the main focus was on the child or juveniles in conflict with the law who are involved in heinous offences should be tried as an adult. So basically, juveniles who were between the age group of 16-18 years were to be tried as an adult for heinous offences. But this provision was in conflict with the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child which treats every child under the age of eighteen years<sup>8</sup>.

## 6. Recommendations and Suggestions

Juvenile delinquency or offences committed by children is the topic of the decade especially after the barbaric Nirbhaya gang rape case which happened in Delhi. Though the rate of crime committed by juveniles has hardly decreased in past few years but still remains as a herculean task for the country and government to bring end to this.

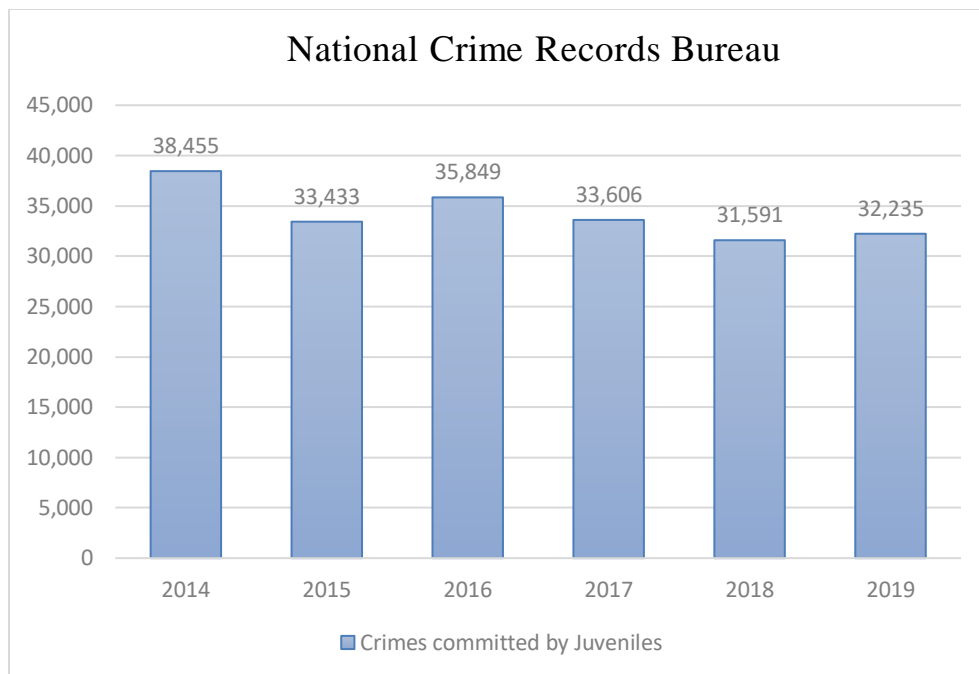
According to the National Crime Records Bureau, more than 99.3% of the juveniles apprehended for crimes in 2018 were boys, in which 91% of the juveniles had received at least primary level education, 85% of the juveniles involved were living with their parents and majority of the crimes committed by juveniles were offences affecting human body and property<sup>9</sup>. From the given data it can be said that the crimes committed by juveniles has decreased that from 2016 but has increased in the year 2019 from 2018. It can be said that the crime rate is going up and down annually but is approximately somewhat similar in all the years (i.e., above 30,000). The pie-chart below shows the exact figures of the crimes committed by the juveniles in the last six years (i.e., 2014-2019).

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<sup>8</sup> Hemant More, Objects of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, The Fact Factor, April 22, 2020, [https://thefactfactor.com/facts/law/legal\\_concepts/criminology/the-juvenile-justice-act/12079/](https://thefactfactor.com/facts/law/legal_concepts/criminology/the-juvenile-justice-act/12079/), (Last Accessed on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021).

<sup>9</sup> Pavithra K M, More than 99% of the Juveniles apprehended for crimes in 2018 are boys, Factly, January 23, 2020, <https://factly.in/more-than-99-of-the-juveniles-apprehended-for-crimes-are-boys/>, (Last Accessed on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2021).





According to the data, 85% of crimes committed by juveniles were living with parents or guardians. This means that lack of parental supervision is the main cause of commission of crime. It can be said that children are compelled to commit crime due to lack of supervision by their parents, guardians or family members. This may include multiple factors such as neglect, substance abuse, lack of proper supervision, ignorance of mischievous activities, excess of love and care. There could also be a possibility that a child is ruthlessly treated or may witness cruel behaviour by any one of the family members which creates an adverse or negative impact on the psychological process of the child.

So, to bring down the rate of crime committed by juveniles or to stop the children from deviating, some strict measures should be taken by the family members especially parents or guardians as well as by the government.

- a) Teachings of moral values and basic sanskars should be done at the very early age of the child as this will help in inculcating good moral values which will further help in the overall development of the child. Parents need to interact with their children, teach them the difference between good and bad, right and wrong etc. They should advocate the basic principles of how to lead a good and healthy life.
- b) Parental Supervision is very much required to stop the child from committing any wrong. Now-a-days, due to nuclear family and working parents, child does not get proper time, care, love or affection from the parents or other family members. Therefore, the child

may indulge in wrongful activities which are ignored by their parents due to lack of time and attentions.

- c) Quality education should be provided by the parents and also by the school with respect to each and every field as per the maturity of the child. Education of substance abuse, violent acts, wrong or illegal activities with its impact on the society and consequences is necessary and should be given at an appropriate stage.
- d) Counselling should be done once a month either by teachers or parents so that they could understand what's going inside the mind of the children. They should then motivate, boost their self-confidence and support them both physically and mentally if required.
- e) Socialising or community participation is required to make children more interactive, extrovert and to have broader outlook. A child should not be kept inside the four walls of the house rather should be made independent, friendly and be able to socialise with other children in the society. This will help in the development of mind and body of the child.
- f) Children should stay away from the use of electronic gadgets or social media sites. They should use these devices only for the educational or playing purposes and that too under the parental control and supervision. Misuse of smartphones or internet at a very early age could make the child more vulnerable and may indulge them in wrongful or illegal activities.

## **7. Conclusion**

Juvenile delinquency is a part of the society and none the less society or societal institutions are responsible for the delinquent's behaviour of the juveniles. It can be said that society plays an important role in making a child criminal therefore, it is only the society who can bring end to this. It is a serious issue in today's world and should be dealt with utmost importance as the children are the next future generation of the society. We, as the members of the society, need to create awareness amongst the people especially in the rural areas where the people or children are illiterate. It's high time that the government along with the parents and society at large (NGOs) has a duty and responsibility to curb the rate of juvenile delinquency before it gets spread like a virus in the society whereby it will be too late to control it.