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### **A scenario of socio-psychological State of juvenile delinquents**

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**Abstract :** *Juvenile delinquency is a serious problem of our society. It has almost become universal problem in most of industrialized countries including India. The purpose of the project titled "A Scenario of Socio-Psychological State of Juvenile Delinquents" is to understand the social and psychological condition of Juvenile delinquents and their behaviour and to eliminate the problem of delinquency among adolescence. For this the following hypotheses were formulated (1) There are various situations which create or increase crime (2) The social characteristics of the delinquents will be different. With this hypothesis the*

*research project was taken up . The hypothesis being given was scientifically proved. The sample was selected and purposive sampling method was adopted. Observation, interview and schedule were used for data collection. The reasons that change a person into a delinquent were found to be broken homes, poverty, delinquency area, bad companion, divorcee parents etc. No one is delinquent by birth but the circumstances change a person into a delinquent. If treated well they will become good and responsible citizens of their country. For this parents should spend time with the child consistently at least once a week and should talk to them about what is going on in their life and to sincerely listen to them.*

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## **Introduction :**

In sociological context delinquency is a kind of abnormality found when an individual's mind deviates from the course of normal social life and his behaviour is considered as delinquent. Juveniles delinquents are boys/girls below a specified age exhibiting behaviour which may prove to be dangerous to society or their own selves.

Juvenile delinquents are those offenders who are normally under 18 years of age and commit crime. A juvenile delinquent is a young person incorrigible or habitually disobedient. From the psychological point of view, "Delinquency is a rebellion and an expression of aggression which is aimed at destroying, breaking down or changing the environment." This rebellion is mostly against the social conditions which deny the individual his basic rights and the satisfaction of his fundamental needs. Thus delinquents are not born so but they become so due to social circumstances and personal deficiencies. They are mostly maladjusted persons. Thus it may be said that juvenile delinquency is the result of social, environmental, personal and individual factors.

As far as sociologists are concerned, delinquency is something which takes place in society because of three basic facts about the human race. Firstly, it is sometimes biologically inherited, or else every thing which comprises the way of life, is learned from society. Secondly, the human infant is incredibly receptive to experience. By this we mean that he is capable of developing a wide range of beliefs and experiences about the world around, skills in manipulating it and ways as to how he should manipulate it. Thirdly, the infants are also totally dependent from birth and for a very long period thereafter upon other people and this affects his personality and may mould it into either that of a delinquent or a good person.

In the very broadest sense delinquency is the process which links these three factors. It is the primary responsibility of parents to check their

child's behaviour and that of its peer group. If they find any change in their behaviour, they must give proper attention to the children. The causes of delinquency in children may be both physical and emotional. Under physical causes come body-buildup and glandular disorders. Emotional causes are related to environment which may include mentally unbalanced parents and inability of parents to teach good things to children and disturbed homes.

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of the study was :

1. To understand the socio-psychological state of juvenile delinquents and their behaviour.
2. To eliminate the problem of delinquency among the adolescence.
3. To help them to lead a normal life like others.
4. To encourage them to take part in improving social environment.
5. To bring awareness among them so that they can succeed in their future life.
6. To build in them good character and instil in them law-abiding attitudes.

## **Hypothesis:**

Following hypotheses were formulated and tested :-

- (i) There will be various situations and factors which create or increase crimes like criminal background, hereditary factors, companions and gangs, peer group, broken family, poverty etc.
- (ii) The social characteristics of the delinquents will be different like truant behaviour, violence, homicide, drug addiction, alcoholism etc. There will be found among delinquents cutting them from normal course of life.

**Methodology:**

Sample :- It consisted of 50 sample selected by purposive sampling method.

**Area of study:**

Boy's Observation Home & Aftercare Home for Girls, Gaighat, Patna

**Tools :**

The tools used for data collection were :-

**Observation:**

The researchers went to the special (Remand) homes and observed their behaviour.

**Interview :**

The researchers took self-prepared questions to ask questions from the sample.

**Schedule:**

It was a set of structured questions in which answers were recorded by the interviewer .

**Results& discussions:**

The following facts came into light.

1. Criminal background, hereditary factor, companions and gangs, peer group, broken family, poverty etc. were some of the factors which increased crime in society. This proves the first hypothesis.
2. Characteristics like truant behavior, violence, homicide, drug addiction, alcoholism etc. were found among delinquents cutting them from normal course of life. This proves the second hypothesis .
3. Most of the juvenile delinquents were between the age group of 13-17.
4. About 63%of children belonged to poor families,12% from rich families & 25% from middle class families.
5. Children from rich families committed crime when they fell in bad company.
6. The highest %of crime done by the children of poor families was robbery and theft & chain snatching.

7. There were many reasons to turn a person into a delinquent. some of these were broken homes, poverty, delinquency area, bad companions and divorcee parents.
8. They were guilty of their deeds and wanted to transform themselves into good persons.

**Conclusions :**

- The study shows that psychologically, the delinquents felt very restless and they felt very guilty for their deeds.
- They were of the view that their whole life got spoiled and no one will give respect to them in society.
- They have the fear that after they return from the Remand Home, society will not accept them.
- Their education will not continue and they will not be able to return to their normal life.
- The fear of losing prestige and family many times frustrates and depresses them.
- Many delinquents were from poor background and they robbed others just to get rid of their financial problems whereas there were many who become offenders due to peer group pressure.
- From the survey done by OJJDP, it is found that most of the delinquents commit the crime of theft. There were 363,500 arrests in 2000.This survey shows their psychological and economic state.
- Thus there is a great need to prevent the young generation from getting involved in crime. Delinquency prevention is the broad term for all efforts aimed at preventing youth from becoming involved in criminal or other anti-social activity.
- It is greatly needed to hold the delinquents and understand their mental conditions and treat them lovingly so that they could return to their former life.

- Thus, in order to transform juvenile delinquents into good citizens there is a need to change the public attitude towards the juvenile delinquents
- To encourage public and private agencies to take part in improving social environment and in providing proper assistance to underprivileged children
- Good character and law abiding attitude could be developed in them.
- There is a need to give appropriate treatment to the disturbed and maladjusted children and provide them education.
- Other facilities will also help them in their future life. It will help delinquents in returning to their former life from the “institutions of rehabilitations centres.”
- At last it can be said that no one becomes a delinquent by birth but it is the environment and circumstances which turn a person into a delinquent. They are not to be hated but to be treated in a different manner because their mental state during crime is entirely different.
- If well , they will become responsible and good citizens. Many laws have also been made to convert them into better persons and this will surely help them in bringing about the desired change in their life.

#### **Suggestions:**

The best way to prevent delinquency is by building strong family relationship. For this the following points should be taken into consideration by the parents:-

1. They should spend time with their child consistently, at least once a week.
2. They should talk to them about what is going on in their lives and be open to and really listen to them.
3. They should ask specific questions about their child’s activities. “Where are they going, with whom, and how/when will they return home?”

4. They should get to know their child’s friends and their families.
5. They should offer to help them when they have academic problems or peer pressure.
6. They should calmly explain what they expect from their child, both academically and socially.
7. They should allow their child to have a say in their decisions, as far as it is reasonable.
8. They should be vigilant always of their child’s activities and social contacts.
9. They should enroll their child in recreational activities or athletic programmes.
10. In extreme cases, they should seek out the guidance of a counsellor or other professionals.

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