

# Psychosocial Profile of Juvenile Delinquents: Qualitative Analysis

## Abstract

Juvenile delinquency generally means the failure of children to meet certain obligations expected of them by the society. The study aimed for qualitative analysis of psychosocial factors which play a crucial role in exhibiting the delinquent behavior of juveniles. Cross sectional research design was used. Thirty juveniles who are involved in delinquent activities are selected by the use of purposive sampling design. The age ranges from 10-17 years. Out of 30 juveniles, 15 have committed heinous crimes like rape and murder; and 15 have committed non heinous offenses which are burglary, theft, kidnapping, physical assault and cyber crime. The qualitative analysis found many factors as risk for juvenile delinquency and discussed about their perception on crime.

Key words: Juvenile delinquency, Psychosocial factors, risk factors, qualitative analysis

## **Introduction & Review**

A juvenile can be defined as a child who has not attained a certain age at which he can be held liable for his criminal acts like an adult person under the law of the country but alleged to have committed certain acts or omissions which are in violation of any law and are declared to be an offence. Juvenile delinquency generally means the failure of children to meet certain obligations expected of them by the society. Whether a particular act or conduct of the child would be deviant or not will depend on various factors and vary in different States, Cities and also time to time (Sirohi, J. 2009).

Sahmey (2013) was aimed at understanding the causes behind juvenile delinquency. The results indicated that the offences made by the delinquents were primarily due to the combination of various individual and environmental variables, viz. individual risk factors of the delinquents, negligence and ignorance of the parents, peer influence, poor socio-economic status, family pressure and lack of proper socialization.

,Reily (2012) examines the risk factors that increase an adolescent's chance of engaging in delinquency and the protective factors that reduce the risk of delinquency. This study has found that professionals, who are responsible for the decision-making in the juvenile justice system, base their decision making on the risk and protective factors that a youth presents. The study has also revealed that youth in the criminal justice possess more risk factors than protective factors

Another study done by Oni (2013) aimed to explore peer group pressure as a determinant of adolescents' social adjustment in a Nigerian school using a random sample of 120 adolescents. The results of the analysis showed that peer group pressure among adolescents is related to their social adjustment and that the gender of the adolescents affects their social adjustment as well.

Poduthase (2013) explored and compare, from the adolescent's perspective, the parent-adolescent relationship among adolescents who have engaged in delinquent behavior and those

who have not. The results indicated that the adolescents with delinquent behavior were living in a family where parental fights were common, where the father was alcoholic and/or abusive, and where the adolescents experienced severe parental punishment from their childhood. The interviews revealed the lack of parenting skills among the parents of adolescents with delinquent behavior.

There is a lot of debate and people's opinions over various topics of juvenile offenders and sentencing. Ashkar and Kenny (2008) discovered that offenders were ready to desist from crime based on several negative conditions of incarceration, suggesting the possibility of specific deterrence. Inhibitors to deterrence included family norms of criminal behavior, age and immaturity, impulsive behaviors, perceived needs, and indifference to the consequences.

Most participants were very angry that they had not been informed of their choices regarding sentencing. They emphasized that juveniles should be informed of such choices through community centers, schools, and departments of youth services (Romanoff, 2012). It is very crucial to understand and know the perception of the juveniles regarding their offenses which will help all to see the whole picture clearly which will in turn, will help to handle these issues more effectively.

Prevention of antisocial and delinquent behavior can be done by developing and nurturing resilience in individuals who are exposed to risk factors or adverse situations. Resiliency can be cultivated through modeling and teaching adolescents to use appropriate behaviors that meet their needs. Examples of tactics for teaching and modeling appropriate behaviors include conflict resolution, social skills training, effective management routines, encouraging the involvement of adolescents in making decisions, and open lines of communication.

While there are many factors associated with delinquent behavior, identifying these factors and understanding them clearly from all the perspectives will help to inculcate interventions to reduce and prevent the children, our valuable asset; from learning and exhibiting delinquent behavior. So the present study attempts to identify the various risk factors and explore the perception of the juveniles on the offenses.

## **METHODOLOGY**

**Aim:** The study aimed for qualitative analysis of psychosocial factors which play a crucial role in exhibiting the delinquent behavior of juveniles.

### **Objectives:**

1. To identify the risk factors associated with the delinquent behavior of juveniles.
2. To explore the perception of the juvenile offenders related to their delinquent behavior

**Research design:** Cross sectional research design

**Sample:** Thirty juveniles who are involved in delinquent activities are selected by the use of purposive sampling design. The age ranges from 10-17 years. Out of 30 juveniles, 15 have committed heinous crimes like rape and murder; and 15 have committed non heinous offenses which are burglary, theft, kidnapping, physical assault and cyber crime.

### **Inclusion criteria:**

- Age range is between 10 to 17 years.
- Education qualification is minimum 4th standard.

### **Tools used:**

The following tools are used in this study-

- i) **Interview schedules:** Two interview schedules are prepared to identify the risk factors related to delinquency behavior and to explore the perception of the juveniles based on their offenses. Open ended questions are formed which are culturally and situationally appropriate after reviewing many studies

### **Procedure:**

The study is briefly explained to each of the participant and after signing the consent form, socio demographic details are filled up. Rapport is formed with each of the participant so that they feel comfortable to share their opinions and views related to the offenses and their circumstances. After clearing their doubts, the questionnaires are given to mark their answers following the instructions of each questionnaire. The data collected was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. Thereafter, each open ended questions of both the interview schedules are asked and encouraged them to respond honestly.

### **Statistical analysis:**

In qualitative analysis, thematic analysis is done on the responses of the juveniles given in the interview schedules. Based on their responses, important themes are conceptualized which are discussed further in results and discussion chapter.

## **RESULTS**

Thus, this study was intended to explore the risk factors and the perception of the juveniles regarding their offenses.

### **Identification of the risk factors related to the delinquent behaviors of the juveniles:**

It is very important to identify the risk factors for delinquent behavior as managing these factors will help in curbing the delinquency acts. In order to identify these factors, an interview schedule is prepared. Based on the thematic analysis of the responses, the central themes are made. The themes are:

Table 1: showing the frequency and percentiles of the responses based on the common themes found:

Themes		Frequency	Percentages
Tolerance level	Low	21	70
	High	9	30
Anger management	Low	18	60
	High	12	40
Media and book influence	Present	16	53.3
	Not present	14	46.7
Socio economic status	Low	16	53.3
	Middle	13	43.3
	Upper	1	3.3
Domestic violence	Present	11	36.7
	Not present	19	63.3
Presence of physical health and mental health within family	Good	5	16.7
	Not good	25	83.3
School performance	Above average	5	16.7
	Average	13	43.3
	Below average	12	40
Crime in neighbourhood	Yes	19	63.3
	No	11	36.7

**Tolerance level:** This theme encapsulates each of the participants undergoing feeling when things are not according to their way and when other people doesn't agree and accept their opinions but still are able to hold fair and permissive attitude and acceptance of those people who vary from them. It focuses on the level of tolerance in each of the juvenile.

Majority of the juveniles in the sample has expressed sadness, disappointment and anger when they don't get things according to their way. They feel if they need something, they should get it to fulfill their need. And if other people or situations are not letting them to fulfill their needs, they would try to get it anyhow by fighting, stealing or by other means.

Their responses were like “I feel very angry and sad when things don’t go accordingly. I feel restless and try to know the reason. Sometimes I fight with my parents if they are not letting things happen according to my way or I try to find other ways to get it.”

However, few of the juveniles (30%) have high tolerance level as well. They reported that even if they feel disappointment and sometimes angry, they try to pacify their mind and learn to adjust with it.

These juveniles reported like “I feel sad but also try to understand that I won’t get everything what I want. I will just wait for it to happen later and try to adjust with what I have.”

This finding also goes along with previous studies where they found that juveniles have low tolerance level (Obinyan and Link, 2000) and also found that tolerance level have direct effect on delinquency behavior (Hawkins et.al, 1998).

**Anger management:** this theme captures participants’ actions and reactions of when they feel angry and the process they applied to manage their anger. It focuses on the skill that helps in taking appropriate actions when they feel angry and see the situation in a positive way and whether they attain the goal to reduce both emotional feelings and physiological arousal that anger causes.

Majority of the juveniles reported that they try to suppress their anger but they are unable to. They express it directly to the other person bluntly. Many a times they break things whatever is nearby and they told that there is history of beating others too. They said that they feel they couldn’t control themselves and act according to their instincts when they feel angry.

However, some of the juveniles (40%) said that they can suppress their anger to some extent. When they feel angry, they just isolate themselves till they calm down. Though they outburst sometimes but they doesn’t beat or hurt others.

Goldstein et.al (2009) revealed in his study that juveniles exhibit high levels of anger, relational aggression, physical aggression and severity of aggressive behavior is related to delinquency behavior. Daley & Onwuegbuzie (2004) interpreted anger in terms of social cognition and a tendency to attribute or impute to others motives of hostility or threat.

**Media and book influence:** This theme captures the influence of mass media and books on the behavior of the juveniles. It explored how these sources influence the behavior and whether they learn or get influenced from the media in a positive way or negatively.

More than half of the juveniles in the sample reported that they do get inspiration from media and books. Many of the participants responded that they enact action sequences of their favorite movie heroes. They love how heroes try to save and protect others and also wished to be like them. Some of the juveniles, who are convicted for burglary and murder, reported that they get few ideas from many television series which they customize according to the situation and incorporate it in their acts. Some of the rape offenders also reported that they learn about physical intimacy and pleasure through internet. Few of them also reported that books specially suspense and thriller genre, give them many ideas.

The violent content in television shows and movies can impact juveniles' behavior. When a juvenile watches violent content, he becomes a passive recipient of such content. The problem is that juveniles can learn violence based on such exposure to violence. The juvenile could easily imitate violence and aggression he sees on TV and in the movies (Bernstien, 2015).

Rest of the participants deny the influence of media and books, as they don't get to watch television and read books citing the reason of their financial condition and socio economic status. On the other hand, very few of them revealed that they know that television series, movies and books have fictional characters and their actions can't be incorporated in real lives.

**Socio economic status:** This theme portrays the participants' and his families' total measure of social and economic position in relation to others based on income and occupation.

More than half of the juveniles (53.3%) reported that they belong to low socio economic status. Most of their father worked as a laborer or as a helping hand of a shopkeeper and mechanics. Their siblings also do the same along with the juvenile himself. They reported that sometimes their families have to skip a meal or two due their financial condition. Some of their parents are separated and the children live with their mother or their father is always drunk and unemployed.

Poor and low-income adolescents also are more likely than their peers to be uninsured, have no usual source of care, face financial and nonfinancial barriers to access, and have gone without



medical or dental care during the preceding year. These findings are consistent with those of earlier studies (e.g., Montgomery, Kiely, and Pappas 1996; Ford, Bearman, and Moody, 1999), and reinforce concerns about the impact of low socioeconomic status on adolescent health (Escarce, 2003). The negative influence of socio-economic status is traced among the juveniles in conflict with law, due to the economic constraints the children were forced to work and the harassment at work place has forced them to involve in undesirable activities thus leading to delinquent (Manikanta, 2011).

On the other hand, some of the juveniles (43.3%) belong to middle socio economic status. They reported that their father and mother both work as tailor, shopkeeper, insurance policy seller, farmer and driver. Their siblings also work for living. Few of the juveniles reported that even though their father are not with them, their mother earn enough for the family.

**Domestic violence:** This topic dwells upon the presence of violent or aggressive behavior within the home of the juveniles and their feeling and reactions associated with it.

Majority of the participants (63%) have reported that there is no incident of domestic violence in their home. Some of the juveniles' parents are separated, but it was not due to domestic violence. They expressed that arguments and fights do occur in their home, but nobody have physically abused anyone. Few of the juveniles reported that they do beat their siblings when they are angry but happen seldomly.

However, rest of the participants revealed the presence of incidents of domestic violence in the family. They expressed that their father and mother are violent towards each other. Most of their father come drunk and abuse their mother due to which their mother retaliate the same. Juveniles have expressed that they feel very confused at that time and very hurt and helpless as they couldn't intervene much. Some of the juveniles have also revealed that that they have beaten up their father as they couldn't control their anger.

Domestic violence play a crucial role in acquiring delinquent behavior as revealed in previous studies (Ukeirt et.al, 2008) but sometimes other risk factors might play a bigger role in some situations.

**Physical and mental health in the family:** This theme captures the matter of physical and mental health in the family of the juveniles. Its aim is to explore the participants' feelings regarding the physical and mental health, and the way of coping and reactions surrounding the incidence of illness if any.

Majority of the juveniles reported incidence of physical and mental illness. Many of them reported that their mother's health is not good and their complaint ranges from asthma, piles, thyroid, tuberculosis and cancer. Their treatment is going on from government hospitals. The juvenile feel very bad and some of them cried while expressing their feelings. They reported that they want to help them but don't know the way of helping their mothers. The juveniles feel distraught but try to help their mothers in their household work. At times they feel very restless, angry and irritableness as according to them it is very hard to see their mother suffering.

They revealed that most of their fathers have drinking issues and some of them have heart and respiratory ailments. Even though their fathers are suffering from this illness, they do their work to earn. The juveniles reported that they do feel bad for them but if they drink, they feel angry as their father doesn't stay in conscious state after that.

Some of the juveniles do revealed that their grandparents, uncles and aunts who live them have some problem in mental health. They doesn't know any further information about it apart from the fact that they act very weird and exhibit inappropriate behaviors due to which most of the juveniles' are advised to stay away from them.

Parental health exerts effect on children's wellbeing. Hetherington et.al (2000) found that parents' mental or physical health impacted on their parenting, exemplified by less affectionate, less communicative, more punitive and more inconsistent disciplinary interactions with their children. Such sub optimal behaviors, in turn, have adverse consequences for children's wellbeing

**School performance:** This theme encapsulates the participant's feelings towards their school. It focuses on the behavior of the juveniles in the school, whether they like studying and the school and in their performance in the school.

Majority of the juveniles' performance in their school ranges from average to below average. They reported that they doesn't like studies at all and not interested to go to school. They find it very boring and monotonous. Due to their parents' insistence, they went to school for few years but couldn't continue it as they did not like studying. Some of them eventually develop interest but then their financial conditions disrupt the continuation of their studies. Their behavior in the school was difficult to control, few of their complaints went to home but it didn't bring any change in their attitude.

Few of the juveniles (16.7%) like going to school and loves studying. Their performance is above average in studies and wants to continue their studies.

Hawkins and his colleagues (1998) concluded that serious and violent delinquents had more school-related problems (e.g., low grades, truancy, suspension, and dropping out) than nonviolent children. Maguin and Loeber (1996) found that poor school performance was related to the frequency of delinquent offending, the seriousness of offenses, and persistence in delinquency offending. Findings from this study highlight the importance of examining the effect of poor educational performance on delinquency over time—to think of a child's development on a trajectory with multiple transition points (e.g., childhood to adolescence) along which key events occur.

**Crime in neighborhood:** This theme focuses on the environment of the neighborhood of the participants' home. It also focuses on the crime rate in the neighborhood of each juvenile and their reactions and feelings related to these incidents.

Majority of the juveniles (63.3%) have revealed that there are many incidents where their neighbors have committed crimes ranging from heinous to non heinous. They also expressed that their peer group is from their neighborhood and many of them are also engaged in delinquent acts ranging from murder to theft and pickpockets. Some of them reported that their neighbors always fight with each other almost every day. Among these juveniles who have disturbed environment in neighborhood, half of them reported that they are habituated with these incidents due to which it doesn't disturb them much. Other half expressed that they feel disturbed with the everyday chaos. Even though they have to tolerate it as they live there but they try to ignore these disturbance. Yet they fail to ignore their peers.

The rest of the juveniles in the sample reported that their neighborhood is calm and peaceful. They are also very friendly and also keep coming to their home. Even though their families are quite connected to them, they are not much involved with them.

Similarly, the previous studies revealed that community social ties may confer both pro- and antisocial influences to youth, and they advocate for a broad conceptualization of neighborhood social processes as these relate to developmental risk for youth living in disadvantaged communities (Chung and Steinberg, 2009). Adolescents' perceptions of their neighborhood and school environments are clearly linked to their mental health and delinquent behavior (Hadley et.al 2000).

### **Exploration of the perception of the juveniles related to their delinquent behaviors:**

This section focuses on the perception of their juveniles of their delinquent behaviours. It has been explored by preparation of an interview schedule with open ended questions. Common themes are prepared based on their responses.

Table 2: showing the frequency and percentiles of the responses of the juvenile offenders:

Themes		Frequency	Percentages
Self realization	Yes	12	40
	No	18	60
External attribution	Yes	21	70
	No	9	30
Internal attribution	Yes	9	30
	No	21	70
Feelings associated with the victim	Present	11	36.7
	Not present	19	63.3
Plan formulation	Yes	5	16.7
	No	25	83.3

Support for the act	Present	14	46.7
	Not present	16	53.3
Appropriateness of the punishment	Yes	14	46.7
	No	16	53.3
Belief in the present justice system	Yes	18	60
	No	12	40
Wish for a change	Yes	16	53.3
	No	14	46.7

**Self realization:** this theme encapsulates the participants' feelings about the act due to which they are in juvenile home. It explored each of the juveniles' sense of responsibility for the act and whether they consider it as wrong. It also looks at the understanding or comprehension and awareness related to the delinquent act.

Most of the juveniles (60%) revealed that they did it during the moment of weakness. They were very angry or aroused during the act and it was difficult for them to control it. Juveniles convicted for rape expressed that they wanted to explore the process and experience the feeling which they have heard or seen as very pleasurable. While few of them have assaulted children who resides in their neighborhood, but most of them have assaulted girls with whom they claimed to be in relationship. They felt that the females were also enjoying equally with them and protesting and shouting is their way of enjoying it. They do not accept the responsibility of the act and said that the girls are also equally responsible for it. One of the juveniles popped the question, "why did she come to my room if she didn't want me?"

The offenders who have committed this heinous crime and victimized the children expressed that they were just exploring their body parts. They feel they it was an accident which they didn't intend to do so.

Most of the juveniles convicted of murder expressed that they have committed this act as during that moment they were tremendously angry and they were fighting during when he beat him so badly that he died at that moment. They said that they didn't intend to kill them and they are not

responsible for it as they both were fighting; the victim also had beaten them. They feel they are stronger due to which the other died. Some of the convicted juveniles said that they killed the victim with a knife as they were threatening them and was cursing their family. One of the juvenile expressed that “he took my money so I went to his home along with my brother with the intention to kill him which we did and m not guilty of it as he deserved that.”

Other juveniles convicted of burglary and other delinquent acts like theft, kidnapping, physical assault and cyber crime revealed that they did the act due to greed for money, for fulfillment of their wishes for travelling and buying new phone and peer pressure.

On the other hand some of the juveniles (40%) have accepted that what they have done is not correct and have hurt other people in the process. They took responsibility of what they have done and intend not to repeat it again in their life. There were lots of juveniles have committed non heinous offenses. However, two of the juveniles convicted of rape who have victimized children though didn't took responsibility of the act, have accepted that they have hurt the girls and had no idea that it would have hurt them and said that they won't do it again.

Previous studies have also supported that present finding that low self realization can increase the probability of delinquency behavior (Gough and Bradely, 1992; Marnat et.al 2004).

**External attribution:** this theme captures each of the participants' explanation of the causes of the act due for which they are convicted. They give the reason due to which they have committed the offense.

Majority of the juveniles (70%) attribute their delinquent act to the external factors. They infer that their behavior is due to the situational factors. Juveniles convicted of rape revealed that they have done the act as they were feeling aroused and curious. It is due to what they have seen earlier and heard earlier. Some of them said that they were watching porn in internet, WWE between the female wrestlers in television while others said that their friend group is discussing about the process for a long time now. Moreover, the victims, as an opportunity for them; were alone with them at that period. They accused these combination of situations led them do the act. The offenders convicted of murder, on the other hand, have expressed that the victims are more responsible for execution of the act. If they wouldn't have done anything which have angered the offenders; then this situation would never come up and they would be alive today.

In case of the juveniles who have convicted of other offenses like theft, burglary and kidnapping; expressed that their parents didn't provide what they need. They should have fulfilled their needs. Moreover, they couldn't say no to their peers or else they would have feel badly and reject them as their friends.

Similar studies have been found that increased aggressiveness and delinquent behavior would be related to a greater tendency to endorse attributions for social failure (Guerra et.al 1998).

**Internal attribution:** This theme looks into each of the participant's explanation of the causes of their delinquent act citing the causes to internal factors. Internal factors mean that the participants infer that their behavior is due to personal factors such as traits, abilities or feelings.

Only handful of the participants (30%) has attributed their behavior to internal factors. Most of the juveniles have attributed their act to the situation or the behavior of the victim but only few of them have accepted their personal factors. These juveniles have expressed that they have executed their act due to lack of managing their anger. They said that "what is the use of so much anger that can kill or hurt someone?" The juveniles who are convicted of rape have repented their act by saying that they didn't want to harm or hurt anyone and they have no clue that their curiosity will hurt someone. The rest of the offenders said that greed and stubbornness has led them to juvenile home. If they could have controlled their needs, they would be comfortably sitting in their home.

**Feelings associated with the victim:** This theme summarize each of the participants' feelings associated with the victims of their actions. It focuses on whether the juvenile know the victim and how they are related. It also explores the juveniles' feelings towards the victim after they have committed the offense on them.

More than half of the participants (63.3%) deny having any positive feelings for the victim. Most of the juveniles know the victims through their peers, some are neighbors and others are known to them by their siblings or parents. Heinous offenders convicted for rape revealed that they all know their victims. Juveniles who committed this serious offense on the girls with whom they claimed to be in relationship said they are very hurt and angry on them as they complained to the police. They don't want to see their face again. They expressed that they truly loved them. On the other hand, juveniles who victimized the children expressed that they feel remorse that the

victims are hurt by them and now they feel shame as how will they show their face to the neighbors as these children stayed in their neighborhood. The offenders, who found guilty for murdering, revealed that they were very irritated and upset because of them. Followed by the act, they feel that these victims got what they deserve.

The non heinous offenders feel that they have taken money from those people who are very rich. So they don't feel bad for them as according to them they will again earn that much very soon and it doesn't matter much to them if some of the money or valuables are lost. Some of the offenders know them through their peers and some doesn't know their victims at all and randomly choose to rob them.

The remaining participants feel that whatever has been done, their intention was just to fulfill their needs. Those who have hurt others feel sorry and upset that their single act have harmed others and have impacted on their loved ones too.

**Plan formulation:** This theme captures each of the participants' plans for implementation of their act. It focuses on how they formulate the plan before the act, what are the factors they look into while planning and how they implement it.

Majority of the juveniles (83.3%) have reported that they don't plan anything for such delinquent acts. Most of them have revealed that they just act according to their instincts. They have the feelings for gratifying their needs and wishes from a long time but they didn't think of a way of fulfilling it. They never target a specific person to rob or assault. The juveniles convicted for rape expressed that the curiosity and urge to experience the pleasure of the process was present from a longer period of time but they never thought that it will land them in judicial custody. It was that moment where they were feeling aroused and they got opportunity due to which they were urged to do the act without thinking of the consequence. The offenders convicted of murder said that they were irritated and upset with the victim from few days and even thought of harming them in some way in the fit of their anger but they never thought of taking their lives. The situation was like that they were unable to control their anger and unable to stop themselves from exhibiting grudges against the victim and it took the life from the victim in the process.

The non heinous offenders said that they did the delinquent act as they got the chance. They saw the house or shop and if the situation is in favor with them, they immediately executed their plan.



The rest of the participants (16.7%) consist of one convict for murder who revealed that he and his brother planned to actually kill the victim as they took money from them and cheated them. They observed him for few days and noted his daily living. When they came to know that he is going to be alone in his home for a day, they availed the chance and went to their home in the middle of the night when everybody would be sleeping. They killed him by strangling him and used his pillow to stop his shouting. Another victim convicted of kidnapping revealed that he loved the girl very much and he wanted her desperately. He followed her for few days, collected money and then kidnapped her when she was coming back from her school and took her to another city thinking she will be impressed.

The other three convicted for burglary revealed that once they zeroed down the target house or shop, they stayed prepared and whenever they the appropriate time; they executed the act.

**Support for the act:** This theme conceptualizes the matter of support that the participants got for the execution of the delinquent act. It explored the kind of support that each of the juvenile got and the source of the support and who supported whom, that is, whether the juveniles supported the other person or vice versa.

Nearly half of the juveniles (53.3%) in the sample denied that they got any support for the execution of the delinquent act. Most of the juveniles said that as they didn't planned the act earlier, many of their peers, siblings or family members were unaware of the fact that they harmed others. The juveniles, who are offenders for burglary, said that they did the act with one or two friends who were present at that period of time with them. The other juveniles reported that it was such an instinctual and impulsive act that nobody knew about it nor they needed any support from any one.

On the other hand, the remaining juveniles (46.7%) in the sample revealed that they got support from their peers and siblings. In terms of heinous offenders, only one juvenile convicted for murder have said that he got support from his brother for intentionally killing someone who cheated them. His brother made the plan and motivated him to do this and he has no remorse or regret and is proud of his brother. The other juveniles who availed support from others are convicted from burglary, theft and kidnapping. They reported that they were very close friends and always plan things together and supported each other. Whenever they need something, their

peers help them in every way to fulfill his needs. Once they come to know about what is there is the juveniles' mind; they supported them fully and also had given many new ideas. Some their peers are experienced and have done many robbery and burglary. When they were arrested, they did peers ran away but they went to their homes and convinced their family members that they along with their arrested mates are innocent and they are convicted wrongly.

**Appropriateness of the punishment:** This theme captures the viewpoint of each of the participants regarding the sentence they are penalized due to their offenses. It explores the feelings of the juveniles related to the punishment that they are serving due to the delinquent act.

Half of the juveniles (53.3%) revealed that according to them, the sentence they are serving is not accurate and they are asked to suffer more than what they deserve. The heinous offenders expressed that whatever has happened was due to the heat of the moment and happened accidentally. They didn't hurt anybody intentionally and would never do that. But keeping them away from their family is not what they deserve. Whatever has happened is not just their mistake. The victims were equally responsible.

The non heinous offenders said that they have taken a very small sum from their large properties of the rich people where they have robbed. It's not a big offense according to them and other people are committing severe punitive actions but still they are moving freely. It is unfair for them that they have to suffer like that. Almost nobody knows till how many days they have to stay there and it is more frustrating for them.

The other half (46.7%) of the sample accepts that their sentence is appropriate. Most of the juveniles revealed that they actually love spending time in juvenile homes. As the financial condition of their home is not good, they don't get to avail the facilities that they are getting it there. They get to watch television, get to eat food timely and also get to play. So it is alright for them even if the sentence is longer. Some of the juveniles reported that as they have hurt others, they deserve to get punished and rectify it.

**Belief in the present justice system:** This theme focuses on faith and trust of each of the participants in the present justice system of India. It discusses about the juveniles perspective towards the justice system.

Most of the juveniles (60%) have reported that they have belief in the justice system. They believe that the system will identify and differentiate between the innocents and the offenders and will punish accordingly. They believe that even though it takes time but eventually, the system will know that they are not the only one to blame at and hence will be freed soon.

The rest of the participants don't believe in the justice system citing the reason that they are inside the juvenile home without committing any serious offense and till now they are not freed. They revealed that if they would have money to spare and give it to the lawmakers, they would be free by now. The rich people commit crimes and roam freely outside but the system doesn't do anything against them. They claimed that they are suffering here just because the system is unfair and discriminates between people.

**Wish for a change:** This theme encapsulates the feelings of each of the participants related to their activities and whether they want to change anything regarding their behavior. It also explores that if given a chance whether they want to change anything about the past incident due to which are punished.

Half of the participants do wish for a change. The offenders expressed that they know that sometimes it is difficult to control their urge and impulses. They want to improve that aspect so that later they won't have to come back to the juvenile home. Those convicted for rape said that given a chance, they want to change the incident by changing the mindset of the girls with whom they claimed to be in relationship. They would like to know whether they also loved the juveniles truly and if not, they would have never continued to meet and would come physically close with the girls. The offenders who have victimized the children said that given a chance, they would really like to control their arousal and curiosity level and not to hurt the children. They would like to remove the incident altogether from their life. The convicts of murder said that the fights are inevitable with the victims they were very irritating to the juveniles. But given a chance, all they would want to change in the incident is not to beat them in the manner that the victims will lose their life.

Some of the non heinous offenders said that they want to control their greed and be aware of what they are and dream appropriately. Given a chance, they would like to undo the things they have done as they now know the consequences of it.

The other juveniles (46.7%) doesn't want to change anything. They said that what done is done and it can't be undone nor they have any regret regarding their behavior. According to them, they are not lunatics that they would just show such extreme behavior. Somebody (here they are referring the victims) must have instigated and forced them to act like that due to which they got the result. People might think that they did wrong but the juveniles posed the question back "So is the victim innocent? They didn't do anything and have a clean slate?" They think that whatever they had done is inevitable, they don't care how the people judge them on d basis of the incident.

### **Conclusion:**

The study found that Juvenile offenders had poor tolerance level, anger management and school performance, had influence of media in crime, belonged to low socio economic status, presence of physical and mental illness in the family and crime in neighborhood. It was also noticed that juvenile offenders had poor sense of responsibility understanding or comprehension and awareness related to the delinquent act, Majority of them attributed their delinquent act to the external factors, and denied having any positive feelings for the victim. They don't plan anything for such delinquent acts and most of the did not get any support for the execution of the delinquent act. Half of the juveniles (53.3%) revealed that according to them, the sentence they are serving is not accurate and they are asked to suffer more than what they deserve., Most of the juveniles have reported that they have belief in the justice system but sentencing is not accurate or they don't deserve and half of the participants do wish for a change in their behavior.

### **COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist. The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly use products in our area of research and country. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the authors and producers of the products because we do not intend to use these products as an avenue for any litigation but for the advancement of knowledge. Also, the research was not funded by the producing company rather it was funded by personal efforts of the authors.

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