

Criminology

CSS-2018

Question #04

What is the Juvenile delinquency? Explain the nature, extent and causes of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan. Suggest remedial measures for reducing delinquency in Pakistan?

↳ Explicating the term juvenile delinquency:

Juvenile delinquency is generally thought to mean criminal behaviour committed by juvenile/^{child} under the legal age of adulthood. According to "The juvenile justice system ordinance, 2002" a 'Child' means a person who at the time of committing of an offence is not yet 18 years old. The word 'Delinquency' has been extracted from the latin word 'delinquere' which means to leave or to abandon. Juvenile delinquency refers to the behaviour of the young people that violates the legal and social norms ranging from minor to serious types of actions.

which are against the society and family values.

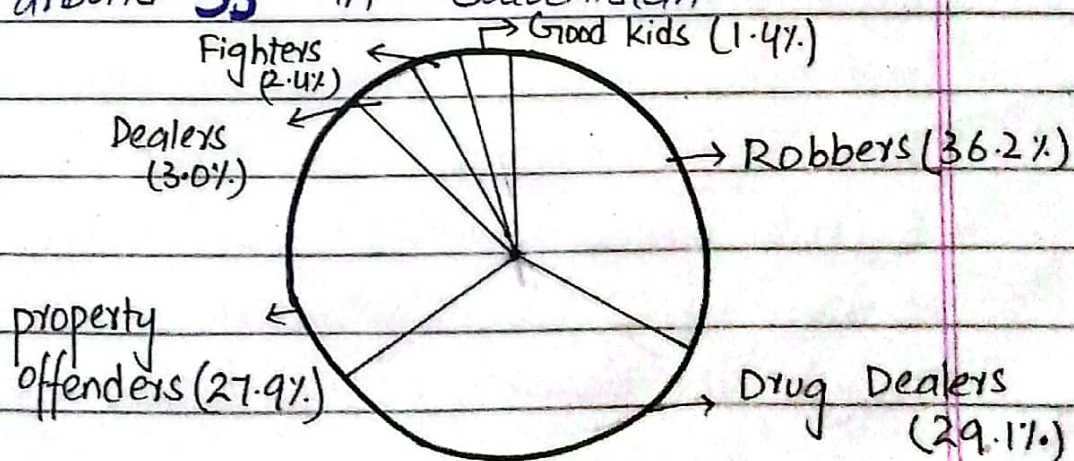
↳ Nature and Extent of Juvenile Delinquency in Pakistan:

The nature of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan encompasses various aspects, including the involvement of young individuals in petty crimes such as theft, shoplifting, and vandalism. In urban areas, street crime is prevalent, with juveniles engaging in activities like mugging and snatching. Substance abuse, particularly drug trafficking and drug use, is a significant issue among juveniles. Gang involvement is also observed, where young individuals form or join gangs, leading to more serious criminal activities. School related delinquency such as truancy and violence is common, and in some cases juveniles may

be susceptible to extremist ideologies and coerced into acts of violence or militancy.

→ Extent:

According to the report of publication title, "The state of Pakistan's children" by "Society for the protection of the Rights of the child" (SPARC) 1500-2000 minor offenders are in Pakistani prisons. However, in March 2021, this number was reported to be a little over 1300. As of April 2021, the number of juveniles in Punjab jails accounted for 540 inmates, Sindh imprisons over 260 minors, 5810 in KPK and around 55 in Balochistan.



→ Percentage of Juvenile offenses

↳ Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in Pakistan:

Juvenile delinquency is a complex phenomenon caused by a variety of reasons. This has been extensively researched and myriad of reasons have been ascribed by the scholars and researcher to child delinquency. Some of the major reasons for child delinquency put forth by the scholars are given below:

→ Individualistic Reasons: It includes ~~de~~ physical defect or disorder; child often confronts embarrassment and then reacts, low intelligence behaviour, encourage anti-social behaviour and malnutrition.

→ Family Reasons: Presense of step parents, lack of parental love and affection, Quarrels among parents and siblings, broken homes, loose or very strict discipline at home and use of alcohol by Parents. are the cause of delinquency.

→ Social Reasons: It includes community conditions, Exposure to violence, low socio-

economic status and Racial disparities etc

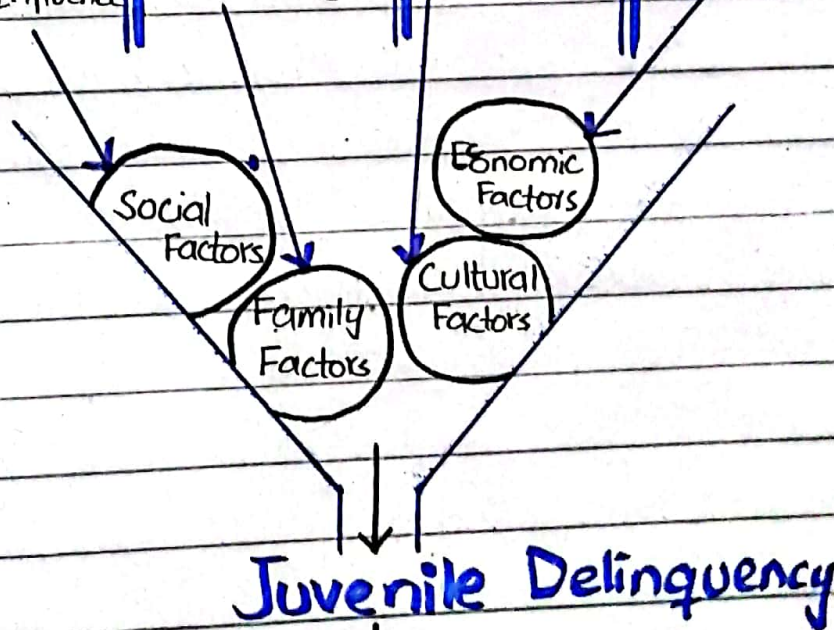
Causes:-

Availability of drugs,
Abuse of child,
Social environment,
Illiteracy,
Unconsciousness,
Lack of opportunities to education,
Peer Influence

Broken Family,
lack of parents supervision, Family Conflict, Neglect and cruelty towards child,
Environment of the Family

Effect of Foreign culture,
Effect of Social Media,
Effect of Foreign TV channels

Poverty,
Unemployment,
Natural Disasters,
Industrialization and Urbanization



Effects:-

- Drop out of School
- Destroy prospective career of school child
- Destroy Family peace
- Increase criminality
- Unrest the society
- Destroy the culture
- Slow development of the country
- Increase drug addiction, drug trafficking, Eve teasing and other petty crimes.

In Pakistan, children are more prone to delinquency. There is a gap between parents and children. Most of the time, parents prioritize one child over the other. In Pakistan children are judged on their school performance. All the children who naturally cannot compete with others develop a sense of disobeying.

Moreover, in Pakistan, there is a culture of educating minors with punishments and forcing them towards performing certain activities. Most of time when children stay with those family members who are also in the habit of committing crimes, they socialize children according to their own ways. Therefore, skipping school and doing small robberies from home comes under the category of juvenile delinquency.

Theoretical Perspectives:-

Differential theory explaining the cause of juvenile delinquency:

Differential opportunity theory is a sociological theory that posits that juveniles and young adults may turn to deviant activity because they are unable to become financially and socially successful via means that society deems legitimate. Differential opportunity theorists believe that those individuals who are unable to accomplish goals in ways are more likely to attempt to acquire capital and status via illegitimate or deviant means.

↳ Remedial measures to reduce juvenile delinquency in Pakistan:

To reduce the rate of delinquency it is necessary that juveniles are considered priorities in the country.

"The most effective guard against the delinquency is a father who is at the same time both strict and loving." ~ Sheldon Gluek

Pakistan ratified the ~~United~~ United

Nations Convention of the Rights of the child (UNCRC) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) thirty years back in 1990. However, despite the enactment of legislature about the issue, there are still some many gaps in country's criminal system when it comes to the treatment of juveniles or even minors who have been merely accused of crimes. There are some remedies which are helpful to reduce the Juvenile delinquency in Pakistan:-

1- Strengthening the Justice System:-

Establishment of specialized courts for juvenile cases, ensuring fair and fast trials and implementing effective rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders.

2- Social Welfare programs:-

Introducing programs that provide support and opportunities for underprivileged youth, including access to education, vocational training, and the

employment opportunities.

3- Family Support and Counseling:-

Provide counseling services to families to improve parenting skills, address domestic issues and strengthen family bonds.

4- Community involvement:-

Encouraging community participation through youth centers, sports, clubs, and mentorship programs to engage young individuals in positive activities and discourage delinquent behaviour.

5- Awareness campaigns:-

conducting public awareness campaigns to ~~reduce~~ educate the general public, parents and schools about the causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency, as well as the importance of early intervention and prevention.

6- Rehabilitation and Reintegration:-

Developing comprehensive rehabilitation programs that focus on education, vocational training, and psychological support to

facilitate the successful reintegration of juvenile offenders into society.

7- Collaboration between government and NGOs:-

Foster collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society to work together in addressing juvenile delinquency and implementing preventive measures.

These remedial measures, when implemented effectively, can help reduce juvenile delinquency in Pakistan by addressing the underlying causes and providing young individuals with the necessary support and opportunities for positive development.