

① Define the term Juvenile delinquency.

Write a note on history of juvenile justice system and role of juvenile court in reducing juvenile delinquency.

1.

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency refers to illegal or antisocial behaviors committed by individuals under the age of legal adulthood, typically ranging from minor offenses to severe criminal acts. This social issue has become a focal point for policymakers, psychologists, and legal experts, as it has implications for the safety and well-being of society and the rehabilitation of young offenders. Over time, societies worldwide have recognized the need to treat juvenile offenders differently from adults, emphasizing rehabilitation over punishment. This recognition gave rise

to the juvenile justice system and the establishment of juvenile courts, which play crucial role in controlling juvenile delinquency.

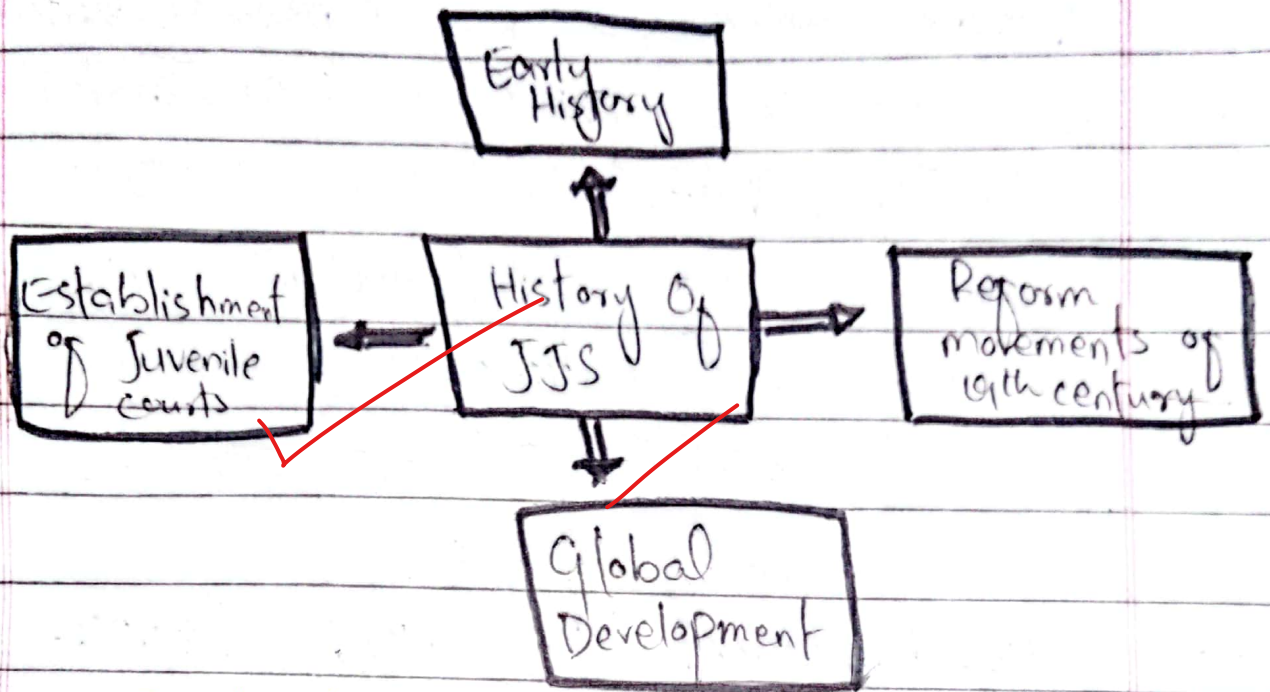
2. Definition of Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is defined as unlawful or deviant behavior exhibited by minors, typically under the age of 18. These behaviors may include theft, vandalism, truancy, substance abuse, or violent crimes. Unlike adult offenders, juveniles are often treated as individuals requiring guidance and rehabilitation rather than punishment given their developmental stage and potential for reform.

3. HISTORY OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Juvenile Justice System has evolved significantly over the past two centuries, driven by the realization that young offenders

require a distinct legal and rehabilitative approach.



3.1 Early History

In ancient and medieval societies children were often treated as ~~minor~~ adults, with no distinction in legal accountability.

Severe punishments, including imprisonment and execution, were imposed regardless of age.

3.2 Reform Movement Of 19th Century

The Industrial Revolution brought widespread urbanization and poverty,

leading to increased juvenile offenses. Reforms in the United States and Europe advocated for separate systems for juveniles, emphasizing education and rehabilitation. The House of Refuge in New York (1825) was one of the first institutions aimed at reforming delinquent youth through education and discipline.

3-3 Establishment of Juvenile Courts-

The first juvenile court was established in Chicago, Illinois, in 1899, marking a significant milestone in the treatment of young offenders. This court focused on individualized treatment, viewing juveniles as malleable individuals capable of change.

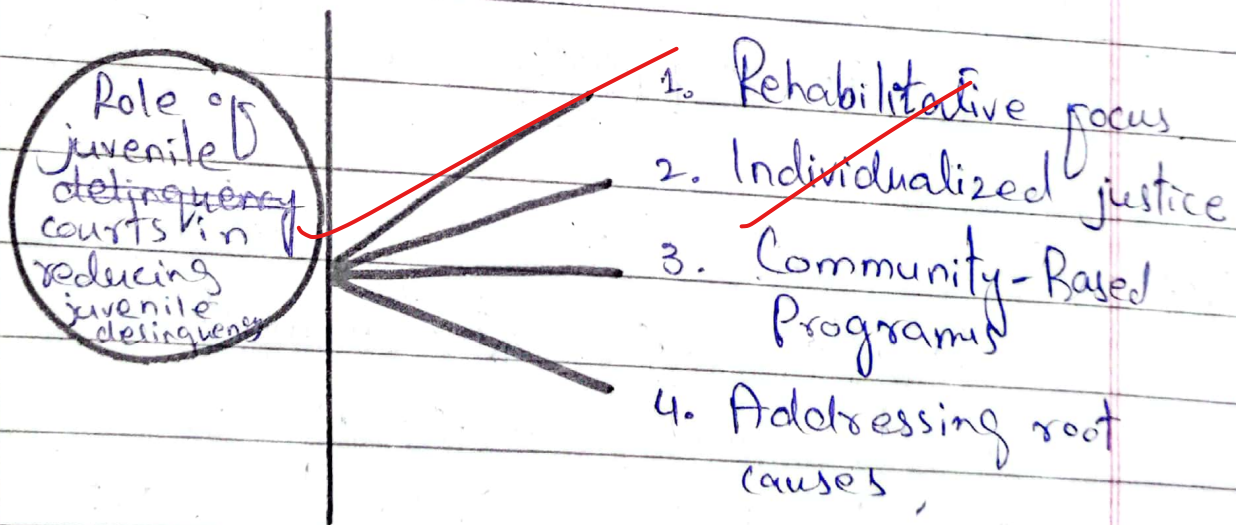
3-4 Global Development-

By the mid-20th century, many countries, including the U.K, Canada, and India, had established juvenile justice systems. The United Nations

Convention on Right of The Child (1989) further emphasized the need for rehabilitative justice for juveniles.

4. ROLE OF JUVENILE COURTS IN REDUCING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Juvenile courts play a pivotal role in addressing juvenile delinquency by providing a legal framework focused on rehabilitation, guidance, and reintegration.



4.1 Rehabilitation Focus

Juvenile courts prioritize the reformation of young offenders through counseling, education, and skill development. For instance, diversion programs in the

US offers alternatives to incarceration reducing recidivism rates by addressing underlying causes of delinquent behavior.

4.2 Individualized Justice

Unlike adult courts, juvenile courts tailor interventions based on the offender's background, psychological profiles and socio-economic conditions. Programs like Functional Family Therapy (FFT) in the U.K. involve family members to create supportive environments for juveniles.

4.3 Community-Based Programs:-

Juvenile courts often mandate community service, mentorship or participation in extracurricular activities as part of rehabilitation. For example, Canada's Youth Criminal Justice Act (2003) encourages restorative justice measures that involve community participation.

Addressing Root Causes

Juvenile courts collaborate with psychologists, social workers, and educators to address root causes like trauma, poverty, or substance abuse. Rwanda's post-genocide youth programs integrate counseling with vocational training to rehabilitate young offenders.

Conclusion:-

Juvenile delinquency is a complex issue requiring a nuanced and compassionate approach. The history of the juvenile justice system reflects society's progress in understanding the unique need of young offenders and the importance of rehabilitation.

Juvenile courts play a central role in this framework, offering tailored interventions that focus on reforms rather than punishment. By addressing the root causes of delinquency, juvenile courts contribute significantly to reducing juvenile crime.

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