

Q. Explain juvenile delinquency. What are the socio-economic, demographic and environmental factors lead to juvenile delinquency? (20).

Ans:-

### 1) Introduction

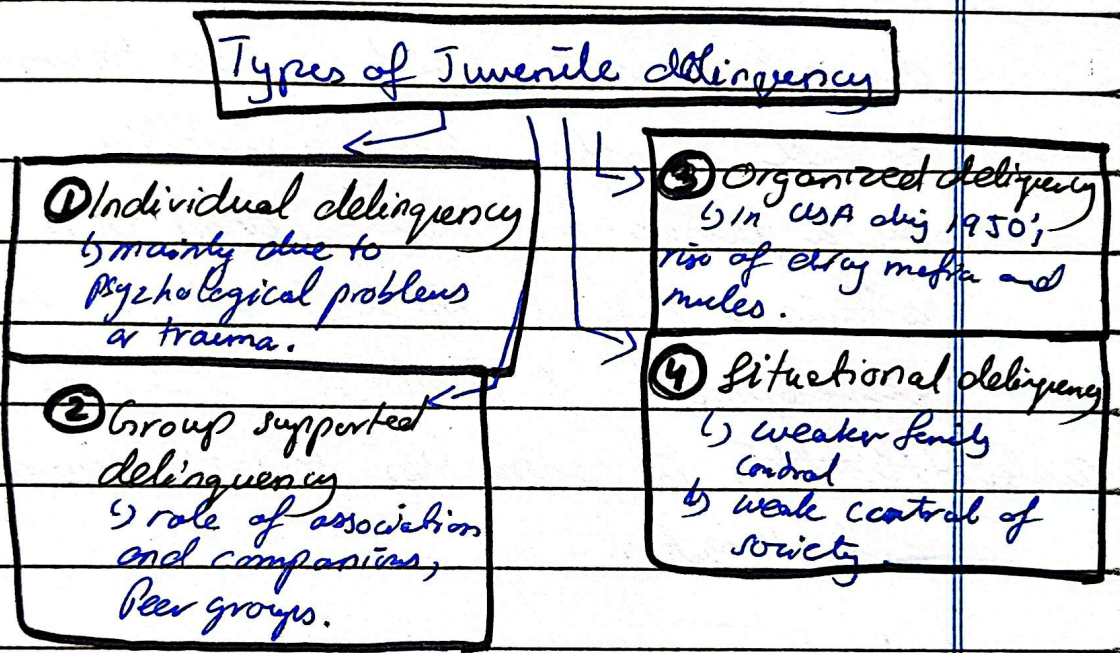
According to Funk Wagnalls encyclopedia, juvenile delinquency is an act of offence committed by a youth (under the age of 18-21). Juvenile delinquency is a major growing problem around the world. However, underdeveloped or developing countries face such offence more often due to its poor economic growth and rise of illiteracy. These factors lead to the rise in juvenile delinquency. Pakistan, being a developing country faces this issue of juvenile delinquency and in order to protect the society from this, Pakistani government has formed the Juvenile Justice System Act 2018.

## ② Defination of juvenile delinquency

The literal meaning of juvenile is known as a youth under the age of 18 and delinquency is the illegal act committed by the youth. The use of the word 'juvenile delinquency' was done by William Shakespeare in 1605 in his book play 'Macbeth'. Juvenile delinquency deals with a different form of law in common law jurisdiction. Juvenile delinquency requires there to be different set of procedures for such minor offenders. The British law as mentioned in Blackstones Criminal litigation defines the a separate criminal procedure and court system for youth, while also establishing youth courts. Pakistan on the otherhand also deals with children as offender, for this we have two laws, one is section 82 and 83 of Pakistan Penal Code stating nothing as an offence by a child under the age of ten, and the other law on juvenile justice system Act 2018.

### ③ Types of Juvenile Delinquency

There are several types of juvenile delinquency as explained by Howard Becker



### ④ Factors of juvenile delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is caused due to many factors from individually associated problems to socially created ones.

The answer will now explain the factors leading to juvenile delinquency.

## a) Individual Reason for Juvenile Delinquency

It is argued how a physical or biological structure of a human defines its role in a society. Such physical defects which causes trauma or such disorders lead to isolation by a person. That such person then attains a radical mindset due to low development of intelligence later on resulting in attraction towards violence and threat.

## b) Family Reasons for Juvenile delinquency

Family reason is a very significant factor in the rise of delinquency in a society. Presence of step parents or abusive, alcoholic parents leads the child to imitate the behavior as in most of the cases, the child tends to isolate itself from the society.

Other than this as mentioned by Robert Merton

in his social strain theory, in which how a child faces strain of parents' ambitions in order to achieve the goal and if he fails to do that then the child faces punishments, either verbal or physical. Another theory focusing on the factors of juvenile delinquency is the social control theory by Travis in 1969. He defines how either loose or strict house orientation leads to frustration within a youth which then converts into evil violent thoughts.

### c) Social Reasons for juvenile delinquency

This is the most common form of learning and leads to juvenile delinquency by the youth. According to Travis Hirschi's social bond theory, children tend to adapt from one another. Peer groups and out of school activities lead without parental control leads to development of illegal activities such

as drugs, under age driving and theft. Such fast development leads to youth attract towards violence and incidentally leads to juvenile delinquency.

#### d) Other reasons for juvenile delinquency

Among other reasons the most important is poverty. As quoted by Peter Buck

"Hunger makes a thief of any man."

Poverty and low standards of living leads to youth attract towards the world of crime easily. Lack of schooling and rise in illiteracy rate shows the poor governance of state institutions focusing on children.

#### ⑤ How to prevent Juvenile delinquency

##### a) Family

Family plays a vital role in the

development of a human as it is the first form of learning. Family makes youth learn values and norms and learns the do's and don't's of life.

### b) Education

Education in rural areas and free education to children must be given in order for the youth to learn and be aware of the difference between a criminal activity and a simple social activity. Other than this education also develops skills which helps reduce unemployment in a country.

### c) Economic prosperity

The state should provide funds for social security of needy citizens in order to stop any form of crime

as mentioned earlier by Peter Buch  
"Hunger makes any man thief".

#### d) Strict laws and Public awareness.

The state should make it's responsibility to establish a strict legal statute which should be implemented. Along with this students must be publicly aware of consequences of criminal activity through research programs and police work. internship programs.

#### ⑥ Conclusion

In conclusion, juvenile delinquency is the act of offence committed by a youth under the age of eighteen.

The cause of juvenile delinquency is said to be mostly related to societal issues from wrong peer groups to family pressure to economic and other issues. In order

to overcome them a government should focus on public awareness and should promote education along with family counselling.