

# CRIMINOLOGY

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

## 1. Introduction:

The conduct or action of a juvenile which violates the social code (norms of the society) is called juvenile delinquency. It involves various types of change in patterns; either biological or psychological to commit major, minor or heinous crimes. Its varied causes include individualistic, family or social reasons. For this purpose, Juvenile justice system should be strengthened to overcome juvenile delinquency in Pakistan.

## 2- Juvenile Delinquency:

The word 'Juvenile' is derived from Latin word 'Juvenilis' which means 'youthful'. Similarly, delinquency is also a Latin word meaning 'Failure in Duty'. So

Juvenile Delinquent is a person/young person who has failed to perform his designated task.

### According to Seigel and Welsh:

"It is the act of participating in unlawful behaviour as a minor or individual younger than the statutory age of minority."

The offenders who breach law are ~~not termed~~ under a specific age are not termed as criminals, they are termed juvenile delinquents by appropriate courts.

### 3. Nature of Juvenile Delinquency in Pakistan:

Juvenile delinquency in Pakistan refers to the involvement of minors (individuals under the age of 18) in criminal activities that are unlawful. It can be due to factors like poverty, lack of education, family issues and peer pressure. Common offences include theft, drug abuse, and vandalism. The country addresses this issue through both punishment and rehabilitation to help reintegrate youth offenders into society.

#### 4. Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in Pakistan:

There are many reasons behind the unlawful conduct of youth which include:

##### i. Individualistic Reason:

The deviant behaviour of a child due to his own personality characteristics or behaviour pattern can be a cause of delinquency.

- Aggression, restlessness and concentration problem.
- Substance abuse e.g. drugs.

##### ii. Family as a reason:

The parenting error (i.e. neglect or pampering), or maltreatment by an family member can become a cause.

- It may include rigid or dysfunctional parents.

##### iii. Society as a cause:

The social factors i.e. high rate of crime in community, exposure to violence, poverty and lack of supervision by elders can lead to juvenile delinquency.

#### 5. Remedial Measures for reducing Juvenile Delinquency in Pak-

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Juvenile delinquency can be reduced or removed from a society by taking the following measures:

- **Family Counselling:**  
It can improve the psychological condition of children and can bring positive impact in their day-to-day conduct.
- **Parent Training:**  
It is crucial as it can regulate children behaviour with increased supervision of parents.
- **Empowering the children:** Empowering by positive motivation or empowering those in jail can remove the delinquent behaviours.
- **Drug control:**  
Drug control is beneficial as it can ~~strengthen~~ improve the behavioural condition of children to keep them away from any offence in society.
- **Strengthening Juvenile Justice System:**  
The juvenile justice system in the country can be improved; the environment of jail, the labelling mechanism to be strengthened.

## Conclusion:

Juvenile Delinquency; is the offensive behaviour of children in a society is a growing concern in the modern age. Such offenders are also found in Pakistan and the offence occurs due to various reasons.

The individualistic, familial and societal reasons contribute to its prime causes in the society and rehabilitation and counselling can be the measures to overcome the problem of juvenile delinquency in Pakistan.