

Explain Juvenile Delinquency. What are the socio-economic, demographic and environmental factors lead to Juvenile Delinquency.

Introduction

Delinquency is a kind of deviant behavior from the socially established and accepted norms. Juvenile delinquency is refer to when a child under age specified by statute committed that deviance. The age for considering juvenile is different in states and it varies among state.

Definition

Friedland says. 'Delinquency is a Juveniles misconduct which must be dealt with under the law'.

C.B Mamori notes. 'The phrase 'Juvenile delinquency' can be generally used for any deviant behavior by a child which is different from ^{norms,} rules and regulations of society'.

Factors leading

There are many social factors that contribute and increase the delinquency.

1- Socio-economic Factor

This indicates the role of society and economic conditions and how they motivate for crime.

a- Poverty

Poverty is a leading cause of crime and specifically juvenile delinquency. The poor children mostly indulge in theft and robbery to meet their needs.

Punjab University, Department of Criminology give a report that 41% of thieves in jails of Punjab committed crime because of poverty. Moreover, poverty leads these children to begging on roads and signals.

b- Uneducated criminals

The children who are not enrolled in schools become mostly criminals. The parents of such children

are also uneducated so they let their children also uneducated. The lack of education can not ensure good future. It brings frustration and ultimately in criminality.

Pakistan Journal of Criminology.

also gave a report that most of the criminals are out of school and dropped out before primary.

Solution: The society and government must ensure education of every citizen and specifically from lower class. Education can bring employment and restrict criminality.

2- Demographic influence on delinquency

The geographical area also influences the ability for crime. If surrounding is filled with criminals so how can a child save himself from criminality.

a. Slums

Slums are considered as the hub

of criminality. They teaches each other techniques of criminality. For instance, 'Liari' in Karachi.

b. Populous city and lack of strict rules

Such demography where law can not keep an eye on every individual. It eases crime for juvenile. According to a report, **Bahawalpur** contributes 24%, **Multan** contributes 17% and **Lahore** contributes 14% in juvenile delinquents. In contrast some demographies have low rate of criminality. For instance **Sargodha** and **Rawalpindi** contributes less as by 5.9% and 5%.

3. Environmental Factor

Environment act as catalyst for juvenile to go for delinquency.

Family

Family is the first institution which can restrict or inflict crime on juvenile. The effect

of family violence, separation in parents and other family issues usually leads towards criminality. These events influence psychology of juvenile and even they turned out to be sadist or psychopathic killer. Lack of love in family produces feel of jealousy for other families and juvenile choose criminality to remove frustration.

Peers / community

After family, a child spends his time among peers and community. The bad influence of peers naturally emerges in mind of child and he also inflicted towards crime. The juvenile delinquency starts from smoking or other illegal activities among peers.

Solution: Social control theory also posits that good relations with family and friends restrict from crime.

4. Facts regarding juvenile delinquency

In Pakistan, from 2005 - 2019, **21.45** cases of juvenile delinquency registered. However, the conviction remains at **0.6%**. The lack of conviction turns the juveniles into organized or professional criminals.

5. Female Juvenile Delinquents

The highest rate of female juvenile delinquents remain in Sindh. The male cases reported **159** and **165** case of female juveniles whereas, the conviction reaches **9** in male and **31** in female.

6. Delinquency in Punjab

	Reason	Percentage
1-	Retaliation	24%
2-	Land disputes	19%
3-	Sexual lust	10%
4-	Poverty	10%
Meanwhile, murder and sexual assault		

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in Punjab is **85.1%** of whole criminality by juvenile

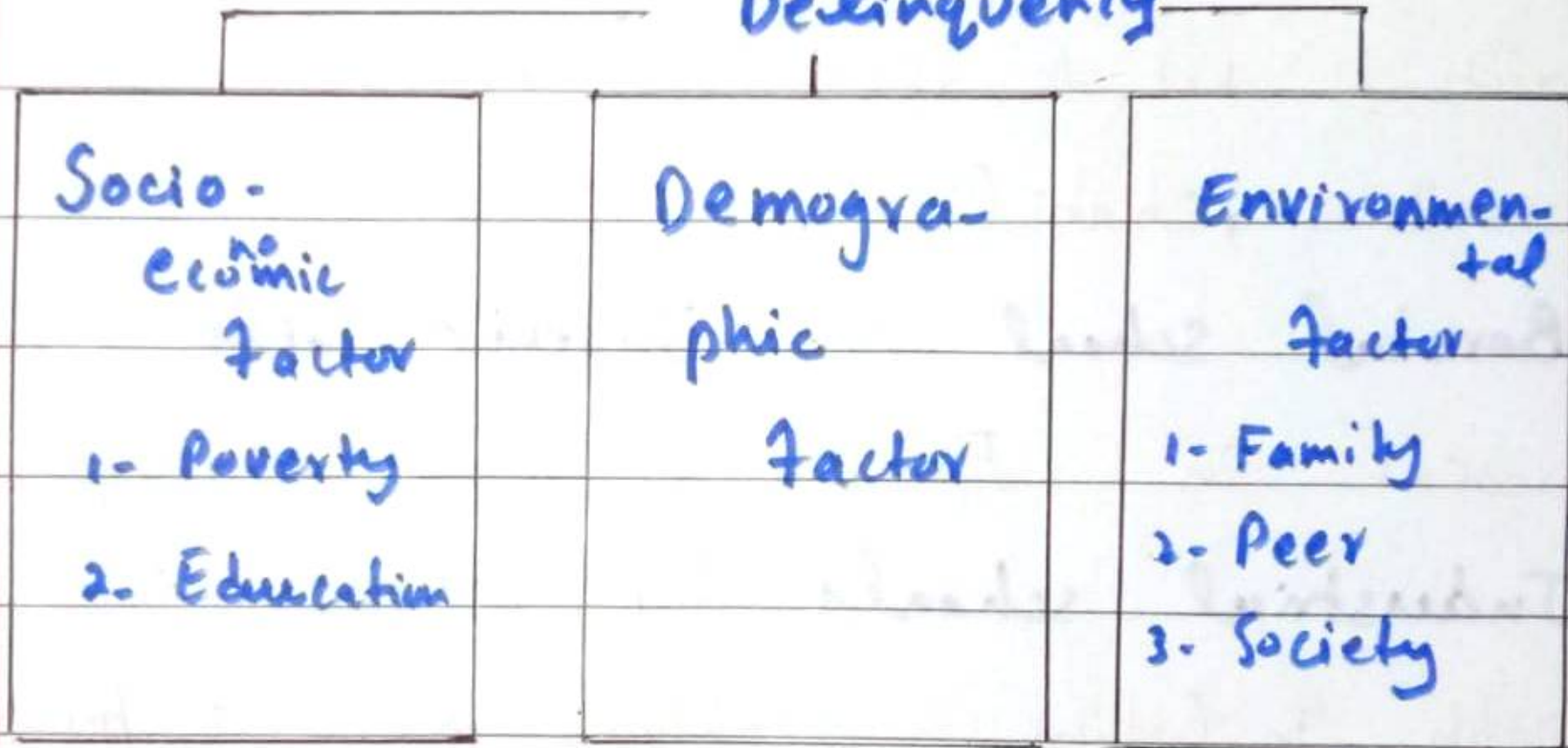
2- The Juvenile Justice Act (2018)

This act allows to file case on government's finances, separate juvenile courts, not to reveal identity and juvenile rehabilitation center.

a. **Borstal school and Juvenile Tails** are present in Faisalabad and Bahawalpur.

b. **Industrial schools** for juveniles in Sindh including Sukkur, Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana.

Factor influencing Delinquency



Conclusion

These are some initiatives by government to counter the factors contributing in juvenile delinquency.

The Juvenile Justice Act is evident example. There is need to eliminate and spread awareness to eliminate factors contributing in juvenile delinquency.

Social control theory highlight the solution by curbing socio-economic,

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demographic and environmental factor
to hinder not to prosper juvenile
delinquency.