

Discuss some of the functions and responsibilities of Juvenile Justice System. Do you think that Juvenile Justice System has played its role in prevention of Juvenile crimes in Pakistan.

1. Introduction

Juvenile justice system is a legally codified justice framework for juveniles; children age below '18' or '16' somewhere. Juvenile Justice system practically emphasises Rehabilitation over punishment. Morally and socially it is preventive act and justice system for juveniles. In Pakistan it is also a legally accepted justice system with assent of Pakistan's constitution and the act is recall as JJSA, 2018: (Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018). The primary function of Juvenile Justice system is to prevent the accused children from social and national stigma, by preventing identity and make sure the fair and separate treatment from the accused above '18' years old.

2. Functions of Juvenile Justice System

Juvenile justice system act as different legal framework from the criminal justice system. The core functions of Juvenile Justice System are:-

a) Rehabilitative framework over Punishment conviction

As per United Nation convention on Rights of children (CRC), children's below 18 years old are represented as Juveniles and UNCRC emphasizes on preventive mechanism as Pakistan's Juvenile Justice System, Act is alligned with (UNCRC). Therefore, Pakistan's legal layout ensures rehabilitative and re-integration practices in Juvenile Cases.

b) Protection of Social Image and Identity

Juvenile Justice system enforced of preventing identity of Juvenile victim by ~~separating~~ separate Juvenile Courts without public prosecution availability. Protection of social image is a core

Practices of re-integration of a Juvenile victim into the Society. Because it may lead to enhance the Criminal background as Criminologists stated that "Criminal is not born Criminal but the Society who labels" - Social Labeling Theory. However, Protection of identity and social stigma may lead a victim to re-integrated into the Society.

c) Separate Prosecution and legal practises.

As per JJSA, 2018 (Juvenile justice system act, 2018, Separate courts are build for juvenile prosecution. Judiciary and legal authorities are ensured for fair and calm treatment. Any type of violation or strict approach to victimize are strongly prohibited in juvenile justice system.

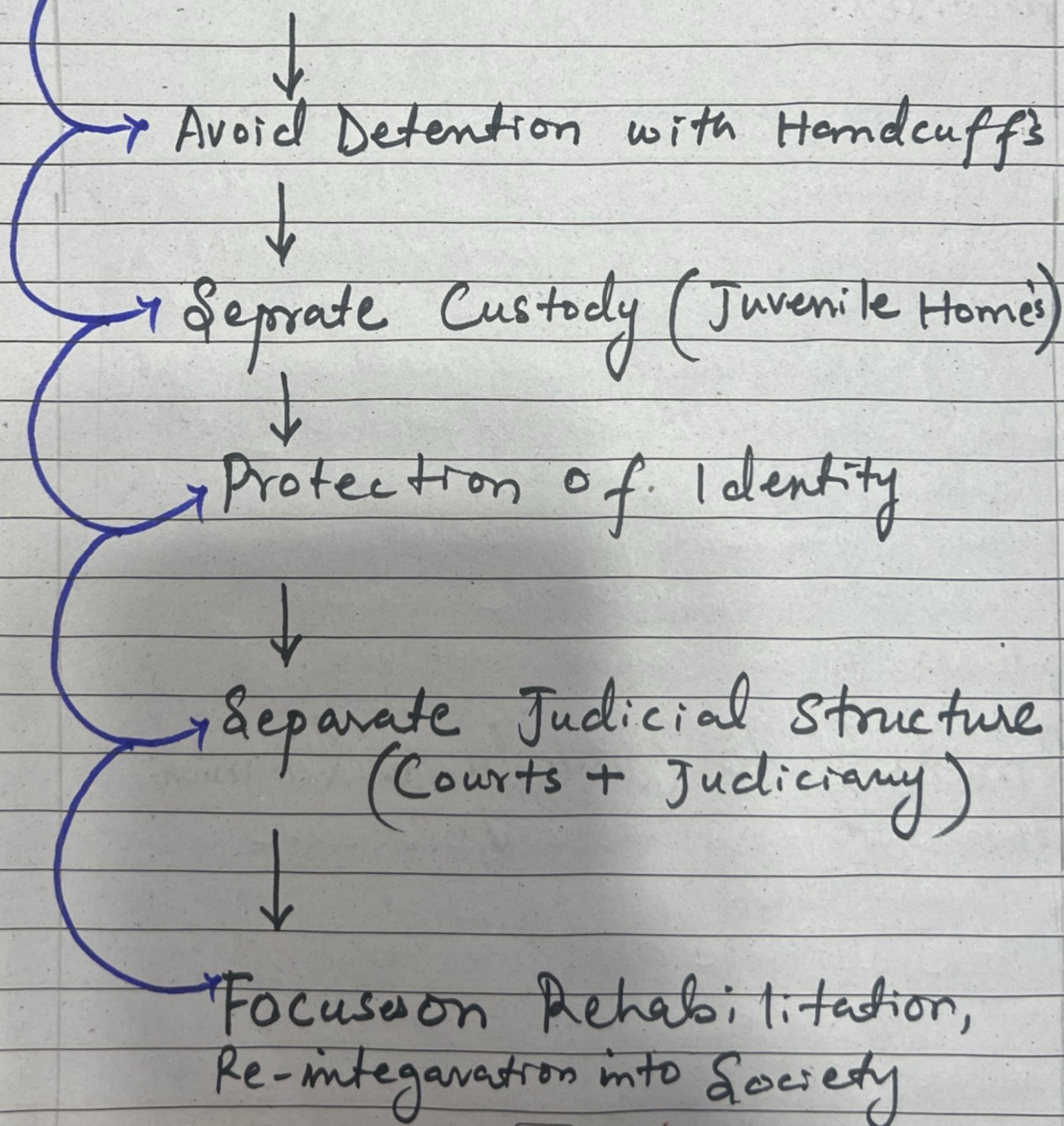
d) Amnesty to Custody and Punishment

The Role of Police and enforcement institution in Juvenile justice system is to Separate the Custody of juveniles from

other criminals and according to Article 12 of Juvenile Justice System Act, 2015, no capital punishment (life time imprisonment and death penalty) is to be called as final mark of conviction.

3. Responsibilities of Juvenile Justice System

Inform Guardian As soon as Possible after Detention



In-effective Role of Juvenile Justice System in Pakistan

Pakistan is under-developing structure of Juvenile Justice act due to financial and structural constraints,

a) Lack of Institutional Capacity and training

According to UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) in the report of Pakistan Criminal Justice System, 2021. It is stated that only 20% of Police is trained for Criminal Justice System in formal structure, while others used informal practices of interrogation, identification and case monitoring.

b) Profile and evidence of TJSA 2018

As per Prison Data of Pakistan, 2024, 1584 juveniles are imprisoned in Pakistan. Due to slow recovery and conviction speed, lack of separate Courts; Cases are hereby in local courts

c) Overlapping Constitutional fragmentation in Juveniles Conviction

Pakistan Criminal Justice System and Juvenile Justice System overlaps at a contradictory point where CJS of Pakistan acts "18" years as a mature criminal and declared juvenile in JJS, A. 2018.

4. Conclusion

Juvenile Justice system in Pakistan upholds crucial role for juveniles from detention to custody and to final victimization, it is totally preventive and restorative in nature.

Due to Governance challenges in Pakistan the acts of justice framework face challenges because the restorative process need capacity development, financial allocation for smooth execution. However governmental challenges and fragmentation of institution hinders the smooth flow of Juvenile Justice System, therefore, strengthening the legal bodies requires strict attention in development and allocation.