



# DELINQUENCY IN CHILDREN : UNVEILING CHALLENGES AND PROMISING SOLUTIONS

**Author:**

**Shefali Chaudhary**

**B.A L.LB (ICFAI LAW SCHOOL, DEHRADUN)**

## ABSTRACT

Delinquency in children, characterised by behaviours that breach criminal laws, encompasses a diverse range of actions such as vandalism, theft, truancy, drug use, and violence. The multifaceted nature of delinquency prompts concerns due to its far-reaching short- and long-term effects on individuals and communities. Rooted in a complex interplay of factors including family, peers, school, and community, this issue predominantly affects children from disadvantaged backgrounds, exposing them to influences like poverty, broken homes, and peer pressures. Further exacerbating the situation are media influences and the availability of substances and weapons. Despite the negative consequences, the issue of delinquency can be mitigated through effective interventions and support systems. Research underscores the significance of early interventions, family support, and educational programs in the prevention and reduction of delinquency among children.

## KEY WORDS

Juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, delinquent behaviour, risk factors

## INTRODUCTION

Delinquency in children refers to behaviours that are in violation of the criminal law. It encompasses a wide range of behaviours, including vandalism, theft, truancy, drug use, and violence. Delinquency in simpler words is a criminal behaviour of an individual but especially of any juvenile. When we talk about the juvenile age it is somewhere up to 15 years. A juvenile is considered to be an adult as he attains the age of 15-18 years, there is a slab and not the exact age as the age is sometimes lowered on the basis of the intensity of any crime. For example for the crimes such as murder, rape or any other serious crimes the age of an adult is lowered to bring the culprit

in the slab of the punishment. Delinquency in general is the act or any action which is not in the furtherance of the legal and moral rules of the society. These are the same acts which, if committed by any adult would be treated as a crime. In the western countries the most common age group with the delinquent behaviour is from 14 to 17 years. This delinquent acts severely with age, for example at the age of 14 there are minor crimes such as stealing but with the age it becomes more severe, violent with the use of weapons or assault.

The issue of delinquency in children has been a concern for society for many years, as it has both short-term and long-term effects on both the individual and the community.

The problem of delinquency in children is complex and multidimensional, involving a variety of factors such as family, peers, school, and community. Children who engage in delinquent behaviour often come from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as poverty, broken homes, and a lack of positive role models. Additionally, the media, peer influence, and access to drugs and weapons can also contribute to delinquent behaviour.

Despite the negative consequences of delinquency, the problem can be addressed and prevented through effective intervention and support. Research has shown that a combination of early intervention, family support, and educational programs can help prevent and reduce delinquency in children.

The purpose of this research paper is to examine the issue of delinquency in children, exploring the causes and consequences of delinquent behaviour, as well as the interventions and support systems that can help prevent it. The study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue, and to make recommendations for future policy and practice.

### **Delinquency in Children:**

Delinquency in children refers to behaviour that is in violation of criminal laws and is committed by minors (individuals under the age of 18).<sup>1</sup> Delinquent behaviour can include acts such as vandalism, theft, truancy, drug use, and violence. Delinquency is considered a serious problem, as it can have a negative impact on both the individual and the community. Delinquency in children is often viewed as a precursor to more serious criminal behaviour in adulthood. It's been observed that most of the delinquents discontinue this behaviour once they reach the age of adulthood. The reason can be the changed circumstances in their life such as; marriage, job, better environment. All these aspects contribute to them walking on a correct path and living a balanced life. Still the number of delinquents continuing the criminal nature is higher than the ones falling on the right line.

Efforts have been made to identify potential delinquents at an early age in order to provide preventive treatment. Such predictions of delinquency generally depend not only on the child's behaviour in school but also on the quality of the child's home life. There are many elements that delinquents share in their home lives. Their parents are frequently heavy drinkers who are involved in crime themselves and are unable to provide emotional or financial support for their children. Discipline is inconsistent and often relies on physical force. Most attempts to

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/delinquency>

detect future delinquents have failed, however. Indeed, it has been found that the stigma of being identified as a potential delinquent often causes the child to commit delinquent acts.

### **Overview of the Problem:**

The problem of delinquent behaviour in children is widespread and complex, and its causes and consequences are not well understood. Delinquent behaviour can have a range of negative effects on the individual and the community, including physical harm, property damage, and a higher likelihood of future criminal behaviour.

Children who engage in delinquent behaviour often come from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as poverty, broken homes, and a lack of positive role models. Additionally, peer pressure, media influence, and access to drugs and weapons can also contribute to delinquent behaviour.

When we talk about children of a particular age we see that after home schools are the main area where they get influenced or affected, so much that they engage themselves in such activities.<sup>2</sup> The study of delinquent behaviour in children shows that most of them have not performed well in their school life, lower grades, poor experiences or some mental trauma in their school life. And these things put so much effect on their life that they engage in such activities and may even do worse activities. Some of the delinquents are observed to even be the dropouts from their school or college and hence have no job opportunities. But it is not necessarily important that all the delinquents do such activities to satisfy their anger or revenge but they do it to get recognised in the society. They believe that they will get more recognition and more rewards than they got in school life.

Juvenile gangs often perform delinquent acts, not solely out of frustration with society but also out of a need to attain status within their group. A gang can provide the rewards a juvenile cannot get from his school or other institution.

Not only schools but the justice system also contribute to promoting delinquent behaviour in the children. As there have been cases where the minors have been punished harshly without considering the age of the child and what influence this will create on their future life. This results in the continuing behaviour in the future.

Since the delinquent behaviour has a wide range of causes it requires a multi faceted resolving approach which involves the involvements of families, communities, schools, and the legal system all together.

<sup>2</sup> Whitesmanns Juvenile delinquency and parental responsibility laws

## **Purpose and Importance of the Study:**

The purpose of studying delinquent behaviour in children is to gain a deeper understanding of the problem and to identify effective ways of preventing and reducing it. This research can inform the development of policies and programs that address the root causes of delinquent behaviour and promote positive outcomes for children and their communities.

There are several reasons why the study of delinquent behaviour in children is important. Firstly, it can help to improve public safety by reducing the frequency and severity of delinquent behaviour. Secondly, it can help to reduce the costs associated with crime, such as property damage, court and legal fees, and incarceration. Thirdly, it can help to improve the well-being of children and their families, by reducing the risk of criminal behaviour and promoting positive outcomes.

## **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF DELINQUENCY IN CHILDREN**

The study of delinquent behaviour in children has a long history, dating back to the 19th century. During this time, concerns about juvenile crime and the treatment of juvenile offenders led to the creation of the first juvenile court in 1899 in Illinois, USA. This court was established to provide a separate and more lenient justice system for children, recognizing that they have different needs and capacities than adults.

In the early 20th century, the progressive movement in the United States influenced reforms in the juvenile justice system, including the introduction of rehabilitation and treatment programs for juvenile offenders. During this time, the concept of "delinquency" emerged, referring to antisocial behaviour committed by children and youth.

In the mid-20th century, the United States experienced a rise in youth crime, which led to a shift towards a more punitive approach to juvenile justice. This resulted in the increased use of detention and incarceration for juvenile offenders, and a decline in the use of rehabilitation and treatment programs.

In recent decades, there has been a growing recognition of the need for a more comprehensive and evidence-based approach to addressing delinquent behaviour in children. This has led to a resurgence of interest in the study of the causes and prevention of delinquent behaviour, and the development of new and innovative interventions to address this problem.

In conclusion, the historical overview of delinquent behaviour in children demonstrates the evolution of our understanding of this problem and the development of responses to it. While there have been both advances and setbacks in our efforts to prevent and reduce delinquent behaviour in children, the continued study and analysis of this issue remains crucial to promoting positive outcomes for children and their communities.

## **THEORETICAL EXPLANATION OF DELINQUENCY IN CHILDREN**

There are several theories that attempt to explain the causes of delinquent behaviour in children. Some of the most prominent theories include:

**Social Learning Theory:** This theory suggests that delinquent behaviour is learned through observation and reinforcement. Children who are exposed to antisocial behaviour, either in their families or in their peer groups, are more likely to engage in similar behaviour themselves.

**Social Control Theory:** This theory suggests that delinquent behaviour is a result of the breakdown of social bonds and the failure of social institutions to provide adequate guidance and control. Children who lack strong attachments to family, school, and community are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour.

**Social Disorganization Theory:** This theory suggests that delinquent behaviour is a result of the breakdown of social order in disadvantaged communities. Children who live in communities with high levels of poverty, crime, and disorder are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour.

**Strain Theory:** This theory suggests that delinquent behaviour is a result of the tension and frustration that arises when individuals are unable to attain their goals through legitimate means. Children who experience poverty, discrimination, or other forms of social strain are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour.

**Biological and Psychological Theories:** These theories suggest that delinquent behaviour is related to individual differences in biology and psychology, such as temperament, intelligence, and mental health.

## OVERVIEW OF PREVIOUS RESEARCH ON DELINQUENCY IN CHILDREN

There has been several researches to study the delinquent behaviour. Previous research on delinquency in children has focused on a wide range of topics, including the prevalence and patterns of delinquent behaviour, the risk and protective factors associated with delinquency, and the effectiveness of interventions aimed at reducing delinquent behaviour.

Studies have found that the prevalence of delinquent behaviour varies by age, gender, and other demographic factors. For example, research has shown that young males are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour than females, and that delinquent behaviour tends to peak in the teenage years and decline in adulthood.

<sup>3</sup>Research has also identified a number of risk factors associated with delinquent behaviour, including poverty, family dysfunction, peer deviance, and early exposure to violence. In contrast, protective factors that have been shown to reduce the risk of delinquent behaviour include strong family relationships, positive peer relationships, school attachment, and involvement in pro-social activities.

Studies have also evaluated the effectiveness of various interventions aimed at reducing delinquent behaviour, including individual and family therapy, skill-building programs, mentoring programs, and rehabilitation programs. Some studies have found that these interventions can be effective in reducing delinquent behaviour, particularly when they are evidence-based and culturally sensitive.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://bnblegal.com/article/juvenile-delinquency-in-india-challenges-and-solutions/>



## **GAPS IN THE PREVIOUS RESEARCHES**

Despite the extensive research on delinquency in children, there are still several gaps in the literature that need to be addressed. Some of these gaps include:

**Lack of longitudinal studies:** Many studies on delinquency in children are cross-sectional and do not follow the same individuals over time. Longitudinal studies that track the same individuals from childhood to adulthood would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the development of delinquent behaviour and the factors that contribute to it.

**Limited focus on protective factors:** Much of the research on delinquency in children has focused on identifying risk factors, with less attention paid to the protective factors that can reduce the risk of delinquent behaviour. Further research is needed to better understand the mechanisms through which protective factors reduce the risk of delinquency and how these factors can be used to promote positive youth development.

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**Limited cultural diversity:** Much of the research on delinquency in children has been conducted in Western countries, with limited research on this issue in other cultural contexts. Further research is needed to understand the cultural specificity of delinquent behaviour and to develop culturally appropriate interventions to address this problem.

**Lack of effective interventions:** Despite the development of several interventions aimed at reducing delinquent behaviour, there is limited evidence on which interventions are most effective in different cultural and demographic contexts. Further research is needed to identify the most effective interventions for different subgroups of children and to determine the best ways to implement these interventions in real-world settings.

**Lack of comprehensive assessment:** Many studies on delinquency in children use self-reported measures of delinquent behaviour, which may be subject to biases and inaccuracies. Further research is needed to develop more comprehensive assessments of delinquent behaviour that include multiple sources of information and objective measures, such as official records and behavioural observations.

## **GENERAL CAUSES FOR DELINQUENCY**

When we talk about the general causes of delinquency, there cannot be any one or two factors which are responsible for the same. In fact it is the result of several distinct factors. So the point of whether one factor of causing delinquency is totally unsound.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/2148?sam\\_handle=123456789/1362](https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/2148?sam_handle=123456789/1362)

**Dr. Jyotsana H. shah has perfectly divided such factors of causing delinquent behaviour in two factors;** namely

- I. **Inside the home**: this includes wrong parenting, criminality in the family, jealousy between siblings, broken families, etc

Let's understand these in brief;

- A. **Family Environment**: The family environment plays a crucial role in shaping a child's behaviour. Inconsistent discipline, lack of supervision, and poor communication within the family can contribute to delinquent behaviour. An unstable or violent home environment can expose children to negative role models and increase the likelihood of engaging in delinquent activities.
- B. **Parenting Style**: Parenting styles that are overly permissive or overly authoritarian can contribute to delinquent behaviour. Neglectful parenting, where a child's basic needs aren't met, can also lead to delinquency as children seek validation and attention from other sources.
- C. **Parental Involvement**: Lack of parental involvement in a child's life can lead to feelings of neglect and abandonment. Children who feel unsupported by their parents might seek belonging and acceptance from peers who engage in delinquent activities.
- D. **Parental Conflict**: High levels of conflict and tension between parents can create a stressful and unstable home environment. Witnessing parental conflicts, especially if they escalate into violence, can increase the likelihood of children exhibiting aggressive or delinquent behaviour.
- E. **Substance Abuse**: Parents who abuse drugs or alcohol can neglect their parenting responsibilities, leading to an environment that lacks structure and supervision. Additionally, children growing up in such households might be more exposed to substance abuse and early experimentation themselves.
- F. **Lack of Emotional Support**: Children who do not receive adequate emotional support from their families may struggle to cope with their emotions. This can lead to seeking out risky behaviours as a way to manage their feelings.
- G. **Exposure to Criminal Behavior**: If children are exposed to criminal behaviour within their own households, such as involvement in illegal activities by family members, it can normalise such behaviour and increase the likelihood that they will engage in similar activities.
- H. **Financial Stress**: Economic hardships can lead to parental stress and strained family dynamics. Lack of resources can limit access to educational and recreational opportunities, potentially pushing children towards delinquent behaviour as a way to cope or seek gratification.
- I. **Lack of Positive Role Models**: Absence of positive role models within the household can make it difficult for children to develop prosocial skills and behaviours. A lack of healthy role models can lead to the adoption of negative influences from peers or media.
- J. **Trauma and Abuse**: Children who have experienced physical, emotional, or sexual abuse are at a higher risk of developing behavioral problems, including delinquency. The trauma they've endured can lead to maladaptive coping mechanisms and difficulty forming healthy relationships.

II. **Outside the home:** this includes environmental factors which can mould the behaviour of the person in a way.

- A. **Peer Influence:** Peer pressure and association with delinquent peers can strongly impact a child's behaviour. Children may engage in delinquent activities to fit in, gain acceptance, or avoid being ostracised by their peer group.
- B. **School Environment:** A negative school environment characterised by bullying, academic difficulties, or lack of positive teacher-student relationships can contribute to delinquency. Frustration with school-related challenges might lead some children to seek validation through delinquent behaviour.
- C. **Community and Neighborhood:** Growing up in neighbourhoods with high crime rates, limited access to recreational facilities, and inadequate community support can expose children to delinquent role models and risky behaviours.
- D. **Media and Pop Culture:** Exposure to violent or antisocial media content can influence a child's perceptions of acceptable behaviour. Media glorification of criminal activities can desensitise children to the consequences of their actions.
- E. **Substance Availability:** Easy access to drugs and alcohol in the community can increase the likelihood of experimentation and substance abuse among children, leading to delinquent behaviour.
- F. **Economic Disadvantage:** Living in poverty or low-income areas can limit opportunities for positive activities and lead children to engage in delinquent behaviour as a means of seeking financial gain or excitement.
- G. **Lack of Positive Role Models:** Limited exposure to positive adult role models in the community can leave children without guidance or inspiration, making them more susceptible to negative influences.
- H. **Discrimination and Social Exclusion:** Children who experience discrimination or social exclusion based on factors like race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status may develop feelings of resentment and turn to delinquent behaviour as a form of rebellion or coping mechanism.



- I. **Inadequate Social Services:** Limited access to quality mental health services, counselling, and community programs can leave children without the support they need to address underlying emotional or behavioural issues.
- J. **Lack of After-School Activities:** Communities with few or no organised after-school activities may leave children with idle time, which can increase the likelihood of engaging in risky or delinquent behaviours.

## WAYS TO STOP DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR

There are several strategies that have been effective in reducing delinquent behaviour in children, including:

**Prevention and Early Intervention:** Programs that target at-risk children and provide support and resources to families, such as parent training and home visiting programs, can help to reduce the likelihood of delinquent behaviour.

**Strengthening Families:** Family-based interventions, such as family therapy and multisystemic therapy, can help to improve family functioning and reduce the risk of delinquent behaviour.

**Improving School Climate:** Positive and supportive school environments, including a focus on positive discipline and school-wide programs that promote prosocial behaviour, can reduce the risk of delinquent behaviour.

**Addressing Substance Abuse:** Substance abuse treatment programs can help to reduce drug and alcohol use, which is a risk factor for delinquent behaviour.

**Juvenile Justice Reform:** The juvenile justice system can play a role in reducing delinquent behaviour by providing appropriate consequences for delinquent behaviour, while also addressing the underlying causes of the behaviour and promoting rehabilitation and reentry into the community.

**Building Community Connections:** Programs and initiatives that promote positive youth development, such as mentoring and after-school programs, can help to reduce the risk of delinquent behaviour by providing youth with positive role models and opportunities for growth and development.

**Providing Mental Health Services:** Mental health services, such as therapy and medication management, can help to address the underlying mental health issues that may contribute to delinquent behaviour.

It is important to note that these strategies should be implemented in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, taking into account the individual needs and circumstances of the child. Additionally, evaluations of these programs and initiatives are necessary to determine their effectiveness and to inform future efforts to reduce delinquent behavior in children.

## THE BORSTALS SCHOOL FOR ADOLESCENT OFFENDER IN INDIA

Borstal schools are a type of correctional institution designed for the rehabilitation and reform of young offenders, typically in the age range of 16 to 21 years. In India, borstal schools are a component of the juvenile justice system and are established to provide a structured environment for the rehabilitation and reformation of adolescent offenders.<sup>5</sup> They aim to offer education, vocational training, and psychological support to help young offenders reintegrate into society as responsible citizens. However, it's worth noting that the term "borstal" itself is not frequently used in modern legal terminology in India; instead, these institutions are often referred to as "special homes."

Key features of borstal schools (special homes)<sup>6</sup> for adolescent offenders in India include:

**Rehabilitation Programs:** Borstal schools provide a range of rehabilitation programs that focus on education, vocational training, skill development, and counselling. These programs are designed to equip young offenders with the necessary skills to reintegrate into society after their release.

**Structured Environment:** The institutions provide a structured and controlled environment where inmates follow a daily routine that includes education, work, physical activities, and leisure time. This structure is intended to instil discipline and responsibility.

**Education:** Inmates are provided with formal education and training to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. This education is essential for their personal development and helps in their reintegration into society.

**Vocational Training:** One of the key focuses of borstal schools is to provide vocational training that equips young offenders with practical skills. This training enhances their employability and reduces the likelihood of recidivism.

**Counselling and Psychological Support:** Borstal schools offer counselling and psychological support to address the emotional and psychological needs of young offenders. This support is crucial for addressing underlying issues that might contribute to their delinquent behaviour.

**Reintegration Planning:** Before release, staff at borstal schools work on reintegration plans for each inmate. These plans may involve job placement, family reunification, and community support to ensure a smoother transition back into society.

<sup>5</sup> <http://prisons.ap.gov.in/Bschool.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/statistical-survey-borstal-schools>

Aftercare Services: Many borstal schools also offer aftercare services to provide continued support to young offenders after their release. This includes monitoring their progress, providing guidance, and offering assistance in finding employment and stable housing.

<sup>7</sup>It's important to understand that the juvenile justice system in India focuses on the rehabilitation and reformation of young offenders rather than punitive measures. The goal is to provide them with the tools they need to lead productive and responsible lives. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, governs the establishment and operation of these institutions, and it outlines the principles and procedures for dealing with juvenile offenders in India. Keep in mind that details might have evolved since my last update in September 2021, so it's recommended to refer to the most current legal sources for the latest information.

### **THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015**

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 is a significant piece of legislation in India that addresses matters related to children in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection. <sup>8</sup>It replaces the earlier Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 and aims to ensure a more child-friendly and rehabilitative approach towards juvenile offenders and children in difficult circumstances. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, was enacted to align with international standards and principles related to the rights of children. <sup>9</sup>It reflects a more progressive and rehabilitative approach to dealing with children in conflict with the law, recognizing that they are still in their formative years and can be positively influenced through proper care, support, and guidance. Here are some key provisions and aspects of the Act:

#### **Definition of a Juvenile:**

The Act defines a "juvenile" as a person who has not completed 18 years of age. It distinguishes between a "child in conflict with law" (a juvenile who has committed an offence) and a "child in need of care and protection" (a child who is in need of care due to various circumstances, but has not committed an offence).

#### **Rehabilitation and Reintegration:**

The Act emphasises rehabilitation, social reintegration, and the well-being of the child as the primary objectives of the juvenile justice system. The approach is focused on reforming young offenders and providing them with opportunities for education, skill development, and counselling to prevent re-offending.

<sup>7</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10964-020-01349-0>

<sup>8</sup> <https://cara.wcd.gov.in/PDF/JJ%20act%202015.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [http://jjcdhc.nic.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Juvenile-Justice-Bill\\_2005.pdf](http://jjcdhc.nic.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Juvenile-Justice-Bill_2005.pdf)

### **Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) and Child Welfare Committees (CWC):**

The Act establishes Juvenile Justice Boards at the district level to deal with cases involving children in conflict with the law. Child Welfare Committees are set up to handle cases of children in need of care and protection. These bodies are responsible for determining appropriate measures for rehabilitation and protection.

### **Differentiated Procedures for Juveniles:**

The Act prescribes special procedures for the treatment of juveniles during arrest, inquiry, and trial. It ensures a child-friendly and sensitive environment for legal proceedings.

### **Sentencing and Disposition:**

The Act outlines various options for the disposition of juvenile offenders. These include counselling, community service, probation, and sending the juvenile to an observation home, special home, or a place of safety, depending on the severity of the offence and the age of the juvenile.

### **Age Determination:**

The Act provides mechanisms for determining the age of juveniles in case of doubt, ensuring that younger offenders are not treated as adults within the criminal justice system.

### **Rehabilitation and Aftercare Services:**

The Act mandates aftercare and follow-up services for juvenile offenders after their release to aid in their reintegration into society.

### **Adoption and Foster Care:**

The Act introduces provisions related to adoption and foster care for children who are orphaned, abandoned, or surrendered.

### **Offences and Penalties:**

The Act provides for offences and penalties related to cruelty against children, child trafficking, and other offences affecting children's rights.

### **AFTER CARE PROGRAMME AND REHABILITATION IDEA**

Aftercare programs and rehabilitation ideas for delinquent children are essential components of the juvenile justice system that aim to support the reintegration and positive development of young offenders. These programs focus on addressing the root causes of delinquency, providing education and skill development, and ensuring that

these children have a fair chance to lead productive lives. <sup>10</sup>Here are some key elements of aftercare and rehabilitation programs:

### **Comprehensive Assessment:**

Begin with a comprehensive assessment of each child's needs, strengths, and challenges. This assessment should take into account their educational level, vocational interests, mental health, family background, and any previous experiences with the justice system.

### **Individualised Rehabilitation Plans:**

Develop individualised rehabilitation plans for each child, tailored to their specific needs and circumstances. These plans should outline goals, strategies, and interventions for addressing their academic, vocational, psychological, and social needs.

### **Education and Skill Development:**

Provide access to quality education and skill development programs. Academic support should be offered to bridge educational gaps, and vocational training should focus on building practical skills that enhance employability upon release.

### **Counselling and Mental Health Support:**

Offer counselling and mental health services to address any underlying psychological issues that may contribute to delinquency. Trauma-informed care and counselling can help these children develop coping strategies and positive self-esteem.

### **Life Skills Training:**

Teach life skills such as communication, problem-solving, decision-making, and conflict resolution. These skills empower young offenders to make better choices and handle challenges effectively.

### **Family Reintegration:**

Involve families in the rehabilitation process. Provide counselling and support to strengthen family bonds, address conflicts, and create a conducive environment for the child's reintegration into the family.

### **Job Placement and Skill Building:**

Facilitate job placement or support in finding employment opportunities. This could involve partnerships with local businesses, providing internships, or connecting them with vocational training centres.

### **Community Engagement:**

<sup>10</sup> [http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/epgpdata/uploads/epgp\\_content/S001608/P001812/M027785/ET/1521116258et.pdf](http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/epgpdata/uploads/epgp_content/S001608/P001812/M027785/ET/1521116258et.pdf)



Involve the community in the rehabilitation process. Community service programs can help young offenders give back to society, develop empathy, and learn the value of contributing positively.

### **Mentorship Programs:**

Establish mentorship programs where experienced adults can provide guidance and positive role models for young offenders. Mentorship can play a significant role in shaping their attitudes and aspirations.

### **Recreational and Creative Activities:**

Engage delinquent children in recreational and creative activities such as sports, arts, and music. These activities provide outlets for self-expression and help build self-esteem.

### **Monitoring and Follow-Up:**

Implement a system for monitoring the progress of rehabilitated children even after their release. Continued support and periodic check-ins can help prevent relapses into delinquent behaviour.

### **Restorative Justice Practices:**

Incorporate restorative justice practices that encourage offenders to take responsibility for their actions, make amends to victims, and learn from their mistakes.

### **Legal Literacy:**

Educate children about their legal rights and responsibilities. This empowers them to make informed decisions and avoid future involvement in criminal activities.

### **Long-Term Support:**

Recognize that rehabilitation is a long-term process. Ensure that support systems are in place beyond the immediate release period to ensure sustained positive outcomes.

Effective aftercare and rehabilitation programs require collaboration among government agencies, social workers, educators, mental health professionals, community organisations, and families. They emphasise the potential for positive change and aim to break the cycle of delinquency by equipping young offenders with the skills and support they need to lead fulfilling lives.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study of delinquency in children is a complex and multifaceted issue with important implications for policy and practice. It is a critical area of research because it has the potential to inform the development of effective

programs and policies that can improve outcomes for children and reduce the risk of delinquent behaviour. The field of delinquency research has a rich history and a growing body of evidence that has helped to better understand the causes, contributing factors, and consequences of delinquent behaviour in children. The research suggests that there are a number of theoretical explanations for delinquent behaviour, including individual, family, peer, school, and community factors. Moreover, the research indicates that there are a number of gaps in the literature that need to be addressed, such as the need for more studies that focus on specific subpopulations of children and the need for more rigorous evaluations of prevention and intervention programs. Despite these limitations, the study of delinquency in children has important implications for policy and practice in a number of areas, including prevention, the juvenile justice system, child welfare, education, and mental health. Despite the extensive body of research that has been conducted on this topic, there is still much that we do not know about the causes and contributing factors of delinquent behaviour. However, what is clear is that delinquent behaviour in children can have a profound impact on their lives and on the lives of those around them. It is therefore essential that we continue to study this issue and to develop effective strategies for preventing and addressing delinquent behaviour in children. By doing so, we can help to create a safer, more supportive, and more just society for all.

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