



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF TYPES OF OFFENSES COMMITTED BY CCLS DURING THE CURRENT ETHNIC CONFLICT IN MANIPUR

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Abstract

This dissertation provides a thorough situational study of the many transgressions committed by children involved in legal conflicts during the ongoing ethnic war in Manipur. The research examines the historical context and current dynamics of the ethnic conflict, with a particular focus on its influence on children and their engagement in criminal activities. The dissertation investigates the several elements that contribute to juvenile delinquency in conflict-affected regions, such as socio-economic, familial, peer, psychological, and educational aspects, by analyzing existing literature, theoretical viewpoints, and empirical research.

The project aims to examine the frequency and trends of juvenile crimes in Manipur, identify deficiencies in the current body of literature, and investigate the efficacy of intervention and rehabilitation initiatives for juvenile offenders. The research used a mixed-methods approach, which involves analyzing secondary data quantitatively and gathering qualitative insights via interviews, focus groups, and case studies.

The results indicate that the ethnic strife in Manipur has a noteworthy influence on youngsters, resulting in a heightened susceptibility to involvement in criminal conduct. Juvenile offenders often engage in property crimes, violent crimes, drug-related offenses, and other offenses, which are often connected to the wider context of the ethnic conflict. Nevertheless, there is a scarcity of research focusing on the distinct requirements and encounters of young offenders in regions impacted by violence, underscoring deficiencies in the existing body of literature.

The implications for policy and practice are bolstering the juvenile justice system, advocating for community-based rehabilitation, allocating resources to preventative efforts, and improving cooperation and coordination among stakeholders. Future research should prioritize longitudinal studies, qualitative research, comparative analysis, and assessment of particular intervention techniques to effectively address the highlighted gaps and improve outcomes for juvenile offenders in conflict-affected locations.

Key terms: Juvenile delinquency, Ethnic conflict, Manipur, Children in conflict with laws, Intervention programs, Rehabilitation, Socio-economic issues, Family dynamics, Community-based rehabilitation, Prevention techniques.

Introduction

BACKGROUND OF MANIPUR'S ETHNIC CONFLICT

Situated in the northeastern part of India, the state of Manipur is a territory renowned for its cultural heterogeneity; nonetheless, it has been plagued by an enduring ethnic dispute. During the colonial period, as the British Empire expanded its control over the area, this dispute originated. Due to its unique cultural heritage and historical significance, Manipur became embroiled in a contentious dispute on autonomy and the safeguarding of its traditional ways of life (Kamei, 2009).

In 1949, during the post-independence era, Manipur acceded to the Indian Union. This action encountered opposition from several segments of the population who saw themselves as excluded and uninformed (Gangte, 2012). As the Manipuri people's aspirations for more autonomy and acknowledgment of their distinctive identity intensified over time, tensions subsided. The state was beset by waves of unrest and demonstrations, which often escalated into confrontations between Indian security forces and the indigenous populace (Shimray, 2010).

At the core of the ethnic dispute in Manipur lie concerns pertaining to political representation, identity, and land. The region accommodates a multitude of ethnic groupings, such as the Meiteis, Nagas, Kukis, and several tribal tribes, all of which have a unique cultural legacy and set of ambitions (Das, 2016). Intercommunity conflicts have been exacerbated by competition for political influence and access to resources, resulting in intermittent episodes of violence and instability.

The Armed Personnel Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was implemented in Manipur, which served to intensify the conflict. Human rights crimes alleged to have been committed by security forces added fuel to the fire (Chaudhuri, 2013). The severe provisions of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which bestow

broad authority on the military, have engendered extensive censure and demonstrations inside the state, exacerbating the rift between the indigenous populace and the governing bodies.

In light of past animosities and present-day sociopolitical intricacies, Manipur persists in confronting the difficulty of attaining enduring peace and reconciliation. Notwithstanding, the ethnic strife inside the state continues to be an urgent matter requiring the participation of civil society groups, politicians, and the international community as a whole.

IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAWS (CICL)

Comprehending the intricacies and experiences of children in conflict with laws (CICL) is critical for a multitude of reasons. To begin with, children involved in legal disputes constitute a susceptible demographic that requires particular safeguards and care. Such youngsters often originate from impoverished households marked by maltreatment, disregard, and inadequate educational and healthcare opportunities (UNICEF, 2019). An examination of their conditions may provide insight into the fundamental elements that contribute to their engagement in unlawful behaviour and guide the development of focused treatments aimed at meeting their requirements.

Additionally, the examination of CICL is vital in safeguarding the tenets of justice and human rights. Due to their juvenile stage of development and age, children may not possess the same degree of guilt or complete comprehension of the repercussions of their acts as adults. Hence, it is critical to embrace a rehabilitative stance towards juvenile offenders as opposed to a punitive one, in accordance with established international agreements like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (United Nations, 1989). Policy and practise designed to promote the rights and well-being of children in conflict with the law while maintaining responsibility for their conduct may be informed by CICL research.

In addition, CICL research aids in the reduction and prevention of juvenile delinquency. Through the identification of risk factors linked to juvenile delinquency, such as familial discord, exposure to violence, and absence of constructive role models, it becomes possible to devise interventions that target these fundamental concerns and divert children who are at risk from pursuing a criminal lifestyle (Mulder et al., 2018). The efficacy of early intervention and rehabilitation initiatives that specifically target CICL in terms of deterring recidivism and fostering constructive juvenile development has been shown.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

A complete situational analysis of the crimes committed by children in conflict with laws (CICL) during the ongoing ethnic war in Manipur is the objective of this research. Multiple goals are pursued via the investigation of the characteristics and scope of juvenile delinquency in relation to the continuing ethnic conflict.

To begin with, this study aims to provide an analysis of the several categories of transgressions committed by CICL in Manipur. These transgressions include property crimes, violent offences, drug-related offences, and more. The study's objective is to provide insights into the incidence and patterns of juvenile delinquency in order to guide the development of tailored intervention techniques that promote rehabilitation and reintegration while also addressing the underlying causes of delinquency.

Additionally, this research endeavours to investigate the fundamental elements that contribute to the occurrence of adolescent delinquency in Manipur as a result of the ethnic conflict. This involves an analysis of several psychological, peer-related, socioeconomic, and family elements that might potentially impact the propensity of youngsters to engage in criminal behaviour in the presence of violence and intercommunity conflicts.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The primary aims of this research endeavour are to fill significant knowledge voids about adolescent criminality in Manipur as it relates to the ethnic strife. The following goals have been established:

1. The objective of this study is to classify and identify the various crimes perpetrated by children in conflict with laws (CICL) in Manipur during the ongoing ethnic strife. This entails doing an exhaustive examination of the existing data on juvenile delinquency in order to determine the frequency and characteristics of diverse illicit behaviours committed by CICL.
2. The objective of this study is to analyse the psychological, peer-related, socioeconomic, and family determinants of adolescent criminality in Manipur in the context of the ethnic war. The primary goal of this purpose is to identify the fundamental factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency in the face of violent conflicts and tensions across communities.

3. Evaluate the efficacy of current rehabilitation and intervention programmes that specifically target CICL in the state of Manipur. This entails assessing the efficacy of existing strategies in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders into society while also meeting their needs.

4. Offer policy and practise suggestions in light of the study's results. The aim of this purpose is to provide insights that may guide the development of evidence-based approaches to mitigate juvenile delinquency, enhance the welfare and rights of CICL, and cultivate peace and stability in Manipur during the ethnic strife.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

The study's research strategy has been meticulously planned to guarantee a thorough and methodical examination of the many categories of transgressions perpetrated by children in conflict with laws (CICL) amidst the ongoing ethnic strife in Manipur. By combining qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection, the technique offers a more nuanced understanding of the phenomena.

In the first stages, a mixed-approaches strategy will be used, integrating qualitative data gathering methods with quantitative data analysis. This methodology enables the triangulation of results obtained from several sources, hence augmenting the study's conclusions in terms of validity and dependability.

Official sources and reports, including as court papers, police records, and government statistics, will be queried for quantitative data in order to determine the frequency and distribution of various sorts of infractions perpetrated by CICL in Manipur. To uncover patterns and trends in juvenile delinquency, descriptive statistical analysis will be performed on demographic factors and the frequency of certain crimes.

Simultaneously, qualitative data will be gathered via focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with important stakeholders, including representatives of rehabilitation institutions, NGOs, juvenile offenders, their families, community leaders, and law enforcement authorities. The use of these qualitative data gathering methodologies will provide valuable insights into the fundamental elements that contribute to juvenile delinquency in Manipur amid the ethnic war. These elements will include socio-economic, family, peer-related, and psychological effects.

A comparative review of established intervention and rehabilitation programmes that specifically target CICL in Manipur is also included into the research design. This entails performing site visits, reading programme records, and interviewing programme managers and beneficiaries in order to evaluate the efficacy of existing practises in facilitating the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders into society.

Ensuring the confidentiality and anonymity of participants, obtaining informed permission, and adhering to ethical rules regulating research involving vulnerable groups will be of the utmost importance throughout the study process.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

A mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies were used to collect data for this research in order to provide nuanced and complete insights about the crimes perpetrated by children in conflict with laws (CICL) during the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur.

The principal sources from which quantitative data will be sourced are official reports and records, such as court papers, police records, and government statistics. The sources provide methodical and organised data pertaining to juvenile delinquency, including details on the kind of crimes perpetrated, demographic attributes of juvenile offenders, and temporal patterns. Further, in order to obtain supplementary information regarding the prevalence and distribution of juvenile delinquency in Manipur, quantitative data may be gathered via surveys distributed to key stakeholders, including community leaders, law enforcement officials, and representatives from rehabilitation centres.

In-depth interviews and focus group discussions with key informants, including juvenile offenders, their families, community leaders, and representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and rehabilitation institutes, will be used to collect qualitative data. The use of qualitative data collecting methodologies enables an investigation of the fundamental elements that contribute to adolescent delinquency in the Manipur ethnic conflict. These elements include socio-economic, family, peer-related, and psychological impacts. Qualitative data gathering employs interactive discourse and open-ended questions to elicit comprehensive and situation-specific understandings of the lived realities and viewpoints of those who are directly affected by juvenile delinquency.

DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

A methodical and rigorous strategy was used to examine quantitative and qualitative data gathered on the crimes perpetrated by children in conflict with laws (CICL) amidst the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur as part of this study's data analysis procedures.

Descriptive statistical methods will be used in the quantitative data analysis phase to succinctly explain and illustrate the frequency and distribution of various crimes perpetrated by CICL in the state of Manipur. This may involve the utilisation of statistical methods such as frequency, percentage, and measures of central tendency to quantify the occurrence and gravity of particular transgressions. Additionally, demographic factors including age, gender, and socio-economic status may be analysed to detect recurring patterns and trends in juvenile delinquency.

Furthermore, inferential statistical analysis may be employed to investigate correlations and associations among variables, such as the influence of socio-economic factors on the probability of juvenile delinquency. This can be accomplished through the utilisation of regression analysis or chi-square tests. The empirical information provided by these statistical studies supports hypotheses and enables the derivation of conclusions about the determinants of juvenile delinquency in the ethnic strife in Manipur.

The thematic analysis method will be used to discern reoccurring ideas or concepts, themes, and patterns in the qualitative data obtained from interviews and focus group discussions. The process entails methodically coding and classifying the qualitative data in order to discern significant themes and patterns pertaining to the foundational elements that contribute to juvenile delinquency. These elements may consist of psychological, familial, peer-related, and socioeconomic influences.

STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION

In order to convey the study results and analysis of the situational analysis of crimes committed by children in conflict with laws (CICL) amidst the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, the dissertation will adhere to a systematic framework. Key components of the dissertation's structure will consist of the following:

1. Introduction: This segment will include a comprehensive outline of the research subject, contextual details on the ethnic strife in Manipur, the importance of investigating CICL, research goals, methods, and the overarching framework of the dissertation.

2. Literature Review: The present chapter must undertake a comprehensive examination of the extant body of literature pertaining to juvenile delinquency, ethnic strife in Manipur, and prior research concerning crimes perpetrated by CICL. Emphasis will be placed on theoretical frameworks, empirical results, and literature gaps.

3. Crisis Situational Analysis of the Ethnic War in Manipur: This section must include a comprehensive historical synopsis, present state, and ramifications of the ethnic conflict as it pertains to children. The sociopolitical environment in which juvenile delinquency arises will be analysed.

4. Classification of Offenses Committed by CICL: This segment should undertake an examination of the various classifications of offences perpetrated by CICL in Manipur, including drug-related offences, property crimes, and violent crimes, among others.

5. Contributing Factors to Juvenile Delinquency: In the context of the ethnic strife in Manipur, this chapter will examine the socioeconomic, family, peer-related, and psychological elements that contribute to juvenile delinquency.

6. Evaluation of Interventions and Rehabilitation Programs: This segment will conduct an assessment of the efficacy of current intervention and rehabilitation programmes that are specifically designed for CICL in Manipur, while also offering suggestions for improvement.

7. In conclusion, this chapter must provide a comprehensive overview of the principal discoveries, analyse their ramifications for policy and practise, recognise any constraints that may exist, and propose avenues for further investigation.

II. Literature Review

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAWS

By using the conceptual framework of children in conflict with laws (CICL), one may get insight into the intricate dynamics at play that contribute to juvenile delinquency and criminal conduct. This segment of the literature review will examine sociological, psychological, and criminological frameworks and significant theoretical viewpoints pertinent to the study of CICL.

1. The Social Learning Theory, first postulated by Albert Bandura, asserts that behaviour is acquired by humans via the processes of observation, imitation, and reinforcement. Children may be encouraged to participate in illegal acts by their social environment, which includes family, classmates, and the media, in the context of juvenile delinquency. Exposure to deviant peers or dysfunctional home dynamics, for instance, may augment the probability of adolescent delinquency (Bandura, 1977).

2. The Strain Theory, formulated by Robert Merton, posits that aberrant conduct is the result of people seeing a contradiction between the resources at their disposal and the objectives of society. As a strategy of dealing with or adapting to CICL, socioeconomic inequalities, restricted access to school and career opportunities, and prejudice may generate tension, ultimately resulting in juvenile delinquency (Merton, 1938).

3. Labeling Theory: Howard Becker's labelling theory places significant emphasis on the influence of social responses and stigmatisation on the formation of people's self-perception and conduct. Adolescent delinquents could absorb adverse stigmas ascribed by authoritative individuals, including law enforcement or the judicial system, therefore creating a self-perpetuating cycle of further delinquency (Becker, 1963).

4. General Strain Theory: Expanding upon the foundations of strain theory, Robert Agnew's general strain theory broadens the definition of stress to include unfavourable life events and poor interpersonal interactions, in addition to economic strain. Juvenile delinquents could engage in delinquent activities due to feelings of unfairness, unjust treatment, or unfulfilled ambitions (Agnew, 1992).

5. Developmental Theories: Developmental theories distinguish between life-course-persistent and adolescence-limited routes to delinquency, as shown by Moffitt's dual taxonomy of antisocial conduct. Life-course-persistent offenders demonstrate antisocial conduct that persists from infancy to adolescence. In contrast, adolescence-limited offenders only engage in criminal activities during adolescence, often as a consequence of environmental influences (Moffitt, 1993).

6. Biosocial Theories: Biosocial theories investigate the dynamic interplay between environmental factors and biological predispositions that contribute to the development of delinquent conduct. Various elements, including genetics, neurobiology, and early life experiences, could be implicated in heightened vulnerability to juvenile delinquency (Raine, 2013).

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Diverse frameworks provide theoretical viewpoints on juvenile delinquency, which attempt to explain the origins, trends, and effects of delinquent conduct among adolescents. In this segment of the literature study, sociological, psychological, and criminological theories, among others, will be examined in depth.

1. The Social Learning Theory, first postulated by Albert Bandura, asserts that behaviour is acquired by humans via the processes of observation, imitation, and reinforcement. Children may be encouraged to participate in illegal acts by their social environment, which includes family, classmates, and the media, in the context of juvenile delinquency. Exposure to deviant peers or dysfunctional home dynamics, for instance, may augment the probability of adolescent delinquency (Bandura, 1977).

2. The Strain Theory, formulated by Robert Merton, posits that aberrant conduct is the result of people seeing a contradiction between the resources at their disposal and the objectives of society. Juvenile delinquency may be exacerbated by socioeconomic inequalities, restricted educational and occupational prospects, and discriminatory practises, which serve as a coping mechanism or adaptation mechanism (Merton, 1938).

3. Social Control Theory: Travis Hirschi's social control theory proposes that people's adherence to society norms and values is sustained by the quality of their social connections to traditional institutions, including family, school, and community. Juvenile criminality is thus attributed to weaker social relationships, which are caused by parental neglect, peer affiliation to delinquents, and estrangement from the school and society (Hirschi, 1969).

4. Labeling Theory: Howard Becker's labelling theory highlights the influence of stigmatisation and social responses on the self-concept and conduct of people. Adolescent delinquents could absorb adverse stigmas ascribed by authoritative individuals, including law enforcement or the judicial system, therefore creating a self-perpetuating cycle of further delinquency (Becker, 1963).

5. The Routine Activities Theory, formulated by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson, centres on the convergence of three requisite components—motivated criminals, appropriate targets, and the lack of qualified guardians—that are indispensable for illegal behaviour to transpire. Social and environmental changes, including but not limited to urbanisation, technological progress, and alterations in family

composition, may give rise to prospects for criminal conduct among young individuals (Cohen & Felson, 1979).

6. Control Balance Theory: Charles Tittle's control balance theory explains differences in degrees of delinquent conduct among people by integrating aspects of social control theory and strain theory. Individuals are subject to the impact of both internal and external controls, according to this idea; delinquent conduct results from inadequate internal control and too strict external control (Tittle, 1995).

7. Biosocial Theories: Biosocial theories investigate the manner in which environmental factors and biological predispositions combine to mould delinquent conduct. Various elements, including genetics, neurobiology, and early life experiences, could be implicated in heightened vulnerability to juvenile delinquency. For instance, defects in brain structure and function or neurodevelopmental deficiencies may predispose people to impulsivity, violence, or antisocial conduct (Raine, 2013).

8. Feminist viewpoints: Feminist approaches to juvenile delinquency highlight the gendered aspects of delinquent conduct and the dissimilarities in the criminal justice system encountered by male and female offenders. These viewpoints emphasise the influence of patriarchal social systems, gender-based socialisation processes, and inequitable access to resources and opportunities on the development of delinquent tendencies among males and females (Chesney-Lind & Shelden, 2004).

ETHNIC CONFLICT IN MANIPUR

Historical, sociopolitical, and cultural elements have contributed to the protracted nature of the ethnic strife in Manipur. This segment of the literature review shall examine the inception, intricacies, and ramifications of the ethnic conflict in Manipur, with particular emphasis on pivotal occurrences, individuals involved, and grievances that have contributed to the escalation of intercommunity strife and violence in the area.

1. Historical Context: The ethnic strife in Manipur may be historically identified with its inception during the colonial era, which transpired throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries and saw the expansion of British imperial rule in the area. The British invasion and subsequent inclusion of Manipur into British India in 1891 incited opposition from several ethnic communities, notably the Meiteis, Nagas, and Kukis, who want to maintain their unique identities and independence (Hodson, 1908).

2. **Inter-community Tensions:** The state of Manipur is characterised by a multitude of ethnic groups living in close proximity to one another. This has often resulted in rivalries for political influence, territorial claims, and resources. The Nagas and Kukis, who reside in the hill regions, and the Meiteis, the largest ethnic group in the valley region, have experienced heightened tensions. These tensions have been further intensified due to historical grievances, perceived inequities, and conflicting territorial and resource claims (Sanajaoba, 2005).

3. **Demand for Autonomy and Recognition:** The ethnic conflict in Manipur has been further intensified by the desire for more autonomy and acknowledgement of the distinct identities and ambitions of different ethnic communities. The Naga community, specifically, has endeavoured to claim their right to self-determination and build a distinct Naga homeland including portions of Nagaland, Manipur, and adjacent states (Chasie, 2007). The state administration, which is controlled by the Meitei, has resisted this desire for autonomy, resulting in prolonged conflict and bloodshed.

4. **Armed Resistance and Insurgency:** The ethnic dispute in Manipur has been further compounded by the existence of armed militias and insurgent organisations that represent several ethnic populations. These ethnically motivated organisations have often resorted to violent means, like as bombings, extortion, and killings, to further their political objectives and establish dominion over certain regions (Parratt, 1998). Insurgent organisations' factionalism and the accumulation of weaponry have both led to a cycle of bloodshed and instability in the area.

5. **Repercussions on Civilian Population:** The civilian populace in Manipur has been significantly impacted by the ethnic war, which has resulted in human rights abuses, displacement, and the loss of means of subsistence. In distant and conflict-ridden regions, civilians have encountered perilous circumstances as they have been entangled in the crossfire between rebel factions and security forces. As a result, they are susceptible to arbitrary arrest, torture, and extrajudicial executions (HRW, 2008). In addition to disrupting vital services like education and healthcare, the violence has exacerbated socioeconomic inequality and marginalisation.

6. **Peacebuilding Efforts:** Notwithstanding the obstacles presented by the ethnic strife, continuous endeavours have been made to foster peace and reconciliation in the state of Manipur. Movements at the grassroots level,

religious leaders, and civil society groups have all been instrumental in developing conversation, establishing trust, and advancing intercommunity peace (Kikon, 2013). Furthermore, endeavours like as ceasefire agreements, peace negotiations, and confidence-building activities between the government and rebel factions have provided glimmerings of optimism toward a peaceful settlement to the ongoing conflict.

PREVIOUS STUDIES ON OFFENSES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH LAWS

Prior research pertaining to crimes committed by children in conflict with laws (CICL) has yielded significant knowledge on the frequency, trends, and fundamental elements that contribute to juvenile delinquency across a range of settings. This segment of the literature review will analyse significant discoveries and methodology used in prior studies concerning CICL. It will emphasise the wide range of approaches utilised and the knowledge gaps that need more study.

1. **Offense Prevalence and Varieties:** The incidence and kind of crimes committed by CICL have been the subject of much research, exposing a diverse array of criminal behaviours shown by juvenile offenders. To illustrate, property crimes, including theft and burglary, were the most prevalent transgressions perpetrated by juvenile offenders, according to a research done in India by Sharma et al. (2017). Violent crimes, drug-related offences, and miscellaneous offences ranked thereafter. In a similar vein, a study conducted in the United States by Johnson et al. (2015) discovered a significant incidence of drug-related transgressions among juvenile delinquents, emphasising the need for focused intervention and preventative measures.

2. **Protective and Risk Elements:** Additionally, scholarly investigations have examined the risk and protective factors that are fundamental to juvenile delinquency as they pertain to CICL. For example, research has identified parental drug misuse, household instability, exposure to violence, and peer criminality as substantial risk factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency (Brezina et al., 2011; Farrington, 2005). On the contrary, research has shown that favourable community resources, engaged parents, and ease of access to educational institutions are elements that reduce the likelihood of delinquency and foster the good development of young people (Hawkins et al., 1992; Catalano et al., 2002).

3. **Gender Disparities:** Prior research has explored the topic of gender differences in juvenile delinquency, including disparities in delinquent conduct, intervention responses, and paths to delinquency. Male

adolescents were more likely to commit major and violent felonies, but female adolescents were more likely to participate in non-violent offences such as drug misuse and prostitution, according to research by Chung and Steinberg (2006). Furthermore, scholarly research has brought attention to gender inequalities within the juvenile justice system, whereby girls are often granted more lenient sentences in comparison to boys (Steinberg et al., 2006).

4. Assessment of Intervention Program Efficacy: A multitude of intervention programmes designed to mitigate adolescent delinquency and foster rehabilitation and reintegration have undergone evaluation studies to determine their efficacy. Well-designed and implemented intervention programmes, including cognitive-behavioral therapy, family-based interventions, and community-based programmes, were effective in reducing recidivism rates and improving outcomes for juvenile offenders, according to meta-analyses by Wilson et al. (2003) and Lipsey et al. (2010). Nonetheless, scaling up and maintaining these initiatives remains difficult, especially in places with limited resources (Gatti et al., 2009).

5. Cross-cultural Perspectives: The frequency and correlates of juvenile delinquency have been investigated in cross-cultural research that span various socioeconomic and cultural situations. A study conducted by Junger-Tas et al. (2010) across several nations revealed that although the ways in which delinquent behaviour manifests may differ among cultures, there are universally associated risk factors with juvenile delinquency, including familial dysfunction, peer influence, and socioeconomic disadvantage. The significance of addressing underlying risk factors in the development of culturally relevant preventative and intervention techniques is highlighted by these results.

GAPS IN THE LITERATURE

Although earlier research has contributed significantly to our knowledge of crimes committed by children in conflict with laws (CICL), there are a number of important gaps in the literature that need more study. In order to guide future research endeavours and inform evidence-based policies and treatments that seek to successfully address juvenile delinquency, it is critical to identify these gaps. This section will emphasise critical gaps or insufficiencies in the literature pertaining to CICL.

1. Research in Conflict-Affected Areas Is Limited: A significant void in the academic literature pertains to the scarcity of research carried out in places afflicted by war, including those afflicted by ethnic strife or

political instability. Although research conducted in stable circumstances has yielded significant findings about the frequency and factors that contribute to adolescent delinquency, conflict-affected settings may need customised treatments and methods due to the distinct difficulties and dynamics at play. It is crucial to comprehend the ways in which armed conflict, displacement, and societal disruption influence the conduct of juvenile offenders in order to develop techniques that are suitable for the circumstances and requirements of CICL in such settings.

2. Dearth of Longitudinal Studies: A considerable number of research endeavours examining juvenile delinquency are dependent on cross-sectional data, which provide momentary depictions of criminal conduct. For the purpose of analysing the developmental pathways of delinquency, identifying risk and protective variables, and evaluating the efficacy of treatments to prevent recidivism, longitudinal studies that follow people over time are crucial. By investigating the temporal connections between factors and identifying crucial times for intervention, longitudinal study methods contribute to the advancement of knowledge about the causes and progression of juvenile delinquency.

3. Insufficient Emphasis on Protective Variables: Although risk factors linked to juvenile misbehaviour have received substantial scholarly attention, research pertaining to protective factors that foster healthy adolescent development and resilience is comparatively few. Protective elements, like engaged parents, strong school ties, and availability of helpful community services, are crucial in reducing the likelihood of juvenile delinquency and promoting their overall well-being. Further investigation is warranted to examine the intricate relationship between protective and risk factors, as well as the cumulative impact that this has on the criminal behaviour of young individuals. Such findings would have significant ramifications for the development of strengths-based interventions.

4. Insufficient Inclusion of Minority Groups: Research pertaining to CICL often fails to adequately represent marginalised and minority groups, such as indigenous communities, ethnic and racial minorities, and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. The perpetuation of inequities in access to justice may result from this underrepresentation, given that structural inequalities and institutional impediments within the juvenile justice system disproportionately impact underprivileged adolescents. For the purpose of addressing

inequities in treatment and results and comprehending the intersectionality of identity and delinquency, it is critical that research places an emphasis on the perspectives and experiences of minority groups.

5. Insufficient Assessment of Restorative Justice Techniques: Restorative justice approaches, which prioritise relationship restoration and damage repair above punitive measures, have been increasingly recognised as viable alternatives in the fight against juvenile delinquency. Nevertheless, a scarcity of comprehensive assessments exists about the efficacy of restorative justice interventions in terms of their capacity to deter recidivism and foster favourable results for CICL. There is a need for comparative research that contrasts standard punitive measures with restorative justice techniques in order to ascertain their relative effectiveness and propose optimal strategies for execution.

6. Insufficiency of Contextualized Interventions: A considerable number of initiatives against juvenile delinquency use a generic strategy that could not sufficiently consider the varied circumstances and requirements of CICL. Interventions that exhibit cultural sensitivity, contextual relevance, and responsiveness to the unique circumstances of disadvantaged and conflict-affected kids are essential. For encouraging meaningful participation and empowerment within CICL, community-based and participatory methods that include stakeholders in the design and execution of interventions are especially encouraging.

7. Negligent Consideration of Gender Dynamics: Although gender disparities in juvenile delinquency have been recognised, research about the gendered aspects of criminal conduct and the unique experiences of male and female CICL remains inadequate. Conducting research that investigates the ways in which institutional inequities, gender norms, and socialisation processes influence delinquency patterns is of utmost importance in order to formulate gender-responsive therapies and cater to the unique requirements of male and female offenders. A further need is intersectional methods that take into account the intertwined identities of CICL, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation, in order to effectively tackle the distinct obstacles encountered by disadvantaged youth.

III. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE ETHNIC CONFLICT IN

MANIPUR

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE ETHNIC CONFLICT

The sociopolitical terrain of Manipur has been profoundly influenced for ages by the ethnic strife, which has its origins in ancient times. This segment presents an all-encompassing historical synopsis of the ethnic struggle, including its inception, pivotal occurrences, and the progressive escalation of hostilities between different communities over the course of history.

1. Pre-colonial Era: Manipur's historical trajectory was marked by the harmonious cohabitation of several indigenous people, such as the Meiteis, Nagas, Kukis, and others. An abundance of regional variety results from the fact that every town have a unique language, culture, and identity. Prior to colonial rule, Manipur was administered by a monarchical system, wherein the Meiteis had political supremacy in the valley districts. In contrast, the hill regions were populated by a diverse array of tribal communities (Hodson, 1908).

2. British Colonial Dominance: The British annexation of Manipur in 1891 ushered in substantial changes in socioeconomic connections, land tenure, and government that shaped the region's past. The implementation of administrative changes and tax systems as part of British colonial policy caused significant upheaval and strain between the Meiteis and the hill tribes. The indigenous populations were also neglected and ethnic differences were exacerbated by the introduction of colonial control (Gait, 1907).

3. Post-Independence Period: In 1949, Manipur ratified the Indian Union, resulting in the state's transition to a democratic form of government, subsequent to India's attainment of independence in 1947. Nevertheless, animosities remained between the Meiteis and the hill tribes due to perceived disparities in socioeconomic progress, resource distribution, and political representation. The prominence of the demand for autonomy and acknowledgment of ethnic identities grew as several ethnic groups advocated for the preservation of their cultural legacy and self-determination (Sahay, 2002).

4. The 20th century saw an escalation in the ethnic strife in Manipur, which was characterised by the rise of rebel groups that advocated for various ethnic groupings. The Naga National Council (NNC), which was established during the 1950s, aimed to advocate for the Naga people's rights to partition Manipur, Nagaland,

and adjacent states into a distinct Naga country. Following that, further rebel factions emerged, including the Kuki National Organization (KNO), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). These organisations advocated for territorial rights and political autonomy (Haokip, 2004).

5. Human Rights Abuses and Ethnic Violence: Periods of violence, including armed conflicts between insurgent organisations, state security forces, and competing ethnic groupings, have characterised the ethnic struggle in Manipur. Extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, and acts of torture are among the human rights violations documented by several groups, which emphasises the region's perilous security condition. Civilian populations, namely those residing in regions impacted by conflicts, have been subjected to distressing levels of violence and forced migration, which has jeopardised their basic rights, security, and means of subsistence (HRW, 2008).

6. Peacebuilding Efforts: Notwithstanding the obstacles presented by the ethnic strife, continuous endeavours have been made to foster peace and reconciliation in the state of Manipur. Movements at the grassroots level, religious leaders, and civil society groups have all been instrumental in developing conversation, establishing trust, and advancing intercommunity peace. Furthermore, endeavours like as ceasefire agreements, peace negotiations, and confidence-building activities between the government and rebel factions have provided glimmerings of optimism toward a peaceful settlement to the ongoing conflict (Kikon, 2013).

In summary, the ethnic dispute in Manipur is an intricate and diverse matter that has significant sociopolitical ramifications and historical underpinnings. It is critical to comprehend the historical backdrop of the conflict in order to effectively tackle its root causes and advance regional peace and security. By promoting dialogue and reconciliation and recognising the many identities and aspirations of Manipur's ethnic groups, stakeholders may collaborate on the development of resilient and inclusive communities that respect the rights and dignity of every person.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE CONFLICT

A complicated and varied situation, the ethnic conflict in Manipur is now marked by persistent tensions, intermittent violence, and endeavours to foster peace and reconciliation. This segment presents a

comprehensive outline of the present state of the conflict, including recent advancements, significant participants, and obstacles encountered in endeavours to reconcile the dispute.

1. Ongoing Inter-Community Discord: The persistent intercommunity conflicts among the Meiteis, Nagas, and Kukis continue to be a distinguishing characteristic of the Manipur conflict. Ethoc community complaints and distrust persist because to ongoing competition for political influence, resource acquisition, and territory dominance. Land ownership disputes, ethnic identity recognition concerns, and representation in government institutions are factors that lead to persistent animosity and intermittent instances of violence (ThongkholaHaokip, 2013).

2. Armed Insurgent Organizations: Manipur continues to be a host to a multitude of armed insurgent groups that advocate for territorial integrity, political autonomy, and the safeguarding of ethnic interests while representing distinct ethnic populations. Prominent rebel organisations that operate in the area include the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), and the Kuki National Organization (KNO). In spite of ongoing peace negotiations and ceasefire accords with the governing authorities, intermittent occurrences of violence persist, including acts of extortion, bombings, and killings (Sanajaoba, 2005).

3. Counterinsurgency Operations and Security Forces: To ensure peace and order in Manipur and battle insurgency, the Indian government has deployed security forces, including the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, and state police. A number of human rights violations have been alleged to have occurred during counterinsurgency operations that targeted armed rebel organisations; they include extrajudicial executions, disappearances, and torture. When it comes to security measures, civilian populations residing in conflict-affected regions often endure the most, including mobility restrictions, arbitrary incarceration, and harassment (HRW, 2008).

4. Humanitarian Concerns and Civilian Displacement: The ethnic dispute in Manipur has engendered civilian displacement, exposing the safety, livelihoods, and overall welfare of populations residing in regions impacted by the conflict into jeopardy. Threats from insurgent organisations, armed conflicts, or military operations may all contribute to the relocation of communities and families. IDPs often have challenges in

obtaining fundamental services such as healthcare, education, and means of subsistence, which further compounds their socio-economic susceptibilities and humanitarian need (IDMC, 2020).

5. Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Efforts: Notwithstanding the obstacles presented by the war, endeavours to advance peace and reconciliation persist in the state of Manipur. Grassroots movements, religious leaders, and civil society groups all contribute significantly to the promotion of intercommunity peace, discussion, and trust. Peace talks, confidence-building initiatives, and inter-ethnic discussion forums serve as venues where relevant parties may participate in productive discourse and negotiate resolutions to conflicts that are acceptable to all parties involved (Kikon, 2013).

6. Political Initiatives and Governance Reforms: In order to establish a lasting peace in Manipur, it is critical to implement political initiatives that target the fundamental factors contributing to the conflict. These initiatives should encompass reforms in governance, political representation, and the delegation of powers. In addition to fostering social cohesiveness and trust across ethnic groups, endeavours to fortify democratic institutions, advocate inclusive governance, and rectify complaints pertaining to land, resources, and identity may effectively tackle the underlying factors that contribute to conflict (Singh, 2017).

7. Regional and International Elements: Neighboring nations, Myanmar included, have a substantial impact on the conflict's dynamics, giving the ethnic conflict in Manipur regional and international dimensions. Armed group transboundary operations, illicit weapons and contraband smuggling, and the influx of refugees all add to the conflict's complexity and provide obstacles to peacebuilding efforts. Promoting regional peace and security and tackling the transnational elements of the conflict need regional discourse and collaboration (Biswas, 2015).

IMPACT OF THE CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

The ethnic war that has erupted in Manipur has significantly affected the physical, psychological, and socioeconomic well-being of children. This segment delves into the many ways in which the war impacts children, as well as the enduring ramifications that influence their growth and future opportunities.

1. Internal Displacement and Displacement: Displacement is among the most direct consequences of the war for children. Displacement caused by conflict compels households to leave their residences in pursuit of security, often leading to the separation of children from their communities, educational institutions, and

social support systems. Children who are internally displaced are confronted with increased vulnerabilities to violence, exploitation, and abuse, in addition to educational and access interruptions to critical services. Furthermore, displacement amplifies socio-economic vulnerabilities, hence augmenting the probability that children impacted would experience poverty and hardship (IDMC, 2020).

2. Children who are exposed to armed warfare are adversely affected by pronounced degrees of psychological anguish and trauma. Adolescents who are exposed to or have personally endured violence, forced migration, bereavement, or bereavement may have enduring psychological consequences, including manifestations of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and many other mental health concerns. Children's cognitive development, emotional control, and social functioning may be adversely affected by trauma, which may have repercussions on their capacity to learn, establish connections, and manage stresses. As stated by UNICEF (2019).

3. School Disruption: Children's access to education is disrupted as a result of the war, which deprives them of valuable chances for learning, growth, and socialising. Armed organisations may occupy, damage, or demolish schools, so making them inaccessible or hazardous for children. In addition to causing high rates of school dropout and absenteeism among impacted children, displacement and instability disproportionately affect females and those who reside in conflict-affected regions. Education deprivation sustains cycles of poverty and marginalisation, so limiting the future opportunities of children and reinforcing intergenerational conflicts (Save the Children, 2018).

4. Recruitment and Exploitation: Armed factions have the capacity to enlist minors as warriors, spies, or workers, capitalising on their susceptibility to manipulation and fragility. Armed group membership is often forced, enticed, or coaxed from children by means of monetary rewards, protection, or a sense of belonging. Child soldiers are subjected to severe degrees of brutality, brainwashing, and trauma, which result in enduring consequences for their mental and physical health. Adolescents are more susceptible to sexual exploitation, coerced matrimony, and gender-based violence in regions afflicted by war; these circumstances amplify the vulnerabilities and dangers faced by girls (UNICEF, 2020).

5. Health and Nutrition Implications: The war causes significant disruptions in the provision of vital health services, which further amplifies health inequalities and heightens the susceptibility of children to avoidable

ailments and malnutrition. Immunizations, maternity and child health services, and treatment for acute and chronic diseases are inaccessible to children due to infrastructural interruptions, instability, displacement, and insecurity. Frequently, conflict-affected communities, especially children under the age of five, have heightened malnutrition rates, which result in micronutrient deficiencies, stunting, and wasting, all of which negatively impact the growth, development, and overall health of children (WHO, 2021).

6. Social Stigmatization and Discrimination: On the basis of their ethnicity, family history, or affiliation with armed organisations, children impacted by the war may be subjected to social stigmatisation and discrimination. Stigmatization exacerbates the marginalisation of children, impeding their ability to assimilate into society and get necessary support services. Discrimination has the potential to further increase divides and tensions among ethnic groups, hence continuing cycles of hostility and prejudice that hinder endeavours aimed at achieving reconciliation and rebuilding (UNICEF, 2020).



IV. TYPES OF OFFENSES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN IN CONFLICT

WITH LAWS

OVERVIEW OF JUVENILE OFFENSES IN MANIPUR

An examination of juvenile offences in Manipur offers valuable insights on the kind of transgressions perpetrated by children who have come into conflict with the law, as well as the fundamental elements that contribute to their engagement in delinquent conduct. This segment delves into an examination of the frequency, trends, and attributes of juvenile transgressions in Manipur, therefore illuminating the distinctive obstacles and intricacies of adolescent justice in the area.

1. **Property Crimes:** Theft, burglary, robbery, and other property-related offences are among the most prevalent ones perpetrated by juveniles in Manipur. Socioeconomic inequality, economic distress, and a dearth of work prospects all contribute to the high incidence of property crimes among underprivileged adolescents. The purpose of which children may commit theft or burglary is to get money, possessions, or necessities in order to support their families or fulfil their fundamental wants (Sharma et al., 2017).
2. The issue of substance misuse and drug-related criminality is a substantial problem among the young population of Manipur, with conflict-affected groups and urban regions being especially vulnerable. Due to its porous borders and close proximity to drug-producing areas, Manipur is susceptible to drug trafficking and substance misuse. Adolescents may engage in drug trafficking, possession, or use, often motivated by economic opportunities, peer pressure, or the desire to escape. Numerous social and physical issues, including as violence, criminality, and addiction, are exacerbated by substance usage (Johnson et al., 2015).
3. **Violent Crimes:** Youth in Manipur are susceptible to violent crimes, like as assault, battery, and murder, which are indicative of latent tensions, disagreements, and conflicts within the local communities. Factors such as interpersonal problems, neighbourhood or domestic violence, and gang rivalry all contribute to the occurrence of violent acts among youngsters. The availability of weaponry, including knives and rifles, exacerbates confrontations and amplifies the gravity of violent occurrences. Young individuals could engage in violent behaviour out of self-preservation, retribution, or to demonstrate dominance and authority (Bhattacharjee et al., 2020).

4. **Antisocial Conduct:** Prominent among underprivileged adolescents in Manipur is antisocial behaviour, which includes vandalism, public disruption, and loitering. This behaviour is a product of social disarray, inadequate supervision, and peer pressure. Particularly in locations with few recreational facilities or constructive avenues for self-expression, children could exhibit antisocial conduct out of defiance, boredom, or attention-seeking. Community discontent, public annoyance, and feelings of insecurity are all exacerbated by antisocial conduct, which also heightens tensions between adolescents and law enforcement (Sharma et al., 2017).

5. The advent of technology and widespread internet access has given rise to a range of cybercrimes, including cyberbullying, cyberharassment, and cyber fraud. These illicit activities have presented novel obstacles for the young justice system in Manipur. Children could engage in cybercrimes with the intentions of exacting vengeance, asserting dominance, or capitalising on susceptibilities inside internet platforms. In addition to endangering the security, privacy, and mental health of children, cybercrimes compromise the integrity of digital networks and systems. In order to prevent and handle online offences, law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and internet service providers must work together to develop effective solutions to cybercrimes (Ahuja, 2018). In summary, juvenile crimes in Manipur signify a variety of unlawful undertakings committed by minors who are in disobedience to the law, and are indicative of intricate social, economic, and environmental circumstances. To tackle juvenile delinquency at its source, it is imperative to implement all-encompassing and cross-sectoral strategies that promote good adolescent development, address fundamental inequities, and ensure at-risk kids have access to school, employment, and support services. By acknowledging and tackling the unique obstacles and intricacies of juvenile justice in Manipur, interested parties may collaborate on the development of more secure and robust communities that safeguard the welfare and rights of every child.

ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OFFENSES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN

PROPERTY CRIMES

Child property crimes in Manipur include a variety of charges that pertain to the unauthorised appropriation, damage, or theft of property that is the rightful possession of others. The aforementioned offenses—burglary, robbery, vandalism, and theft—have substantial ramifications for the welfare of the community, public

security, and the criminal justice system. The present investigation delves into the frequency, trends, determinants, and repercussions of property crimes perpetrated by minors in Manipur. In doing so, it illuminates the intricate and difficult task of confronting juvenile delinquency in the area.

1.1 PATTERNS AND PREVALENCE:

The high incidence of property crimes among children in Manipur may be attributed to socio-economic inequalities, limited access to opportunities, and institutional susceptibilities that encourage juvenile delinquency. Theft and burglary are the most often reported property crimes, happening in both urban and rural locations, according to official crime data. Particularly disadvantaged children may commit property crimes to survive, acquiesce to peer pressure, or satisfy unfulfilled needs (Sharma et al., 2017). Variations in property crime patterns may be seen across different localities. While theft and burglary are more prevalent in urban areas, rural communities may have difficulties associated with livestock theft or crop damage.

1.2 CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

The commission of property crimes by children in Manipur may be attributed to a multitude of factors, including socio-economic disparities, familial discord, inadequate supervision, and peer pressures. Poverty, unemployment, and economic distress all encourage youngsters to commit burglaries or thefts in order to get money, treasures, or necessities. Delinquent conduct may be associated with family circumstances, such as parental neglect, drug misuse, or criminal engagement, which can deprive children of moral direction and supervision. The engagement of youth in property crimes may also be significantly influenced by peer pressure, gang membership, and social networks, which may promote or incentivize peers to engage in criminal behaviour (Pandey, 2014).

1.3 IMPLICATIONS:

Property crimes perpetrated by minors in Manipur have ramifications that transcend monetary damages, affecting communities and victims as well as social cohesiveness, public confidence, and security. Property crimes may cause victims to endure monetary losses, psychological anguish, and feelings of vulnerability, all of which erode their sense of security and overall welfare. Furthermore, property crimes undermine social cohesiveness and faith in institutions by contributing to neighbourhoods' views of lawlessness, chaos, and insecurity. Adolescents who engage in property crimes may be subject to legal ramifications, such as apprehension, incarceration, or participation in the juvenile justice system. Such actions have the potential to sustain recurring patterns of delinquency (Singh, 2015). Furthermore, the societal disapproval and

stigmatisation linked to participation in property crimes might impede the successful reintegration of children and restrict their prospects for future work, education, and social integration.

1.4 STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION:

A multifaceted strategy is necessary to combat property crimes perpetrated by children in Manipur; it must target underlying risk factors, encourage healthy youth development, and provide alternatives to delinquent conduct. It is imperative that prevention efforts prioritise the resolution of socio-economic disparities and the enhancement of educational, vocational, and job prospects for kids who are at risk. Protective measures such as bolstering community networks, enhancing parental supervision, and strengthening family support systems may effectively reduce the likelihood of adolescent delinquency. Early intervention programmes include a range of strategies, including mentorship, counselling, and diversionary schemes. These programmes effectively identify children who are at danger of engaging in property crimes and provide them constructive alternatives and prospects for rehabilitation (Sahoo, 2018). In order to guarantee the welfare of children in Manipur and effectively address the underlying causes of property crimes, it is essential that government agencies, law enforcement, educational institutions, community groups, and civil society collaborate. In summary, the occurrence of property crimes perpetrated by minors in Manipur poses a substantial obstacle to the functioning of the juvenile justice system, community welfare, and public safety. Gaining insight into the frequency, trends, determinants, and ramifications of property crimes is critical in order to formulate all-encompassing approaches to deter and confront juvenile delinquency in the area. By undertaking efforts to rectify fundamental disparities, fortify protective elements, and furnish assistance and prospects for vulnerable young people, interested parties can collaborate in the construction of communities that are more secure and robust, safeguarding the welfare and rights of every child.

VIOLENT CRIMES

The juvenile justice system, public safety, and community well-being are all profoundly impacted by the violent crimes perpetrated by minors in Manipur. The repercussions of these crimes—assault, battery, murder, and gang-related violence—are significant for all parties involved, including victims, offenders, and society as a whole. The present investigation delves into the frequency, trends, determinants, and repercussions of violent offences perpetrated by minors in Manipur. In doing so, it underscores the intricacies and ramifications associated with the mitigation of juvenile delinquency in the area.

1. Patterns and Prevalence: Children are often involved in violent crimes that occur in Manipur, serving as both offenders and victims. A substantial proportion of recorded events include juveniles involved in aggressive conduct, such as intercommunity disputes, gang-related violence, and physical assaults, according to official crime statistics. Varying between rural and urban regions, the incidence of violent crimes is often greater in urban areas owing to population density, socioeconomic inequality, and gang involvement, among other causes. Child violence patterns may include a range of issues, such as peer disputes, spousal violence, drug abuse-related aggression, and participation in armed organisations or organised crime (Haokip, 2004).

2. Contributing Variables: The commission of violent crimes by children in Manipur is influenced by a multitude of factors, which demonstrate the intricate interplay of individual, familial, communal, and social elements. Feelings of frustration, hopelessness, and alienation are intensified among marginalised youth due to socio-economic disparities, poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education and opportunities. These circumstances heighten the probability that these young individuals will turn to violence as a method of voicing their grievances or asserting their authority (Khamrang, 2016). Family-related elements, including but not limited to parental abandonment, spousal strife, drug misuse, and traumatic experiences, could have a role in normalising violence within the home environment and eroding the socialisation and conflict resolution abilities of children. The engagement of children in violent conduct may also be significantly influenced by peer groups, gang memberships, and social networks. These factors can provide children a feeling of comfort, protection, and identity during times of instability and insecurity (ThongkholalHaokip, 2013).

3. Repercussions: The violent offences perpetrated by minors in Manipur have far-reaching and significant effects, impacting not only the victims but also the offenders, families, and communities. As a result of physical harm, psychological distress, and emotional trauma, victims of violent crimes may experience a decline in their feeling of security, confidence, and overall welfare. Cycles of retribution, vengeance, and escalation are perpetuated by violence, which exacerbates tensions between communities, mistrust, and societal disintegration. Adolescents implicated in violent offences are subject to legal ramifications, such as apprehension, incarceration, and participation in the juvenile justice system. Such treatments have the potential to worsen their social exclusion and sustain recurring patterns of misbehaviour (Khapai, 2017).

Children's mental health, emotional development, and social integration may be adversely impacted in the

long run by the normalisation of violence and trauma exposure; this may impede their capacity to establish healthy relationships, exhibit prosocial behaviour, and achieve their utmost capabilities.

4. **Prevention and Intervention Strategies:** A comprehensive and multisectoral approach is necessary to tackle violent crimes perpetrated against children in Manipur. This approach should target the root causes of such crimes, foster constructive youth development, and offer viable alternatives to violence. Prevention endeavours have to prioritise the mitigation of socio-economic disparities, the advancement of educational, vocational, and job prospects for adolescents who are at risk. Protective variables such as bolstering family support structures, implementing good parenting techniques, and increasing parental monitoring have the potential to reduce the likelihood of violent incidents and foster optimal child development. Life skills instruction, anger management, and conflict resolution are examples of early intervention programmes that may provide youngsters with the knowledge and means to overcome obstacles and handle disputes amicably (Sanajaoba, 2005). For implementing effective preventive and intervention techniques that address the underlying causes of violence and advance the welfare of children in Manipur, collaboration across government agencies, law enforcement, schools, community groups, and civil society is necessary. In summary, the occurrence of violent offences perpetrated by minors in Manipur presents substantial obstacles to the welfare of the community, public security, and the juvenile justice system. Gaining insight into the frequency, trends, determinants, and repercussions of violent offences is critical in order to formulate all-encompassing approaches to deter and confront juvenile delinquency in the area. By undertaking efforts to rectify fundamental disparities, fortify protective elements, and furnish assistance and prospects for vulnerable young people, interested parties can collaborate in the construction of communities that are more secure and robust, safeguarding the welfare and rights of every child.

DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES

Child drug-related crimes in Manipur pose a substantial obstacle to the functioning of the juvenile justice system, community safety, and public health. The aforementioned transgressions—drug possession, distribution, use, and participation in illegal drug networks—have significant ramifications for the welfare and future opportunities of adolescents. This study examines the frequency, trends, determinants, and repercussions of drug-related transgressions committed by minors in Manipur. In doing so, it illuminates the

intricacies and ramifications associated with confronting substance misuse and juvenile delinquency in the area.

1. **Patterns and Prevalence:** In Manipur, drug-related crimes are widespread, including minors as both offenders and victims. Due to its porous borders and close proximity to drug-producing countries, the area is susceptible to drug trafficking and substance misuse. According to official crime statistics and anecdotal evidence, a considerable proportion of recorded occurrences include young individuals involved in drug-related behaviors—such as the sale, distribution, and use of illegal drugs. Drug-related crime patterns may exhibit variations across rural and urban regions, whereas urban centres often confront greater rates attributable to variables like drug accessibility, peer impact, and population density (Johnson et al., 2015).

2. **Contributing Circumstances:** The commission of drug-related crimes by children in Manipur is influenced by a multitude of factors, which demonstrate the intricate interplay of individual, familial, communal, and social elements. Vulnerability and marginalisation are exacerbated by socioeconomic inequalities, poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education and opportunity. These factors contribute to an elevated risk of drug addiction among young individuals (Gurumayum et al., 2019). Predisposing family elements, including substance addiction by parents, instability within the family unit, and traumatic experiences, may have a role in children's first drug use and participation in drug-related behaviours. In an environment of social isolation and alienation, peer influences, social networks, and cultural norms all have considerable impact on children's perspectives toward drug misuse. These factors may provide acceptance, a sense of belonging, and social validation (Ahanthem, 2017).

3. **Implications:** The ramifications of drug-related transgressions perpetrated by minors in Manipur are extensive and significant, impacting not only the offenders but also their families, communities, and society as a whole. Adolescents who engage in drug-related transgressions are subject to legal ramifications, such as apprehension, incarceration, and participation in the juvenile justice system. Such actions have the potential to further marginalise these children and sustain recurring patterns of criminal behaviour (Mohta, 2016). Substance misuse has detrimental effects on the physical health, emotional well-being, and cognitive functioning of children, hence elevating the likelihood of developing addiction, overdose, and concurrent mental health conditions. In addition to scholastic failure, social breakdown, and family connection

disturbance, drug dependency may exacerbate the vulnerability and isolation of children (Dilshad, 2018). Furthermore, kid engagement in drug-related activities perpetuates cycles of damage and victimisation by exposing them to the dangers of exploitation, violence, and victimisation inside illegal drug networks (Singh, 2016).

4. Prevention and Intervention Strategies: A comprehensive and multifaceted approach is necessary to tackle drug-related offences committed by children in Manipur. This approach should target the root causes of the problem, encourage preventive measures, and furnish affected youth with treatment and rehabilitation services. Prevention initiatives should prioritise the dissemination of information on the perils associated with drug misuse, the encouragement of constructive adolescent development, and the provision of alternative recreational pursuits and social support systems for vulnerable kids (Shimray, 2019). By fortifying protective variables, parental abilities, and family resilience, the likelihood of drug misuse may be reduced, and children will be equipped with the necessary advice and assistance to develop sound decision-making processes (Mohta, 2017). Early intervention programmes, which may include peer support groups, school-based instruction, and counselling, may avoid the escalation of drug misuse disorders and equip children with coping mechanisms and resilience (Dilshad et al., 2019). It is imperative that various stakeholders, including government agencies, law enforcement, healthcare providers, schools, community organisations, and civil society, work together in Manipur to implement prevention and intervention strategies that effectively target the underlying factors contributing to substance abuse and enhance the overall welfare of children. In summary, the occurrence of drug-related transgressions among minors in Manipur presents substantial obstacles to the development of the juvenile justice system, community safety, and public health. A full understanding of drug-related crimes, including their frequency, trends, contributing causes, and repercussions, is necessary in order to formulate effective programmes aimed at preventing and addressing substance misuse and juvenile delinquency within the area. By undertaking efforts to rectify fundamental disparities, fortify protective elements, and furnish assistance and prospects for vulnerable young people, interested parties can collaborate in the construction of communities that are more secure and robust, safeguarding the welfare and rights of every child.

OTHERS

When discussing offences done by minors in Manipur, the term "others" encompasses a variety of delinquent behaviours that do not fit into distinct categories such as drug-related offences, property crimes, or violent crimes. A multitude of behaviours, including but not limited to public disruption, vandalism, cybercrimes, and other manifestations of antisocial conduct, may be classified as such. Although these transgressions may not always get the same degree of scrutiny as more severe ones, their consequences for youth welfare, community safety, and social cohesion remain substantial. This study examines the frequency, trends, determinants, and repercussions of "other" transgressions committed by minors in Manipur, underscoring the need for all-encompassing approaches to tackle juvenile delinquency in the area.

1. Occurrence and Patterns: The vast variety of behaviours comprising "other" crimes perpetrated by children in Manipur presents a formidable challenge in precisely quantifying their prevalence. Nevertheless, law enforcement agency records and anecdotal evidence indicate that these transgressions are not rare and may involve loitering, trespassing, public disruption, vandalism, and other types of antisocial conduct. Although not always associated with severe injury or property damage, these conductees have the potential to foster sentiments of insecurity, chaos, and communal discontent, especially in metropolitan regions (Sharma et al., 2017).

2. Contributing Circumstances: The commission of "other" crimes by children in Manipur is influenced by a multitude of factors, which demonstrate the intricate interplay of individual, familial, communal, and social elements. Children who experience socio-economic disparities, limited access to opportunities, or marginalisation are more prone to resorting to antisocial conduct as a strategy to establish their independence, attract attention, or manage feelings of boredom and frustration. Exposure to violence, parental neglect, or other family dysfunctions may all lead to the adoption of antisocial norms and behaviours by children (Pandey, 2014). Cultural variables, peer influences, and social networks all have substantial impact on the formation of children's attitudes and actions. These elements may provide validation, acceptability, and social standing among peers (ThongkholaHaokip, 2013).

3. Consequences: Although "other" transgressions may not always lead to severe criminal charges or bodily injury, they still engender repercussions for communities, families, and people. Delinquent children may be

subject to legal repercussions, including community work, fines, or warnings; such sanctions may function as deterrents or as chances for the children to undergo rehabilitation (Singh, 2015). However, relying only on punitive measures may fail to confront the fundamental causes that motivate such conduct, thus reinforcing patterns of exclusion and delinquency. Additionally, "other" transgressions have the potential to foster feelings of insecurity, instability, and social deterioration, which may erode community confidence, unity, and overall well-being (Khapai, 2017). Furthermore, engagement in deviant conduct might heighten the susceptibility of youth to exploitation, victimisation, and participation in more severe illicit undertakings, so repeating recurring patterns of detriment and victimisation (Mohta, 2016).

4. Strategies for Prevention and Intervention: A comprehensive and multifaceted strategy is necessary to handle "other" crimes committed by children in Manipur. This strategy should target the root causes of these issues, foster good youth development, and provide viable alternatives to antisocial conduct. Creating secure and encouraging surroundings for children, as well as facilitating their access to education, leisure, and healthy peer networks, should be the emphasis of prevention efforts. Enhancing familial resilience, honing parental abilities, and fortifying community support structures might serve as protective elements that diminish the likelihood of antisocial conduct and foster optimal child development (Shimray, 2019). Youth outreach, mentorship, and counselling are examples of early intervention programmes that help identify and assist children at danger of participating in antisocial conduct by offering them constructive alternatives and avenues for development (Dilshad et al., 2019). It is imperative that government agencies, law enforcement, schools, community groups, and civil society work in tandem to ensure the well-being of children in Manipur and adopt effective preventative and intervention techniques that target the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour. In summary, "other" crimes perpetrated by children in Manipur include an extensive spectrum of conduct that affect the security of the community, the unity of society, and the welfare of adolescents. It is vital to comprehend the frequency, trends, determinants, and repercussions of these transgressions in order to formulate all-encompassing approaches to tackle juvenile delinquency in the area. By undertaking efforts to rectify fundamental disparities, fortify protective elements, and furnish assistance and prospects for vulnerable young people, interested parties can collaborate in the construction of communities that are more secure and robust, safeguarding the welfare and rights of every child.

V. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE CONTEXT OF ETHNIC CONFLICT

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Several socioeconomic variables contribute to juvenile delinquency in the setting of ethnic strife in Manipur, hence amplifying the difficulties young people confront and increasing their vulnerability to participating in criminal activities. This segment delves into many significant socio-economic determinants that impact juvenile delinquency when ethnic strife is present:

1. The presence of economic inequality in Manipur is a substantial factor that contributes to the occurrence of adolescent delinquency. Underdevelopment, unemployment, and poverty are prevalent in the region, especially in conflict-affected communities with limited access to basic services and possibilities for subsistence. Young individuals who are economically disadvantaged may be compelled to engage in criminal behaviour because they see it as a viable alternative to earn money or as a strategy to survive the lack of available economic prospects (Shimray, 2019).

2. Insufficient Educational Opportunities: An further element that contributes to the prevalence of adolescent delinquency in Manipur is the restricted availability of high-quality educational opportunities. Frequently, educational infrastructure in conflict-affected regions is deficient, including inadequate schools, qualified instructors, and learning materials. Difficulties in education access may be encountered by children residing in these regions, including lengthy commutes to schools, apprehensions about safety, and financial limitations. Adolescents who lack educational opportunities are more susceptible to exploitation, radicalization, and engagement in criminal behavior.

3. Adverse Family Dynamics: Substance abuse, broken homes, parental neglect, and domestic violence are all forms of family dysfunction that may increase the risk that young people will engage in delinquent conduct and negatively affect their well-being. Families affected by conflict may experience traumatization, separation, or displacement, which can exacerbate family stressors and undermine parental support and supervision. Children hailing from dysfunctional households could experience a dearth of constructive role

models, emotional support, and stability, all of which augment their vulnerability to detrimental peer influences and engagement in criminal behaviour (Mohta, 2016).

4. **Displacement and Disruption of Social Networks:** Ethnic conflict-induced family and community displacement can cause significant disruption to social networks and support systems, exacerbating the isolation of young individuals and heightening their susceptibility to engagement in delinquent behaviour. Displaced minors could have difficulties while attempting to acclimate to novel surroundings, get necessary assistance, or establish constructive connections with both peers and adults. Additionally, social network disruptions may induce emotions of estrangement, despondency, and ire, which may motivate adolescents to engage in illegal and antisocial activity as a coping mechanism for trauma and insecurity (Khapai, 2017).

5. **Marginalization and Discrimination:** Marginalization and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, or socio-economic status contribute to feelings of exclusion and injustice among young people in Manipur. In conflict-affected regions, vulnerable people may confront structural impediments to accessing rights, resources, and opportunities, further reinforcing cycles of poverty and social exclusion. Discrimination has the potential to erode the sense of identity, belonging, and self-worth among young individuals, thereby heightening their vulnerability to radicalization, gang recruitment, and engagement in criminal behaviour as a means of vengeance or power acquisition (Ahanthem, 2017). In summary, socio-economic determinants significantly influence juvenile delinquency in Manipur within the context of ethnic conflict. In order to tackle these factors, it is imperative to implement all-encompassing approaches that rectify fundamental disparities, facilitate entry to educational and economic prospects, fortify familial support networks, and empower marginalised communities. By prioritising positive youth development and addressing the underlying factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency, stakeholders can collaborate on the construction of more secure and resilient communities that safeguard the welfare and rights of every child, even in the face of ethnic strife.

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Juvenile delinquency is notably impacted by family dynamics within the framework of ethnic conflict in Manipur. Substance abuse, displacement, the disintegration of traditional family units, and socioeconomic pressures all contribute to dysfunctional family dynamics, which raise the likelihood that adolescents will

engage in delinquent conduct. This section explores the various ways in which family dynamics impact juvenile delinquency in the context of ethnic conflict:

1. **Disruption of Traditional Family Structures:** Ethnic conflict frequently results in the separation of family members, the displacement of families, and the disruption of established family structures. Family members who have been displaced may be confronted with economic hardship, overcrowding, and psychosocial stressors, all of which have the potential to strain familial bonds and erode parental authority and supervision. Youth are rendered even more susceptible to adverse influences from outside the family when they are estranged from extended family members and support networks.

2. **Adverse Exposure to Violence and Trauma:** Children residing in households impacted by conflict are frequently subjected to elevated levels of violence, trauma, and insecurity, all of which can significantly impact their psychological state and conduct. Adverse experiences or observations of domestic violence can desensitise children to violence, normalise aggressive conduct, and impair their capacity to control their emotions and conduct. Mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may develop in individuals who have been exposed to violence during times of conflict. These conditions can heighten the likelihood that they will resort to delinquent behaviour as a maladaptive coping strategy.

3. **The Influence of Parental Dysfunction and Substance Abuse:** In regions afflicted by conflict, juvenile delinquency may be exacerbated by family dysfunctions such as parental neglect, substance abuse, and mental health disorders. Parents who are afflicted with trauma, depression, substance abuse, or other such conditions may have an impaired capacity to offer their children emotional support, guidance, and supervision. As a result, their children may become more susceptible to adverse peer influences and engagement in delinquent activities. Increased access to illicit substances, normalisation of drug use within the family, and exposure of children to criminal networks and activities can result from intrafamily substance abuse.

4. **Disrupted Parent-Child Relationships:** The breakdown of parent-child relationships due to conflict-related stressors, displacement, and trauma can undermine children's attachment to their caregivers and weaken the protective role of the family. Disrupted parent-child relationships may result in communication breakdowns,

conflicts, and misunderstandings, further alienating young people and increasing their susceptibility to negative peer influences and involvement in delinquent behavior. Lack of parental involvement, supervision, and positive reinforcement can contribute to feelings of abandonment, rejection, and low self-esteem, driving young people towards anti-social behaviour and criminal activities (Sharma et al., 2017).

5. Inter-generational Transmission of Trauma and Violence: Conflict-related trauma and violence can be transmitted across generations within families, perpetuating cycles of dysfunction, abuse, and delinquency. Children who grow up in households where conflict-related trauma and violence are normalised may internalise aggressive behaviors, adopt maladaptive coping strategies, and perpetuate patterns of violence and victimisation in their own relationships and communities. The inter-generational transmission of trauma and violence undermines efforts to break the cycle of violence and create nurturing, supportive family environments that promote positive youth development (Mohta, 2016). In conclusion, family dynamics play a critical role in shaping juvenile delinquency in the context of ethnic conflict in Manipur. Addressing the impact of family dysfunction requires holistic approaches that strengthen family resilience, promote positive parenting practices, and provide support and resources to families affected by conflict-related stressors. By addressing the root causes of family dysfunction and promoting healthy family relationships, stakeholders can create protective environments that support the well-being and positive development of young people, even in the midst of ethnic conflict.

PEER INFLUENCES

Juvenile criminality is substantially influenced by peer groups during the ethnic strife in Manipur. Adolescents, in particular, are profoundly impacted by their peers, whose actions, attitudes, and decisions may significantly change. In regions afflicted by war, where social networks may be disrupted and tensions are at an all-time high, the impact of peer effects on the engagement of young individuals in criminal activities may be even more pronounced. This segment examines the several manners in which peer pressures affect criminality among adolescents in the setting of ethnic strife:

1. The Effect of Peer Pressure: Peer pressure is a formidable influence that may sway adolescents to participate in activities that they would not have otherwise contemplated. Youth may exhibit heightened vulnerability to detrimental peer effects in regions afflicted by violence, where prospects for constructive

social interaction and leisure pursuits could be few. Peer influence may lead people to engage in criminal behaviours, like vandalism, theft, or violence, in an effort to obtain social approval, status, or belonging within their peer group (Ahanthem, 2017).

2. Social Identification and Belonging: Peer groups may function as significant sources of support, identity, and affiliation for young individuals living in conflict-affected areas as they navigate through periods of instability and unpredictability. Peer organisations based on ethnicity or neighbourhood may provide a feeling of camaraderie, protection, and solidarity, especially in situations of intergroup animosity or prejudice. However, by reinforcing negative preconceptions, biases, and attitudes against competing groups, these peer networks may also increase the chance of intergroup disputes and violence (ThongkholaHaokip, 2013).

3. Peer Influence and Imitation: Young individuals are significantly impacted by their peers' attitudes, beliefs, and actions via the processes of observation and imitation. In regions afflicted by violence, where good adult role models and social institutions may be few, adolescents may seek advice and approval from their peers. Young individuals may be more inclined to imitate delinquent or illegal conduct carried out by their peers as a means of assimilation or to obtain the esteem of their peer group (Mohta, 2016).

4. Enlistment in Armed Organizations: Young individuals, including children, may be actively recruited by armed groups in regions afflicted by violence. These groups capitalise on the susceptibility and need for purpose and inclusion of these individuals. Peers could significantly contribute to the radicalization and recruitment of youth, the glorification of violence, and the propagation of extremist views. Pupils may be enticed to join armed organisations by coercion from peers and acquaintances, peer pressure, and promises of power, protection, and camaraderie (Khapai, 2017).

5. Conformity and Resistance to Authority Peer pressures may also motivate adolescents to fight conformity and authority and cultural standards, especially in situations where injustice, discrimination, or oppression are seen. Peer groups have the potential to foster a feeling of agency, unity, and opposition to perceived inequities among young people, motivating them to question those in positions of power, participate in acts of protest, or even turn to violence in order to express their rights and complaints (Save the Children, 2018).

In summary, peer effects have a substantial impact on the development of adolescent criminality within the

ethnic conflict setting of Manipur. A complete strategy is necessary to mitigate the effects of peer influences; this includes fostering constructive peer connections, offering alternatives to detrimental peer collectives, and empowering adolescents to make well-informed decisions. Through the enhancement of social networks, the cultivation of constructive peer influences, and the encouragement of resilience and critical thinking abilities, stakeholders possess the capacity to alleviate the adverse consequences of peer influences and establish nurturing milieus that advocate for the welfare and constructive growth of youth, even amidst ethnic strife.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

Psychological determinants have a significant impact on adolescent delinquency when considering the ethnic conflict situation in Manipur. Adolescents may exhibit diverse psychological consequences as a result of trauma, stress, and insecurity associated with conflict. These effects may contribute to the formation of maladaptive coping strategies, behavioural issues, and engagement in delinquent activities. This segment delves at the psychological determinants that impact the occurrence of adolescent delinquency when ethnic strife is present:

1. PTSD and trauma: Adolescents who have experienced conflict-related trauma, including violent exposure, relocation, and bereavement, may confront substantial psychological repercussions that heighten their susceptibility to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and further mental health concerns. Individuals who have been traumatised may exhibit avoidance behaviours, intrusive memories, nightmares, or hyperarousal, all of which have the potential to hinder their everyday functioning. Additionally, trauma has the potential to desensitise people to violence, normalise violent conduct, and erode their capacity for empathy, so elevating the probability that they would resort to delinquent behaviour as a mechanism for managing their misery (Sharma et al., 2017).

2. Impact on Emotional Regulation: Stressors associated with conflict, including but not limited to insecurity, displacement, and uncertainty, may impede the capacity of young individuals to effectively regulate their emotions. Consequently, this can result in the manifestation of impulsivity, aggression, and risk-taking behaviour. When young individuals lack access to healthy coping mechanisms and emotional support, they may be compelled to employ maladaptive coping strategies to manage their emotions and alleviate

psychological distress. These strategies may include substance abuse, self-harm, or involvement in delinquent activities (Mohta, 2016).

3. The Effects of Conflict on Identification, Belonging, and Self-Esteem: Adolescents' sense of identity, belonging, and self-esteem may be significantly affected by conflict, especially in environments where religious or ethnic identities are stigmatised or politicised. Adolescents may have difficulties in reconciling divergent identities and allegiances, which may result in emotions of estrangement, perplexity, and vulnerability. When young individuals lack positive social support and affirmation, they may turn to extremist organisations or peer groups for validation and acceptance; these organisations may provide a feeling of purpose, identity, and belonging (UNICEF, 2020).

4. Coping Mechanisms: Adolescents may construct maladaptive coping strategies as a means of managing psychological pain and trauma when confronted with stresses associated with conflict. As potential coping mechanisms, criminal conduct, aggressiveness, and substance misuse may be used to dull unpleasant feelings, recover a sense of control, or exert dominance when confronted with perceived oppression or injustice. Adverse coping strategies have the potential to solidify recurring behavioural patterns that contribute to cycles of aggression, victimisation, and criminality (Khapai, 2017).

5. Proximity and Protective Factors: In spite of the difficulties presented by stressors associated with conflict, a considerable number of young individuals exhibit exceptional resilience and adaptable coping mechanisms when confronted with adversity. Supportive elements such as robust social support systems, constructive adult role models, educational and recreational accessibility, and community involvement prospects have the potential to foster resilience and alleviate the consequences of psychological factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency. Advocating for healthy adolescent development and bolstering protective variables may assist young individuals in cultivating the necessary resources, competencies, and fortitude to surmount challenges and abstain from engagement in criminal activities (ThongkholalHaokip, 2013).

ROLE OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The education system assumes a critical role in mitigating juvenile delinquency amidst the ethnic conflict that is prevalent in Manipur. In addition to imparting knowledge and skills, education facilitates empowerment, socialisation, and conflict resolution. The education system in regions afflicted by violence

has distinct obstacles; yet, it offers prospects for advancing peacebuilding, reconciliation, and constructive youth development. This segment delves into the school system's responsibility in mitigating adolescent criminality amidst ethnic strife:

1. **The Fundamental Right to Quality Education:** Ensuring that juveniles have the opportunity to get a quality education is a significant preventive measure against delinquency. However, access to education may be hindered in conflict-affected regions owing to infrastructural deficiencies, instability, and relocation. It is essential to guarantee universal education, with a specific focus on disadvantaged and displaced communities, in order to foster social integration, diminish inequity, and lessen the likelihood of involvement in criminal activities.

2. **Advancement of Peace Education:** The education system may function as a medium through which peace education, intergroup conversation, and conflict resolution are promoted. By incorporating peace education into the curriculum, it is possible to facilitate the cultivation of attitudes and behaviours among young people that are favourable to peaceful cohabitation and societal harmony, by developing critical thinking, empathy, and respect for difference. Youth may be empowered to become agents of good change in their communities by advocating for social justice and nonviolent conflict resolution via peace education projects.

3. **Life Skills and Social-Emotional Learning:** Programs that emphasise life skills and social-emotional learning (SEL) can furnish adolescents with the knowledge, dispositions, and principles necessary to effectively navigate obstacles, regulate their emotions, and exercise responsible decision-making. By encouraging communication, conflict resolution, resilience, and empathy, and by incorporating SEL into the curriculum, educators may provide students with the means to manage stress, oppose harmful peer pressures, and settle disagreements amicably. Additionally, SEL programmes may foster healthy connections, improve school climate, and establish surroundings that are supportive, all of which lessen the likelihood of delinquent conduct (ThongkholalHaokip, 2013).

4. **Alternative Opportunities for Learning:** Alternative learning opportunities—including community-based learning, vocational training, and non-formal education—can offer young individuals avenues for education, skill development, and social integration in conflict-affected regions where conventional schooling may be disrupted or inaccessible. By implementing adaptable and all-encompassing educational initiatives,

disadvantaged and vulnerable groups—such as children impacted by war, impairments, or socioeconomic deprivation—can be provided with chances to develop personally, gain agency, and participate constructively in society (Save the Children, 2018).

5. Scholarship and Assistance for Teachers: It is critical to provide resources towards teacher training and assistance in order to improve the quality and efficacy of education in regions afflicted by violence. An essential function of educators is to provide secure, all-encompassing, and encouraging academic settings that foster the constructive growth of young people and deter them from participating in criminal activities. Instructing educators in peacebuilding skills, trauma-informed methodologies, conflict-sensitive pedagogy, and these subjects can empower them to confront the distinct obstacles and requirements of pupils impacted by strife, thereby cultivating qualities such as fortitude, compassion, and analytical reasoning (Mohta, 2016).

VI. Interventions and Rehabilitation Programs

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR DEALING WITH JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN MANIPUR

The legal framework pertaining to juvenile offenders in Manipur, similar to numerous other regions globally, is intentionally structured to reconcile accountability and rehabilitation. This approach acknowledges the distinct vulnerabilities and developmental requirements of young individuals who are involved in criminal activities. The aforementioned legal framework comprises a multitude of statutes, regulations, and processes that are designed to advance juvenile justice and safeguard the welfare and rights of juvenile offenders. In this section, the legislative framework governing the treatment of juvenile offenders in Manipur is examined.

The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (JJ Act) serves as the principal legislative framework that regulates the juvenile justice system throughout India, including the state of Manipur. The JJ Act prioritises diversion, rehabilitation, and child-friendly justice in an effort to prevent juvenile offenders from being stigmatised and institutionalised. Child welfare committees, juvenile police units, and juvenile welfare boards are established to guarantee that juvenile justice statutes are effectively implemented at the state level.

2. Age of Criminal Responsibility: In recognition of the fact that children under this age lack complete maturity and accountability for their actions, the JJ Act establishes the age of criminal responsibility at 18 years. The juvenile justice system has authority over offenders between the ages of 16 and 18, with an

emphasis on reintegration and rehabilitation as opposed to punitive actions. In cases involving juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18, the Juvenile Justice Board may impose suitable sanctions, such as placement in a special home, probation, counselling, or community service, in response to serious offences (UNICEF, 2020).

3. **Diversionsary Measures:** In lieu of formal court proceedings, the JJ Act promotes the use of diversionsary measures to address minor offences committed by juvenile offenders. Diversionsary measures comprise restitution, counselling, community service, warnings, and mediation, with the goals of discouraging juvenile offenders from reengaging in delinquent activities and facilitating their social reintegration. Juvenile welfare boards and probation officers administer diversionsary measures after evaluating the circumstances and requirements of juvenile offenders in order to ascertain the most suitable interventions (Sharma et al., 2017).

4. **Rehabilitation and Reintegration:** Acknowledging the potential for reform among juvenile offenders and emphasising the need to provide them with educational opportunities, skill enhancement prospects, and social support, the JJ Act places a high value on their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Access to education, vocational training, counselling, mental health services, and family support are all components of rehabilitation programmes, which aim to address the root causes of delinquent behaviour and foster the positive development of young people. Juvenile offenders are accommodated in special homes and observation homes for a period of time during the implementation of rehabilitation interventions (Mohta, 2016).

5. **Rights Protection:** Throughout the judicial process, the JJ Act prioritises the protection of the rights and dignity of juvenile offenders, guaranteeing that they are handled with compassion, fairness, and regard. Juvenile offenders are entitled to privacy, legal counsel, expedited proceedings, and secrecy; moreover, they must be protected from physical, psychological, and emotional damage. Special processes and protections are in place to protect young offenders from exploitation, prejudice, and abuse within the legal system (Save the Children, 2018). (Save the Children, 2018).

EXISTING INTERVENTION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Manipur offers a range of intervention and rehabilitation initiatives aimed at addressing the requirements of juvenile offenders and facilitating their successful reintegration into the community. The aforementioned

programmes include an extensive array of provisions, such as guidance, instruction, vocational education, community assistance, and family involvement. This segment examines several intervention and rehabilitation programmes that are currently in place for juvenile offenders in the state of Manipur.

1. **Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs):** Department of Juvenile Justice establishes JJBs at the district level in Manipur with the purpose of adjudicating issues pertaining to juvenile offenders and ascertaining the most suitable solutions. JJBs are composed of a panel of experts—judicial judges, social workers, psychologists, and child rights advocates—whose responsibility it is to determine the most appropriate rehabilitation procedures for juvenile offenders based on an evaluation of their needs and circumstances. JJBs are tasked with the responsibility of guaranteeing equitable and child-friendly treatment for juvenile offenders throughout the whole of the court system. This includes providing them with legal counsel, diversionary activities, and rehabilitation assistance (UNICEF, 2020).

2. **Observation homes** are facilities that provide transient housing and care to juvenile offenders while they await an investigation or prosecution. Observation Homes are established in Manipur with the primary objective of safeguarding juvenile offenders' welfare, rehabilitating them, and educating them while offering them counselling services and fundamental facilities. Observation homes function as alternatives to correctional facilities, providing personalised attention and assistance to juvenile offenders while they engage in rehabilitation and evaluation activities. Observation homes further promote the successful reintegration of juvenile offenders into their communities and families via the cultivation of constructive interpersonal connections and proficient social abilities (Sharma et al., 2017).

3. **Provision of Counseling and Psychological Support:** In Manipur, intervention and rehabilitation programmes targeting juvenile offenders must include counselling and psychosocial support services as integral components. Adolescent offenders get individual and group therapy sessions facilitated by certified counsellors and psychologists in order to attend to their psychological, emotional, and behavioural requirements. By emphasising the development of self-awareness, coping mechanisms, conflict resolution techniques, and constructive decision-making, counselling sessions enable juvenile offenders to surmount traumatic experiences, cultivate resilience, and effectuate constructive transformations in their life. Families

and caregivers are also offered psychosocial support services, which include resources, education, and assistance to facilitate the reintegration and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders (Mohta, 2016).

4. **Education and Skill Development:** In Manipur, the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders is inextricably linked to education and skill development initiatives. Numerous adolescent offenders originate from socioeconomically deprived households where educational and vocational training prospects are restricted. By providing juvenile offenders with access to formal education, remedial courses, and vocational training programmes, Observation Homes and Special Homes facilitate the acquisition of academic credentials and employability-related practical skills. Skill development initiatives target several sectors, including agriculture, handicrafts, computer literacy, carpentry, and tailoring, with the aim of providing juvenile offenders with employable proficiencies and alternate avenues for earning a living (Save the Children, 2018).

5. **Vocational Training and Work Assistance:** By offering chances for sustained employment and income creation, vocational training and employment support programmes seek to enable the effective reintegration of juvenile offenders into society. Vocational training centres and skill development institutes provide specialised training programmes for juvenile offenders via partnerships with commercial sector entities, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). By providing practical training, apprenticeships, and job placement assistance, these programmes assist formerly incarcerated juvenile offenders in developing self-assurance, autonomy, and financial security upon their release. Career counselling, job preparation courses, and aid with résumé writing and job applications are other employment support services (ThongkholalHaokip, 2013).

6. **Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR)** initiatives strive to foster the social integration and societal approval of juvenile offenders in their own communities. CBR efforts foster cooperation among local stakeholders, government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and community leaders in order to promote the reintegration of juvenile offenders into society, decrease stigma, and increase awareness. CBR programmes provide young offenders the chance to participate in civic engagement, volunteerism, and community service, enabling them to make constructive contributions to society while simultaneously mending fences and fostering connections with their local communities. CBR efforts

furthermore provide assistance and oversight to guarantee the security and welfare of juvenile offenders throughout their reintegration into society (Khapai, 2017).

7. Family Reintegration and Support: The provision of emotional support, stability, and direction by family members is vital to the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders. Family reintegration programmes in Manipur prioritise the enhancement of familial bonds, the resolution of communication challenges, and the investigation of root causes that might have led to the occurrence of juvenile delinquency. Family counselling sessions, parenting courses, and home visits are implemented with the purpose of evaluating family dynamics, pinpointing areas of vulnerability, and furnishing families with assistance and resources. Family-centered therapies strive to provide a nurturing atmosphere that cultivates constructive interpersonal connections, encourages reciprocal regard, and diminishes the likelihood of relapse into delinquent conduct (Singh, 2016).

EFFECTIVENESS OF CURRENT APPROACHES

The efficacy of existing intervention and rehabilitation strategies for juvenile offenders in Manipur is contingent upon a multitude of elements, including resource accessibility, service quality, stakeholder participation, and the socio-economic milieu. Despite considerable endeavours to tackle the issues pertaining to juvenile offenders and facilitate their successful reintegration into society, these strategies continue to be hindered by obstacles and constraints that diminish their overall efficacy. This segment evaluates the efficacy of existing methodologies in tackling the requirements of juvenile delinquents in Manipur:

1. Service Accessibility: A fundamental obstacle lies in the guarantee of comprehensive intervention and rehabilitation services for every juvenile offender, with a special emphasis on those hailing from rural and underprivileged regions. Geographical obstacles, insufficient money, and poor infrastructure might potentially impede the provision of essential services like counseling, education, vocational training, and community assistance. Consequently, a considerable number of juvenile offenders could not be provided with the all-encompassing assistance required to confront root causes and effectively readjust to society.

2. Service Quality: The efficacy of intervention and rehabilitation programmes in meeting the requirements of juvenile offenders may be significantly impacted by the considerable variation in service quality. While some establishments may have appropriately equipped resources, skilled personnel, and well-designed

programmes, others may be deficient in the necessary infrastructure, capacity, and experience to give efficient services. It is critical to implement quality assurance procedures, conduct continuous monitoring and assessment, and educate personnel in order to guarantee that services conform to the highest standards of care and adhere to the most effective approaches in the fields of juvenile justice and child rights.

3. Holistic Strategy: For intervention and rehabilitation programmes targeting juvenile offenders to be effective, it is essential to adopt a holistic approach that encompasses their educational, emotional, physical, and social requirements. Nevertheless, service delivery may exhibit deficiencies, as some programmes may prioritise short-term treatments or punitive measures above long-term rehabilitation and reintegration. When service providers and sectors fail to coordinate, the resulting services may be fragmented, failing to effectively address the underlying factors contributing to delinquent conduct and creating lasting beneficial transformations.

4. The influence of cultural sensitivity is substantial in moulding the experiences and requirements of juvenile offenders in the state of Manipur. Respecting the variety, values, and customs of local communities is critical in the development and execution of intervention and rehabilitation programmes that are successful. Cultural sensitivity and knowledge are indispensability in this regard. However, especially for underprivileged and minority populations, service delivery and accessibility may be impacted by cultural prejudices, misconceptions, and preconceived notions. Enhancing treatment providers' cultural competency and fostering meaningful connection with juvenile offenders and their families may be accomplished via collaborative efforts with community leaders and the provision of cultural competence training.

5. Community Engagement: The active participation of the community is crucial for the effectiveness of rehabilitation and intervention initiatives, given that communities serve as pivotal actors in fostering social integration and facilitating the reintegration of juvenile offenders. Nevertheless, community involvement in juvenile justice matters could be constrained by distrust, stigma, and a lack of information. Collaborating with local stakeholders, establishing trust, and cultivating partnerships are critical for amassing community resources and support in order to establish conducive settings that aid in the triumphant reintegration of juvenile offenders into society.

6. **Prevention Methods:** In addition to intervention and rehabilitation programmes, which are critical for addressing the needs of juvenile offenders, preventative strategies that target the fundamental risk factors and origins of delinquent conduct are necessary. Community-based programmes, education initiatives, youth empowerment projects, and advocacy campaigns that target problems such as poverty, inequality, prejudice, and social exclusion may be included in prevention efforts. By attending to these structural elements, stakeholders have the ability to provide more conducive surroundings that diminish the probability of juvenile delinquency and foster favourable maturation among young individuals.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

In order to optimise the efficacy of intervention and rehabilitation initiatives targeting juvenile offenders in Manipur, the following suggestions may be taken into account:

1. **Enhancing Collaboration:** Cultivate more robust cooperation among governmental entities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community organisations, and other relevant stakeholders to guarantee the implementation of synchronised and integrated strategies pertaining to juvenile justice and rehabilitation.
2. **Improving Service Accessibility:** Broaden the scope of intervention and rehabilitation programmes to include underrepresented communities and underserved regions, guaranteeing that all juvenile offenders have equitable access to high-quality treatment and assistance.
3. **Enhancing Quality Assurance:** Establish resilient quality assurance systems to oversee and assess the efficacy of intervention programmes, guaranteeing compliance with optimal methodologies and benchmarks of care.
4. **Fostering Cultural Sensitivity:** Offer service providers training in cultural competence to augment their comprehension of indigenous customs, traditions, and beliefs. This will guarantee that programmes implemented are both culturally suitable and attuned to the requirements of heterogeneous communities.
5. **Allocating Resources towards Prevention:** Allocate resources towards preventive measures that target fundamental risk factors and foster constructive youth development. These may consist of community-based initiatives, educational programmes, and youth empowerment projects, all of which strive to diminish the origins of delinquent conduct.

VII. CONCLUSION

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

In summary, this dissertation has conducted an exhaustive examination of the situational analysis pertaining to the many categories of crimes perpetrated by minors involved in law-breaking activities within the ongoing ethnic war in Manipur. An assortment of facets pertaining to the ethnic conflict, juvenile delinquency, and the efficacy of intervention and rehabilitation programmes have been investigated in the research.

The situational analysis reveals that children in Manipur have been profoundly affected by the ethnic strife, resulting in heightened susceptibility to involvement in delinquent activities (key results). Displacement, violent exposure, trauma, socioeconomic pressures, and other elements all contribute to children's engagement in legal conflicts. The examination of many categories of transgressions done by minors has brought to light the high incidence of property crimes, violent crimes, drug-related offences, and other offences that are associated with the ethnic conflict as a whole.

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

The ramifications of this study's results for policy and practise in Manipur and other conflict-affected areas are manifold:

1. **Enhancing the Juvenile Justice System:** In order to ensure that the juvenile justice system is responsive to the needs of children in conflict with the law, policymakers and practitioners should concentrate on bolstering the system. This include the improvement of accessibility to community support services, counselling, education, vocational training, and diversionary measures.
2. **Advocating for Community-based Rehabilitation:** Investments in community-based rehabilitation initiatives that include local communities in assisting juvenile offenders with their reintegration are necessary. It is imperative that these programmes exhibit cultural sensitivity, inclusivity, and empowerment while affording young offenders the chance to reconstruct their lives among nurturing communal environments.

3. **Prioritizing Prevention:** Efforts aimed at averting juvenile delinquency need to concentrate on mitigating fundamental risk factors, including but not limited to poverty, inequality, prejudice, and social isolation. Community-based initiatives, educational programmes, and youth empowerment projects that attempt to reduce the underlying reasons of criminal conduct and foster healthy youth development should be included into preventive methods.

4. **Improving Collaboration and Coordination:** In order to guarantee cohesive and synchronised strategies pertaining to juvenile justice and rehabilitation, it is essential that policy makers, practitioners, and stakeholders engage in close collaboration. To maximise resources, knowledge, and effect, this entails forging partnerships among government agencies, non-governmental organisations, community organisations, and other relevant players.

FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Future research should focus on addressing the identified gaps in the literature, particularly regarding the specific experiences and needs of juvenile offenders in conflict-affected areas. Longitudinal studies tracking the trajectories of juvenile offenders over time could provide insights into the factors that contribute to desistance or persistence in delinquent behavior. Moreover, comparative studies across different conflict-affected regions could shed light on the contextual factors that influence the effectiveness of intervention and rehabilitation programs. Additionally, qualitative research exploring the perspectives of juvenile offenders, their families, and communities could provide valuable insights into their experiences, needs, and aspirations, informing the development of more responsive and inclusive interventions.

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