

## Impact of Socio-Economic Factors on Juvenile Delinquency: An Explorative Study in Rajasthan

Ishan Atrey<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Balwinder Singh<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract:

Juvenile delinquency significantly impacts individuals, families, and communities, with socioeconomic factors playing a crucial role in shaping juvenile behaviour. This study focuses on Rajasthan, a state with numerous socio-economic challenges, to understand how these factors influence juvenile delinquency and to develop effective interventions. Key socioeconomic determinants such as poverty, unemployment, and limited educational opportunities are identified as critical contributors to juvenile delinquency. Poverty intensifies family and community pressures, leading youths to criminal activities for survival. Limited access to education perpetuates the cycle of poverty and delinquency, denying youths alternative pathways to social mobility. Dysfunctional family systems, including parental neglect and lack of supervision, further exacerbate delinquency risks. The absence of mental health services and employment opportunities adds to the instability that fosters juvenile crime.

Using a multidisciplinary approach, the study combines qualitative interviews and quantitative data analysis from 250 respondents, including juveniles, parents, police officers, and attorneys. Findings reveal a significant correlation between low family income, parental education levels, and delinquent behaviour. The lack of awareness and implementation of government policies addressing socioeconomic inequalities also contributes to persistent delinquency rates.

Parental care is highlighted as a critical factor, with insufficient guidance linked to higher delinquency rates. The study emphasises the need for effective parental involvement and supportive family environments to prevent juvenile delinquency. Comprehensive rehabilitation initiatives that address socio-economic disparities, promote education, and provide vocational training are essential. By tackling these underlying issues, policymakers can reduce juvenile delinquency rates and foster positive youth development in Rajasthan.

**Keywords:** socio-economic factors, juvenile delinquency, poverty, education, family structure, employment opportunities

### I. Introduction:

A serious social problem that affects people on an individual, family, and community level is juvenile delinquency. Although several factors influence juvenile delinquent conduct, socioeconomic conditions have a significant impact on the course of their lives. Given that Rajasthan is a state that faces a multitude of socio-economic issues, it is critical to investigate how these factors affect juvenile delinquency to develop effective preventative and interventional strategies.

Any individual's conduct, regardless of location or developmental stage, can be either maladaptive or adaptive based on how they interact with their local surroundings. Criminal activity is seen to be maladaptive. No matter where in the world a person is from, juvenile delinquency (JD) is a problem because of the possibility that a delinquent would carry out criminal activity into adulthood. The number of crimes committed by teenagers is on the rise, it has become imperative to understand the underlying causes behind this pattern. The phrase "socio-economic factors" refers to both social and economic components in legalese. Social elements include things like the function of the family, the impact of parents, the connections between siblings, interactions between peers, and the dynamics of the community. On the other hand, economic considerations include things like the family's total socioeconomic status, the job status of the parents, and their annual income. One significant socioeconomic factor that is connected to adolescent delinquency is poverty (*Spiel & Schwartzman, 2018*). Deprivation of resources frequently makes family and community pressures worse, which raises the possibility that young people would turn to criminal activity to make ends meet or adjust to society. Furthermore, as education is essential in giving young people alternative pathways and chances for social mobility, having restricted access to educational resources and opportunities exacerbates the cycle of poverty and criminality. The dynamics of the family are also very important in determining the patterns of adolescent misbehaviour. Delinquent actions in young people can be attributed to dysfunctional family systems, parental abuse or neglect, and a lack of parental supervision. Furthermore, young people who lack supportive family situations and healthy role models may be more vulnerable to harmful influences from peers or outside sources. In addition, rates of juvenile delinquency may be impacted by access to healthcare services and work prospects. Young individuals may turn to illegal activities as well as other alternative means of obtaining money as a result of limited employment opportunities and unstable economic conditions. In a similar vein, a lack of access to

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<sup>1</sup> Research Scholar, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun.  
[ishanatrey@yahoo.com](mailto:ishanatrey@yahoo.com)

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, , School of Law, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun  
[balwinder.singh@ddn.upes.ac.in](mailto:balwinder.singh@ddn.upes.ac.in)

mental health services and other healthcare resources can aggravate underlying problems that lead to juvenile delinquent conduct (McCord, Widom, & Crowe, 2001).

In order to thoroughly investigate the influence of socio-economic determinants on adolescent delinquency in Rajasthan, a multidisciplinary research methodology is needed. In order to obtain insight into the lived experiences and viewpoints of juvenile offenders, their families, and stakeholders within the juvenile justice system, this strategy may entail conducting qualitative interviews. Further significant insights into the correlation can be obtained through quantitative analysis of secondary data from government publications, surveys, and academic studies (Abhishek Raghu & J Balamurugan, 2024). The legal term "delinquency," which refers to criminal activity by juveniles, usually results from a spiralling pattern of bad behaviours. The definitions of delinquency vary throughout different organizations. In order to reduce confusion, we distinguish four viewpoints regarding delinquency. Parents initially perceive juvenile delinquency as disruptive or belligerent behaviour, which includes theft from family members, property destruction, disobedience, and threats of violence against parents. Secondly, from an educational perspective, delinquent behaviours are frequently seen as compromising staff and student safety, interfering with academic progress, and violating school policies. Thirdly, a mental health viewpoint allows for the evaluation of adolescent misbehaviour via the prism of psychological well-being, taking into account elements like emotional dysregulation, cognitive deficits, or psychiatric illnesses. Lastly, delinquency from a legal perspective refers to behaviours that violate laws or rules that apply to adolescents and call for the juvenile court system to assist. Together, these many viewpoints help to provide a thorough understanding of juvenile delinquency, which in turn helps to facilitate specialised interventions and legal remedies meant to address the root causes and lessen the effects of juvenile delinquent behaviour.

## **II. Research Objectives:**

- (a) How do socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and education level influence the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan?
- (b) To what extent do government policies and social programs aimed at addressing socio-economic inequalities impact juvenile delinquency rates in Rajasthan?
- (c) What are the long-term implications of Juvenile Delinquency associated with socio-economic disadvantages on individuals, families and communities in Rajasthan?

## **III. Objectives of the study:**

- To examine the socio-economic and psychological factors that contribute in juvenile delinquency.
- To analyse the major initiatives taken by the government for the rehabilitation of Juveniles.

## **IV. Research Methodology:**

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews and quantitative analysis of secondary data. Qualitative interviews will be conducted with juvenile offenders, their families, and key stakeholders in the juvenile justice system to explore their perspectives on the impact of socioeconomic factors on delinquent behaviour. Additionally, quantitative analysis of secondary data from government reports, surveys, and academic studies will be conducted to examine the correlation between socio-economic indicators and juvenile offending rates in Rajasthan.

## **V. Hypothesis:**

- The lack of implementation of Government policies and Parental care raises various socio-economic factors that cause Juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan.

## **VI. Limitation of study:**

- This study deals with the factors that contribute to juvenile Delinquency. As various factors promote juvenile Delinquency, this research is limited to the Socioeconomic factors increasing the rate of Juvenile Delinquency. The universe for this research will be India. The research will be limited to Rajasthan as it is not easy to conduct research in the whole of India. The data from this research can be taken to control Juvenile Delinquency in other states also.

## **VII. Effects of Socio-Economic Factors-**

- Socioeconomic variables, such as unemployment, poverty, and educational attainment mostly influence Rajasthan's high rate of juvenile delinquency. Juveniles who are poor may turn to delinquent activities as a coping mechanism or way of surviving hardship because a deficiency of necessities and financial resources defines poverty. Financial strain frequently causes families to experience higher levels of stress, which can exacerbate parent-child conflicts and result in insufficient supervision, all of which raise the risk of juvenile criminality (Tiwari, Dubey, & Verma, 2022).
- Juvenile criminality is heavily influenced by familial history, with broken homes having a particularly strong impact. Broken families, defined by strained family relationships, account for around half of the juvenile delinquent population. These families are distinguished by the calibre of their close bonds as well as by their cohabitation. Children

frequently receive little care and nurturing in these environments. Professionals speculate that young girls from dysfunctional homes may exhibit more overt criminal tendencies. A climate that is favourable to delinquency is fostered by the disintegration of connections within these families, particularly those between siblings, parents and children, and spouses (*McAra & McVie, 2022*). Parental attitudes are also very important, since a lack of affection and frequent reprimands can cause kids to rebel and turn to criminal activities for comfort. Parental concealment may contribute to children's mental growth of complexity and worsen feelings of insecurity. Furthermore, parental behaviour and character have a big impact on a child's personality. A child's behaviour can be shaped and directed toward criminality if they are exposed to dishonesty, hypocrisy, and immoral behaviour in the family. Siblings also have a big impact, especially on girls who might not have had as much exposure to the outside world (*Rao & Singh, 2020*). Younger siblings frequently take after their older siblings in engaging in criminal or immoral acts. Because sibling influence, parental views, and family dynamics all play a part in juvenile misbehaviour, it is crucial to address family aspects in delinquency prevention initiatives.

- Unemployment, especially in the case of parents or guardians, intensifies socioeconomic difficulties in households. Parental stability and authority are threatened by unemployment in addition to lowering household income. Higher levels of stress, despair, and anxiety might affect caregivers' capacity to properly watch after and assist their children when they have difficulty finding job or are placed in unstable work environments. Because of this, young people may feel abandoned, neglected, or frustrated, which makes them turn to criminal activity as a way to get attention, excitement, or money.
- Additionally, a major factor in the development of delinquent behaviour patterns is the educational attainment of both juvenile offenders and the adults who care for them. Low educational attainment or limited access to high-quality education might prolong social exclusion and poverty cycles among young people, raising their risk of engaging in criminal behaviour. Moreover, parents with lower educational attainment may not have the skills or resources necessary to deal with behavioural issues or provide their kids with direction and support, which increases the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. A child's personality is greatly shaped by their educational environment, which also has an impact on many types of juvenile delinquency like stealing, truancy, and sexual offences. Among these, juveniles pay special attention to truancy and school absconding. Participating in criminal groups, teacher reprimands, subpar academic achievement, and personal ability are noted as contributory factors (*Salunkhe & Bagul, 2024*). Youngsters who skip school frequently associate with undesirable people and take part in a variety of illegal activities. One of the main causes of the rise in indiscipline is the widespread belief that education is just about learning facts rather than developing one's character.
- These days, children spend much of their leisure time on their mobile phones, which is a major factor in juvenile delinquency and antisocial conduct. Teenagers are more influenced by the different crime-related narratives that are spread on social media and the internet. The internet's ability to distribute viral content has led to a noticeable increase in several sorts of criminal activity. There are differences in how kids react to social media and internet pornography (*Shah, Shukor, Ali, & Ghafar, 2018*). Furthermore, scientific research indicates a strong relationship between kids' conduct and the media they watch, including movies and TV shows.
- It is clear that poverty and crime are related, especially when it comes to adolescent misbehaviour. Children from low-income families—many of whom are the offspring of unskilled labourers—face financial struggles that force them to abandon their schooling and turn to crime as a way to satisfy unmet needs. Research indicates that teenagers who work are more likely than those who don't to become involved in criminal activity. Poverty exacerbates criminal impulses by feeding feelings of inferiority and unhappiness. Juvenile delinquency's complicated causality is suggested by its multiple nature, which includes socioeconomic, familial, individual, psychological, and economic elements. Rehabilitation initiatives need to take into account these many variables in their entirety. Progressive countries emphasize targeted efforts to reduce socioeconomic inequities and place a higher priority on rehabilitation than punitive measures for juvenile offenders (*Sasmal & Guillen, 2015*). It is essential to have access to economic possibilities, education, and vocational training to reduce juvenile delinquency and encourage positive youth development. Policymakers may empower adolescents and their families by addressing underlying socioeconomic disparities, which will promote informed decision-making and holistic well-being.

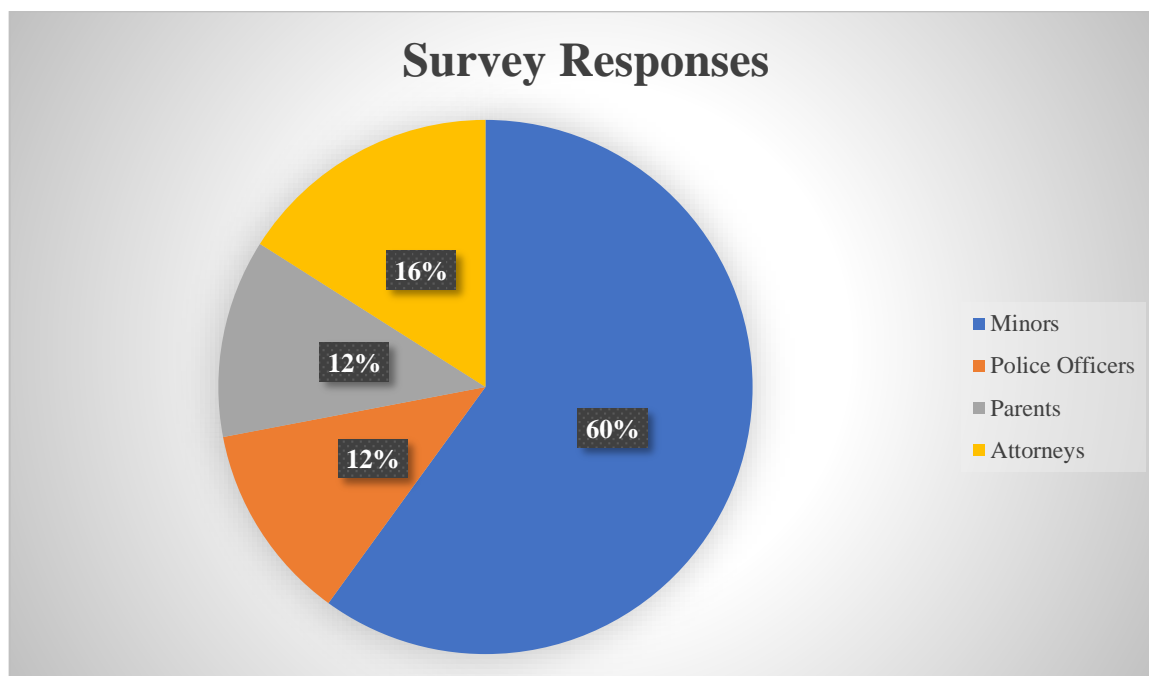
### VIII. Literature Review:

- In this study (*Javed, Azhar, Anwar, & Sohail, 2016*) The goal of this study is to look into the socioeconomic factors that influence adolescent criminality. The study was carried out inside the jails in the Punjabi region of Faisalabad and Bahawalpur Borstal. The study's main goals were to describe the background traits of young offenders, clarify the social elements that lead to juvenile delinquency, and pinpoint the economic factors that affect this kind of conduct. To obtain relevant findings, a quantitative methodology was utilized, and basic random sampling techniques were utilized to simplify data collecting. The sampling technique stated above resulted in the selection of a sample size of 140 respondents. The study's conclusions show that the main causes of adolescent delinquency include poor levels of educational attainment, retaliatory actions, intrafamilial conflict, negative peer pressure, and insufficient parental monitoring.

- In-depth research (*Atrey & Singh, 2023*) on adolescent delinquency in Rajasthan, India, is done in this study, which emphasizes the serious consequences it has on people as individuals, families, and society as large. This study aims to determine the underlying causes, consequences, and preventative strategies of juvenile delinquency by means of a thorough literature review and statistical analysis. It looks at socioeconomic inequalities as significant causes, including parental neglect, early marriage, poverty, peer pressure, and exposure to violence. Additionally, the research assesses the efficacy of diverse interventions, such as vocational training, counselling, rehabilitation, and legal measures. The research highlights the need for a comprehensive understanding of juvenile delinquency and makes recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and academics by combining ideas from fields including sociology, psychology, criminology, and law. This study used a scientific research methodology to examine the correlation between familial, educational, and peer factors and juvenile delinquency, revealing significant associations with intra-familial discord, parental supervision, peer pressure, academic performance, and mental health issues.
- The present study (*Saigal & Vaish, 2022*) From a legal perspective, climate change presents a major worldwide concern, driven by the rapidly growing transportation industry. It is essential to promote an efficient and sustainable transportation system. This study uses survey data from an urban center in a developing country, together with a logit model of decision probabilities and descriptive statistics. Examining the ways in which different socio-economic factors impact the choice of sustainable modes of transportation, as well as identifying differences in preference for sustainable modes of transportation between men and women, working-age individuals, higher educated individuals, socioeconomically privileged groups, and gender, is the goal of this study. This study emphasizes how important it is to take into account the various preferences of different socioeconomic groups when developing transportation regulations in order to maintain integrity with goals of sustainability and women's empowerment.
- This study (*Hazra, 2021*) uses data from 31 states and union territories from 2009 to 2016 to examine the complicated relationship between economic variables and crime rates, as well as the drivers of juvenile delinquency in India. The study clarifies important findings by utilizing a two-step Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) approach and a panel-corrected standard error model to handle contemporaneous correlation, heteroskedasticity, and probable endogeneity. Significant predictors of adolescent crime rates are macroeconomic variables like the adult unemployment rate and Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) per capita. Juvenile delinquency is correlated with higher rates of poverty and slum occupancy. Furthermore, spousal violence has a negative effect on adolescent crime, according to the study. However, it has been established that education deters juvenile-related crimes, even while deterrence elements are absent. Novel outcomes emerge, in opposition to previous studies' conclusions. Remarkably, the relationship between the rate of adolescent criminality and adult unemployment is negative, which goes against popular belief. Furthermore, there is a strong correlation between the rate of adolescent crime and the density of police. Additional information is provided by analyzing the different kinds of crimes (violent and property). The GMM analysis presented in the research does not support the hypothesis that juvenile delinquency has a detrimental effect on economic growth. This study provides insightful information for academics and policymakers trying to solve this urgent issue. It also emphasizes how important it is to comprehend the complex dynamics of juvenile delinquency, especially in the context of India.
- In this research (*Prajapati & Singh, 2015*) Juvenile delinquency affects the foundation of ethics, morals, traditions, culture, and respect, making it a serious social concern. Rajasthan's Kota is a centre for studying for competitive exams, with a large number of students congregating there. The problem of juvenile delinquency is exacerbated by the fact that many of these students engage in criminal and antisocial activities in addition to their academic endeavours. The purpose of this essay is to clarify the contributing variables and societal effects of juvenile delinquency. Data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with psychologists, doctors, police officers, and caregivers of borstals and rehabilitation institutions in addition to the use of self-made checklists and questionnaires. Purposive sampling was used to pick 100 people from each category, including psychologists, police officers, parents, and caretakers of borstals and hostels. According to the study's findings, adolescent delinquent behaviours—such as theft, forgery, destruction of school property, bullying, verbal abuse, exhibitionism, involvement in illegal activities including drug trafficking, and truancy—are common among this demographic. Severe criminal acts, such as murder, prostitution, suicide, and rape, were comparatively uncommon in the community under study. The study looks deeper into the underlying causes of these juvenile delinquent behaviours. Purposive sampling was used to pick 100 people from each category, including psychologists, police officers, parents, and caretakers of borstals and hostels. According to the study's findings, adolescent delinquent behaviours—such as theft, forgery, destruction of school property, bullying, verbal abuse, exhibitionism, involvement in illegal activities including drug trafficking, and truancy—are common among this demographic. Severe criminal acts, such as murder, prostitution, suicide, and rape, were comparatively uncommon in the community under study. The study looks deeper into the underlying causes of these juvenile delinquent behaviours.
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**IX. Survey Analysis:**

The prevalence of juvenile delinquency is mostly determined by socioeconomic variables, which present a serious challenge to society around the globe. With a particular emphasis on the effects of parental care and governmental regulations, this research attempts to investigate the socioeconomic factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. To obtain information about the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency in the area, a survey was done through interviews with 250 respondents, including minors, parents, police officers, and attorneys. To gather information on different socioeconomic characteristics and their correlation with adolescent delinquency, a systematic questionnaire was created. In Rajasthan out of 250, 150 minors, 30 parents, 30 police officers, and 40 attorneys were given the questionnaire. Family income, parental education, work status, neighbourhood atmosphere, exposure to violence, and opinions of government programs and child care were among the topics included in the survey (Fig.1.1).

*Fig.1.1***(A) Findings:**

Socio-economic factors including the standard of living and family income played a significant role during the examination of the survey data and showed a significant relationship between adolescent delinquency and socioeconomic characteristics. When compared to their counterparts from higher-income homes, juveniles from low-income families reported being more involved in delinquent activities, the foremost reason deduced was that children from the lower-income group were being undermined by the children from the higher-income group. In a similar vein, children whose parents were less educated showed a greater inclination toward delinquent behaviour, because the fulfilment of needs of these children drives them to enter into the criminal world, neither the parents were literate, so they couldn't know the importance of education neither nor they can motivate their children towards the education. Even during the interview children expressed their views that there we were told by the parents that even if you study, you have to do the same thing which your parents are doing. Moreover, it has also been found that children whose parents are working as masons or low-wage workers, start taking their children with them, where they are working, this acts stops the children from going broader because they are being forced to limit their dream within 4 walls that their father has created.

**(i) Government Policies:** The survey highlighted that due to a lack of awareness and implementation of government policies aimed at addressing juvenile delinquency. A significant proportion of respondents, including parents, police officers, and lawyers, expressed dissatisfaction with the efficacy of existing policies in curbing delinquent behaviour among juveniles. This lack of effective policy implementation was identified as a contributing factor to the persistence of juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. As it is said, it takes two to quarrel, on one hand, policies are not sufficient for the betterment of the children and on the other hand still, if there are policies but due to lack of awareness, parents and guardians are not being benefitted from these policies for their children. Even the lawyers and police officers during the interview suggested that we have the laws but due to lack of implementation and awareness, many children opt for the criminal world and become Juvenile delinquents. The lawyers who are practising in the Juvenile Justice boards have the view that if children

are being brought up properly, there are less chances of the child to be delinquent because the first teacher of the children are their family members only.

**(ii) Parental Care:** One of the most important factors influencing adolescent delinquency is parental care. There was a higher likelihood of delinquent behaviour among children who reported insufficient parental guidance and assistance. In addition, the participants underscored the significance of favourable parental engagement in moulding the conduct and principles of young people, stressing the necessity of parental guidance and assistance initiatives. Parents are the first teachers of a child, in that case, parents must be the first to advice whenever a child faces any difficulty. When children were asked about their best friends in their life, none of the child said that our parents is our best friends, which shows a bridge between the child and parents. Moreover, when the parents asked this question, they accepted this gap but weren't able to answer further stating that we had this same relationship with our own parents. Parental care plays a very pivotal role in an individual's life. During the interview, it was also found that various parents stated that their wards started comparing their lifestyle with their friends. However, due to bad financial status, children start complaining about them only and demanding that they want to have the same lifestyle as their friends and if parents are unable to provide that many facilities, children start entering into delinquent behaviour. In this case parents found themselves helpless.

### **(B) Results:**

The analysis of survey data revealed the important contribution of socioeconomic factors—such as family income and standard of living—to teenage misbehaviour. Juveniles from low-income families were more likely to engage in criminal activity due to peer pressure from families with greater incomes. Likewise, because of unfulfilled needs and a lack of parental direction about schooling, children of parents with lower levels of education demonstrated a greater propensity towards criminality. Interviews showed that youngsters felt more confined since their parents worked in low-paying jobs like masonry or construction. Stakeholders were dissatisfied with the effectiveness of government initiatives intended to reduce juvenile delinquency because of a lack of awareness and enforcement. Furthermore, there was a correlation found between inadequate parental supervision and increased rates of delinquency in teenagers, highlighting the significance of parental participation in actively guiding behaviour. Children's dissatisfaction caused by parental communication gaps and financial constraints may have contributed to their delinquent behaviour as a means of seeking affirmation or fulfilling perceived social expectations.

### **X. Conclusion:**

This research explored the hypothesis that inadequate implementation of government policies and lack of parental care significantly contribute to various socio-economic factors that cause juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. The study aimed to examine the impact of socio-economic factors like poverty, unemployment, and education level on juvenile delinquency, evaluate the effectiveness of government policies and social programs addressing socio-economic inequalities, and understand the long-term implications of juvenile delinquency related to socio-economic disadvantages. The findings underscore the critical role of socio-economic factors in influencing juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. Poverty is a major determinant, with juveniles from low-income families more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour due to resource deprivation and heightened family and community pressures. Parental unemployment exacerbates financial stress, undermining family stability and parental authority, which often results in inadequate supervision and emotional neglect. This, in turn, pushes juveniles towards criminal activities as a means of coping. Educational attainment is also a significant factor. Limited access to quality education perpetuates cycles of poverty and delinquency, denying juveniles opportunities for social mobility. The study revealed that children of less-educated parents are more prone to delinquent behaviour due to a lack of guidance and support in their educational pursuits. Furthermore, dysfunctional family systems, characterized by parental neglect and lack of supervision, significantly contribute to juvenile misbehaviour.

The research highlighted a critical gap in the implementation and awareness of government policies aimed at curbing juvenile delinquency. Many respondents expressed dissatisfaction with existing policies, noting that ineffective implementation and lack of awareness among parents and guardians hinder the potential benefits of these programs. This inadequacy in policy execution exacerbates socio-economic disparities, further entrenching conditions that lead to juvenile delinquency. Parental care emerged as a fundamental factor in preventing juvenile delinquency. The study emphasized the importance of positive parental engagement and support in shaping the behaviour and values of juveniles. Insufficient parental guidance and involvement were linked to higher delinquency rates, highlighting the need for initiatives that foster effective parenting practices and strengthen family bonds.

In conclusion, the research confirms the hypothesis that inadequate implementation of government policies and lack of parental care significantly contribute to the socio-economic factors causing juvenile delinquency in Rajasthan. To address this issue, it is essential to improve the effectiveness and reach of government policies, ensuring they address the root causes of socio-economic disparities. Additionally, fostering supportive family environments and enhancing parental involvement through targeted programs can play a crucial role in mitigating juvenile delinquency. Comprehensive

rehabilitation efforts focusing on education, vocational training, and mental health services are imperative to break the cycle of poverty and delinquency, promoting positive youth development and social integration in Rajasthan.

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