

# Present Status of Juvenile Delinquency at Remand Home, Ahmednagar

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## Abstract

**Background:** the first six years of life are the formative period of life. The foundations of healthy personality or otherwise, are laid during this period when the child's world is his parents and his home. Given a plastic mind and being in the closet association with parents his personality development will be influenced by attitude of parents. **Aims:** this study was done to know the reasons behind delinquent nature of children. One of the factors is the parent's criminal behavior which affects the children. In the present study total 102 cases are examined in 2 years at remand home, ahmednagar. **Materials and methods:** there were 49 cases those remanded in year 2004, the information and data are collected retrospectively and 53 cases that were admitted in remand home in the year 2005, those data and information were collected prospectively. **Results:** the present study includes retrospective data of 49 cases and prospective data of 53 cases in 2005, constituting total of 102 cases of juvenile delinquency. All the cases i.e. 102 cases were males. Maximum cases (50%) occurred between age group of 16 - 18 yrs. Most of the children left the school after studying up to 10<sup>th</sup> std. Thirty one cases were illiterate. Majority of children did not get the affection of their parents. In 30% cases fathers were died & in 10% cases mothers were died & 3% cases both were died. Out of 102 cases, 58 cases have more than 3 siblings. Predominantly (89%) were from lower socio economic class. Parents of all delinquent children were illiterate. 37.25 % of children were involved in theft, followed by riot (17.65%). Delinquent children also committed serious offences like rape (4%) cases, unnatural sexual offences such as anal intercourse (2%) cases & murder (3%) cases.

**Key words:** Juvenile delinquency, remand home, education, family size, criminal activities.

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## Introduction

Children often test the limits and boundaries set by their parents and other authorities. A few children consistently participate in problematic behavior that negatively affect their family, academic, social and personal functioning. Such children are cause of great concern to parents and community at large.<sup>1</sup> delinquency is a legal term for criminal behavior carried out by juvenile. It is often the result of problematic behavior. Definitions of delinquency vary

among different groups. To avoid confusion we describe four definitions from different view.<sup>2</sup>

**1. Parental view:** parents may define disruptive and delinquent behavior as disobedience, fighting with siblings, destroying or damaging property, stealing money from family members or threatening parents with violence.

**2. An educational view:** school staff members often regard delinquent behavior as that which interrupts and disturbs classrooms learning, violate the school code of conduct and threaten the safety of faculty and students.

**3. A mental health view:** a mental health professionals considers

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delinquency to include a wide range of disruptive behavior that may involve aggression towards others or animals, destruction of property and violation of curfew and school attendance.

**4. A legal system:** the majority of states and government considers persons under the age of 18 to be juvenile.

As per the juvenile justice the delinquent behavior is divided into two categories.<sup>3</sup>

5. "status offences" i.e. Skipping school, alcohol possession and use, curfew violation.

6. "delinquent offences" - destruction of property, threat, robbery, illegal weapon possession and illegal possession of drugs.

The common manifestations of delinquency in india are: 1) stealing, 2) truancy of school, 3) running away from home, 4) ungovernable behavior, 5) sex offences, 6) rarely murder etc.

#### Materials and Methods

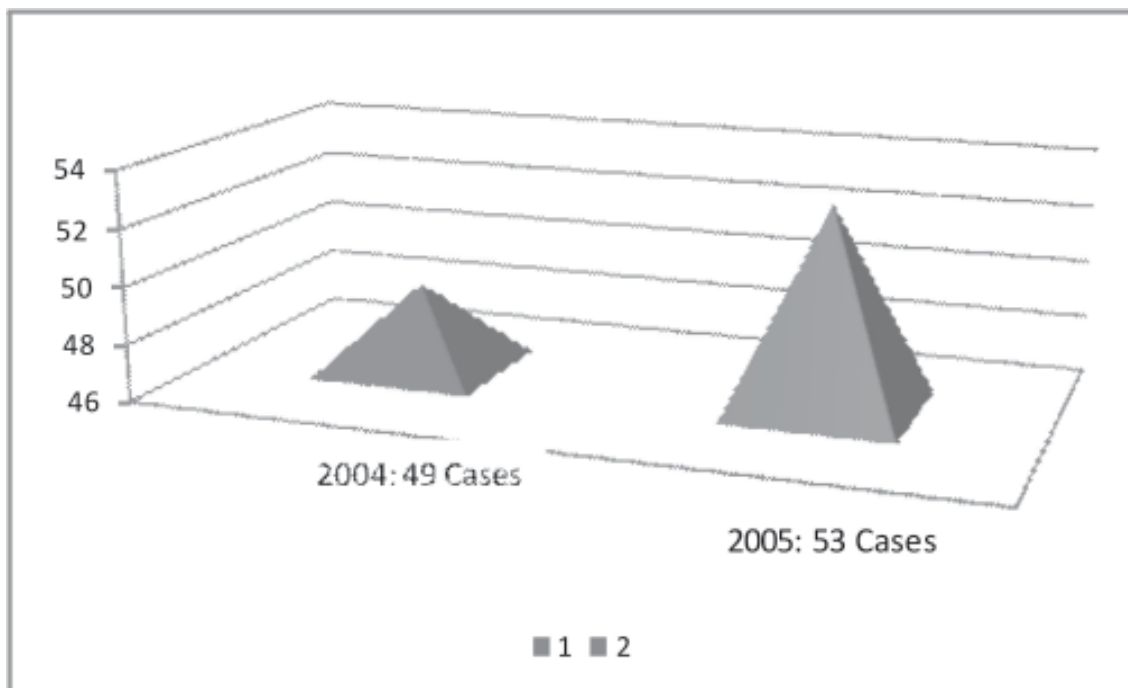
This study is carried out at remand home, ahmednagar (m.h.) All the delinquent cases of jurisdiction of ahmednagar district were sent to this remand home. The total 102 cases were included for the study. There were 49 cases those remanded in year 2004, the

information and data are collected retrospectively and 53 cases that were admitted in remand home in the year 2005, those data and information were collected prospectively. The data and information was collected for all the cases with relation to 1) name, (2) age, 3) sex, 4) education status 4) cast, 5) socioeconomic condition, 6) nature of crime, 7) family history, 8) past history of any crime, 9) sections of punishment if applied, 10) education of parents. Requisite permission from juvenile justice board was taken. The data was analyzed by using the spss software and presented in the form of tables.

#### Results

The present study includes retrospective data of 49 cases and prospective data of 53 cases in 2005, constituting total of 102 cases of juvenile delinquency (fig-1). All the cases i.e. 102 cases were males. Maximum cases (50%) occurred between age group of 16 - 18 yrs (table-1). Most of the children left the school after studying up to 10<sup>th</sup> std. Thirty one cases were illiterate. Majority of children did not get the affection of their parents. In 30% cases fathers were died & in 10% cases mothers were died & only 3% cases both were died. Out of 102 cases 58 cases have more than

**Fig. 1. Year wise distribution of cases**



**Table 1. Education wise distribution of cases**

<b>education</b>	<b>Cases (no.102)</b>	<b>% (percentages)</b>
Illiterate	32	31%
< 5 <sup>th</sup> std.	26	25%
5 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> std.,	40	39%
Above 10 <sup>th</sup> std.,	04	04%

**Table 2. Distribution of cases according to family size (no of siblings)**

<b>No of siblings</b>	<b>Cases (no=102)</b>	<b>% (percentages)</b>
< 3	44	43%
03 – 05	40	39%
> - 5	18	18%

**Table 3. Distribution of cases as per i.p.c. Section applied**

<b>Ipc section</b>	<b>Sections</b>	<b>Cases (no.102)</b>	<b>%</b>
379	(punishment for theft)	38	37%
307, 143,107, 148, 149,323, 337	Offenses against public tranquility (riot)	18	18%
325, 504, 506, 34	Offences, causing grievous hurt, breach of peace with criminal intimation	12	12%
397, 394, 399, 395, 402	Section related robbery and dacoity	08	08%
457,380	Theft in indwelling house, house breaking in night	06	06%
376	Punishment for rape	04	04%
452	House trespass after preparation for hurt or assault	04	04%
302, 307, 436	Punishment for murder, attempt for murder	03	03%
354,342	Assault to women with outrage her modesty	03	03%
377	Unnatural sexual offences (anal intercourse)	02	02%
408	Criminal breach of trust by servant	02	02%
361	Kidnapping from unlawful guardianship	01	01%
461, 34	Dishonestly breaking open receptacle containing property	01	01%

3 siblings. (table 2) .predominantly (89%) were from lower socio economic class. Parents of all delinquent children were illiterate. 37.25 % of children were involved in theft, followed by riot (17.65%). Delinquent children also committed serious offences like rape (4%) cases, unnatural sexual offences such as anal intercourse (2%) cases & murder (3%) cases (table 3).

### **Discussion**

The child's personality is determined by generic pattern and modified by environmental factors. The parents, other family members, and peer groups influence his behavioral pattern.<sup>4</sup> poor housing, lack of educational opportunities and recreational facilities, and society with rapidly changing ethos and maladjustment with cultural goals,

social objectives also predispose the adolescents for delinquent behaviour.<sup>5</sup>

Parents always set an example for their children by their own social conduct like-dishonesty in filling income tax return, manipulation of accounts, unethical business practices, acceptance of bribes, quarrelsome behavior and corruption result in the child's delinquent behavior. Violence at homes also responsible for initiation of delinquent behavior.<sup>6</sup> children with minimal brain dysfunction and mental retardation have inadequate control over their impulses and are therefore, predisposed to delinquent behavior.

The bombay children act 1948 provides that child who has committed offence but not attained age 16 yrs is youthful offender. It provides that such a child shall not be sentenced to death or life imprisonment or imprisonment. But now the upper age limit for both boys and girls is 18 yrs.

in the present study all juvenile offenders are males, which is indicative of male predominance due to exposure to external world.

In the present study the maximum cases occurred between the age of 16 to 18 years comprising 50% followed by age group 13 to 15 years constituting 38% and below 12 years of the age 12% cases occurred. The 16 to 18 years age is considered as an adolescent age. In this age more emotional and physical development occurs, which leads to many conflicts in the mind. So it may be one of the causes for delinquent behavior.

Most of the delinquent children were illiterate. In majority of cases children did not have schooling even up to 10<sup>th</sup> std. So it can be said that education is inversely proportional to the delinquency.

Family history is another important factor in this study. Most of the parents in present study were illiterate one, which affects children delinquent behavior.

Many children did not get affection of either mother or father or both. In our study in 29% cases father was dead, in 10% mother

was dead & in 03% both are dead. These total 42% children did not get affection of their parents.

Family size is the next important factor. As shown in the table, average number of siblings is 4, so in that family 5 children are present. Parents were not able to give the required attention to the children, making it difficult for children to get good parental attention, parental lessons in morals, character building and social behavior.

Socioeconomic factor is also one of the important factors, in our present study 88% are from lower socio-economic class and 10% middle class and 2% from upper class so poverty is one of the common reasons for delinquent behavior of the children.

as shown in the chart children committed all types of offences, starting from theft, rioting to rape, unnatural sexual offences (anal intercourse) and murder.

Poor housing, overcrowding and violence in homes, illiterate parents, poverty and lack of educational and recreational facilities lead to maladjustment with rapidly changing cultural and social ethos are some of the key predisposing factors that lead youth to the path that begins as delinquent behavior and unless preventive and corrective steps are taken in time ultimately leads youths being converted to criminals.

### **Prevention methods**

The delinquent behaviors of children can be avoided by applying following some preventative steps which are suggested as.<sup>9</sup> the prevention of delinquency requires identifying at-risk individuals and their environments before delinquent activity and behavior occur and then removing such risk factors or strengthening resistance to the risk factors already present. The most logical starting place for prevention efforts is the family. There are the following some steps to be followed:

1. Build family cohesiveness and parent - child relationships by taking time each week to have fun as a family spending 10-15 minutes alone with your child at

- least once a week and listening attentively to your child.
2. Monitor your child's activities: always ask where your child is going with whom and when your child will be back.
  3. Set logical rules for behavior according to your child's age and then apply age-appropriate consequences fairly and consistently when the rules are broken.
  4. Get to know your child's friends and their families.
  5. Adopt a democratic parenting style by allowing your child's voice to be heard: listen respectfully when your child is talking and make good eye contact at all times.
  6. Offer to help with academic problems and show concern about your child's studies and behavior in school. At the end of each day ask what went well in school and what problems occurred.
  7. Talk to your child about peer pressure and the physical and emotional changes expected during the teen years. Calmly explain what you expect from your child in the way of appropriate behavior.
  8. Assist your child in making good decisions by being a good role model: make good decisions yourself and show your child how to evaluate the consequences of planned and completed behaviors.
  9. Use natural or logical consequences (rather than punishment) in applying discipline. For example if a child writes on the wall a logical consequence would be for her to scrub the wall clean and paint it.
  10. Enroll your child in youth recreational activities such as boys' and girls' clubs extra circular sports clubs at school. If the methods stated above are already in place but are not working as effectively as you would like then it may be time to consult a professional treatment is the next step.

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