

# JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF ITS CAUSES AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

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## ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquency is a serious problem in India. Increasing involvement of juveniles in crime activities has emerged as a matter of serious concern in the contemporary era, raising complex ethical, legal and procedural challenges. In this context (**Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015** represents a significant legislative advancement in the domain of modern Juvenile Justice, aiming to address these challenges through a comprehensive and child-centric legal framework. The cause of Juvenile delinquents is multifaceted. Poverty, social inequality, lack of education and family dysfunction are often contributing to juvenile delinquency. It evaluates the effectiveness of the legal framework to check such crime in every corner of the country. The researcher adopts a doctrinal methodology and analyses the existing legal frameworks on such Information Technology Act 2000 & Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015. This paper aims at discussing why minors are more involved in committing offences. Finally, the study suggests preventive and rehabilitative measures for the offenders and could have allowed them to be in the mainstream of any society.

**Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, Causes, Legal framework, Preventive, and Justice**

## 1. Introduction:

Children are most valuable assets of any nation. Cyber – cultural and internet addiction is making our children depressed, distressed and isolated. Crime is a general but Juvenile delinquency is a particular. Presently, Juvenile Delinquency is present in all society. According to the second United Nations Congress on the Prevention of crime and treatment of Offenders (1960) states "By juvenile Delinquency should be understood the commission of an act which, if committed by an adult, would be considered a crime."<sup>482</sup> "Juvenile delinquency is multi

dimensional issues. However, the Protection of Child Care & Protection Act, 2015 is a spirit of Juvenile delinquency. According to Juvenile Justice Act 2015, a juvenile is a child who is below the age of 18. On the other hand, Juvenile delinquent was first used in the earlier Act 1986 and was defined as a juvenile who has been found to have committed offences<sup>483</sup>. Delinquent offences means violence against person, such as murder, Rape and Armed robbery, aggravated and simple assault, harassment, stalking, child abuse and similar offences come under the offender of juvenile

<sup>482</sup> Available at: <https://eduindex.org/2021/07/09/juvenile-delinquency-meaning-definitions-causes-and-prevention-measures/> last visited 25-03-2026 at 9.00pm.

<sup>483</sup> Shibance Acharya & Omkar Acharya (2025) From Crime to Court: Juvenile Delinquency Trend in Odisha, *Russian Law Journal*, 12(1) 1713- 1727.

delinquent<sup>484</sup>. Etymologically term delinquency has been derived from the word delinquer which means to omit. The Romans used the term to referee to the failure of a person to perform the assigned task or duty<sup>485</sup>. Juvenile delinquency is social tabs in ancient time in India. British passed Acts along with rules for child rights<sup>486</sup>. International accords such as the Beijing rules guide for Juvenile justice and provided standards for handling juvenile offenders. The United Nations Convention passed many standards of operation and procedure for child protection.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

- **Sadaf etal (2019)**<sup>487</sup> author has focused on the rise of juvenile delinquents cases in the country. Juvenile crime has increased in several parts of the country despite various pieces legislations passed by the government of India. The author has derived the definition of “Juvenile delinquency” from the Latin word delinquer, or “to fail” Violence within the home is a significant factor of juvenile delinquency. Peer pressure, social problems, and lack of moral guidance among children are major causes of juvenile delinquency.
- **Joshi Vaidehi (2020)**<sup>488</sup> The author has focused on the evaluation of juvenile Justice in India. Poverty is a major factor contributing to Juvenile delinquency. Lack of education also plays a significant role to more rise on juvenile delinquency. Drug abuse further increases delinquency behavior and discrimination by society are general factors of juvenile delinquency. Proper family counseling is essential to
- address this issue, Rehabilitation of Juveniles delinquency and legal awareness among the parents are generally needed to curb such crime.
- **Murali (2022)**<sup>489</sup> Juvenile means a person below the age of 18. Juvenile delinquency consist many factors, Psychological factors and social factors are major factors of juvenile delinquency. Bad company, adolescent influence, early experience of sex in life, extreme social environment, advance of love, poor recreation, and street life come under psychological factors of juvenile delinquency.
- **Ritu Kumari etal (2024)**<sup>490</sup> authors have distinguished between a child and Juvenile delinquent. Child means a person below 18 years of age. Juvenile delinquents mean someone under 18 years who commit a crime. The concept of ‘*Doli Incapax*’ refers to a person’s inability to commit a crime due to lack of understanding. The Child welfare Committee is the authority for children who in need of care and protection. The Juvenile Justice Board is the competent authority for Juveniles in conflict with the law.
- **Jyoti Poonia etal (2024)**<sup>491</sup> Juvenile delinquency is a serious offence and it reflects a social taboo. The numbers of juvenile delinquency cases are increasing across the country. It affects both psychologically and physically. The Juvenile Justice Boards play positive role in controlling Juvenile crime. After Nirbhaya Incident the age criteria for juvenile deliquesces in

<sup>484</sup> Chandra Kumar & Ekta Paliwal (2018) Analysis of Case Profiles of Juvenile Delinquents, *International Journal of creative Research Thoughts*, 6(2), 1394-1401.

<sup>485</sup> Sadaf & Punam Kumari Bhagat (2019) Juvenile Delinquency: A critical Analysis. *International Journal of Reserch and Analytical Review*, 6(1) 257-263.

<sup>486</sup> Jyoti Poonia & Ritu (2024) A study on Historical Growth and Development of Juvenile Delinquency in India, *International journal of law*, 10(2) 66-70.

<sup>487</sup> Sadaf & Punam Kumari Bhagat (2019) Juvenile Delinquency: A Critical Analysis, *International Journal of Research and Analytical Review*, 6 (1) 149-163.

<sup>488</sup> Vaidehi Joshi (2020) Juvenile Delinquency and Evolution of Juvenile justice in India,

<sup>489</sup> Goril Murali (2022) Psychological Factors Affecting Juvenile Delinquency, *International Journal of creative Research Thoughts*, 10(7) e146-e150.

<sup>490</sup> Ritu Kumar & Ashok Kumar (2024) The Role of Judiciary in Child Delinquency: A Critical Analysis, *International Journal Of creative Research Thoughts*, 12(2), a686- a697.

<sup>491</sup> Jyoti Poonia and Ritu (2024) A study on historical Growth and development of Juvenile Delinquency in India, *International Journal of law*, 10(2) 66-70.

heinous crimes may be tried in a session's court.

### III. TRENDS OF JUVENILE DELIQUENCY.

A child is treated as a *Doli incapax* with no *mens-rea*. They also treated as a person who is not able to understanding the consequences of his/ her actions. As for the international norms and Juvenile Justice System in India child offenders is not treated as an adult offenders. Nowadays, most of children are active uses of the Internet, connected devices and social media. It is an easiest method to make friendship among the students and others. Whoever, it led into the crime like sexual abuse offences against the children, drug uses, crimes and any other anti-social activity.

#### IV. Research of the problem:

Despite the presence of comprehensive legal framework, the number of Juvenile delinquency case remains high in India. This raises indicted a serious concerns about the effectiveness of rehabilitation-centric approaches under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

#### IV. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To examine the factors contributing to the rising incident of Juvenile Delinquency of offences.
- To understand the conceptual legal framework of juvenile delinquency in general.
- To understand main causes of juvenile delinquency.

#### IV. Research Methodology:

The study adopts a doctrinal research methodology, which is widely used in research methodology. It involves the analysis and interpretations of existing laws, regulations, judicial decisions, and scholarly works. This method focuses on the identification, interpretation, and evaluation of legal texts to

understand the legal framework and its application in specific areas of concerns. On the other hand, the study examines recent trends of juvenile delinquency. Statistical data from National Crime Records Bureau (**NCRB**) has been collected and explained to substantiate the research finding.

#### III. THE LEGAL FRAME WORKS IN INDIA:

- **The Juvenile (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015.**

The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 is a landmark Act which was replaced the Act 2000. However, there is a major gap regarding penal provisions for cybercrime committed by minors. Generally, Juvenile delinquents are often involving physical assaults. They may also engages in cybercrime such as leaking private photos of a classmate on instagaram<sup>492</sup>. On the other hand, delinquency may be tried as adults in involving heinous offences. The Juvenile Justice Board (**JJB**) is authorized section 15 of the JJ Act to perform an initial assessment.<sup>493</sup>

- **Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021**

The Juvenile Justice system was significant amended by giving that district magistrate is over see the child welfare operation and issue adopted orders. The Act is reclassifying several sections according to gravity of the offences.

- **The Information Technology Act, 2000.**

The Information Technology Act, 2000 regulates cybercrimes in India. However, lacks of specific provisions juvenile offenders have committing crime against victim. Technology gives us more advance to human being, but it uses could depends on person to person. Nowadays, crimes were happening in our living space are got shifted on to virtual space because it is more efficient to commit crime where your identity is hidden.

<sup>492</sup> Rahual Goyat (2025) Digital Crimes and Juvenile Offenders: Legal Gaps and Policy challenges in India, *International Journal of Information Movement*, 9(10), 44-52.

<sup>493</sup> Dwivedi's (2016) Commentary on the Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of children) Act, 2015. Dwivedi & company Allahabad pp-136-137.

• **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012.**

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 is a mile stone Act for child protection like sexual abuse and including neglect. This Act is divided into different seven chapters including

rules for child protection from child abuse and neglect. The punishment provisions are mentioned as for the gravity of the offences which was committed by the perpetrators. The Protection of Children from Sexual offences Act, 2012(POCSO) is gender natural Act which can applicable for below the age of 18 years child.

**IV. Trends and statistics on juvenile delinquency crime in India years from 2015- 2024.**

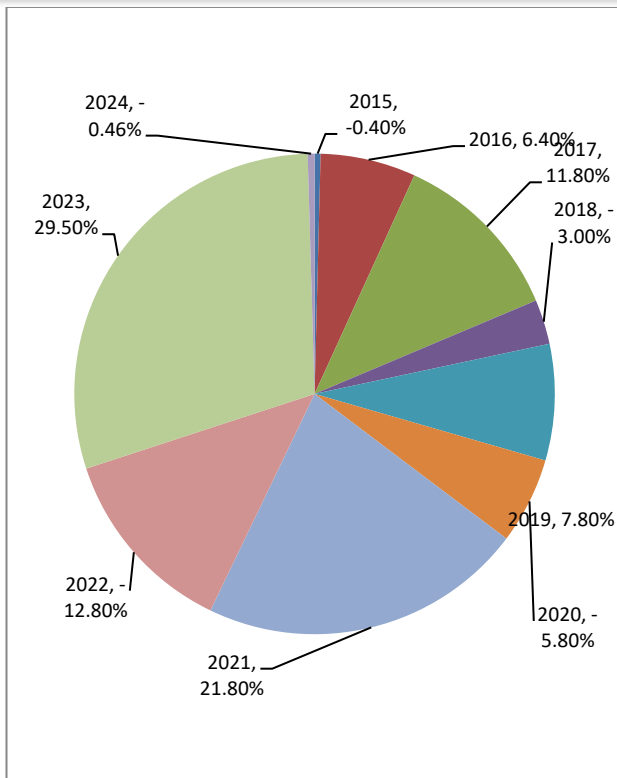
S.I No	Year	Incidence in Odisha	Incidence India	Incidence % of Odisha	Incidence % increase over previous year	
					Odisha	India
1	2015	934	33,433	2.8 %	-0.4 %	-13.1 %
2	2016	994	35,849	2.8 %	6.4 %	7.2 %
3	2017	1111	33,606	3.3 %	11.8 %	-6.3 %
4	2018	1078	31591	3.4 %	-3.0 %	-6.0 %
5	2019	1162	32235	3.6 %	7.8 %	2.0 %
6	2020	1095	29768	3.7 %	-5.8 %	-7.7 %
7	2021	1334	30555	4.3 %	21.8 %	4.7 %
8	2022	1163	37780	3.8 %	-12.8 %	-2.0 %
9	2023	1507	31365	4.8 %	29.5 %	-17.0 %
10	2024	1500	37,444	4.0 %	-0.46 %	19.4 %

**(Source: Ministry of Home affairs, National crimes records Bureau (NCRB) Government of India)**

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of Juveniles offenders cases were reported from 2015- 2024 is discussed. In 2015, 33,433 were reported, in 2016, the number of cases increased 35,849, in 2017 cases were reported 33,606, in 2019 reported were 32,235 but decreased the number of cases from previous year, in 2020 cases were decreased then last year 29768, in 2021 the number rose to, 31170, in 2022, 30555 cases were reported, in 2023, the figure slightly increases to 31,363 and in 2024 in was reached to 37,444 total 327,016 cases have been reported from the year 2015- 2024 in India. On the other hand, the data has indicated in Odisha in 2015, 934 were reported, in 2016, the numbers of cases were increased 994, in 2017, 1111 cases were reported, 1078 cases were reported in 2018, in 2019, 1162 cases were reported, in 2020,

1095 cases were reported then previous year. In 2021, 1334 cases were reported, in 2022, 1136 cases were reported, in 2023, 1507 cases were reported and in 2024, 1500 juvenile delinquency cases were reported in total from 2015 to 2024, 11,878 cases were reported in Odisha.

Figure -1 Incidence % increase over previous year in Odisha.

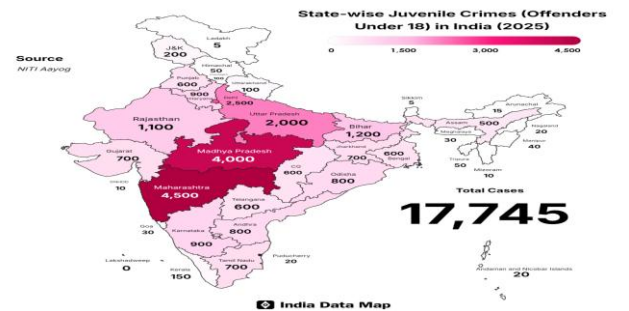


The above figure presents the percentage change in juvenile delinquency cases in Odisha from 2015 to 2024. It clearly indicates that in 2015 the rate was -0.40%, which increased to 6.40% in 2016 and further to 11.80% in 2017. However, a decline of -3.00% was observed in 2018, followed by a rise of 7.80% in 2019. A significant decrease occurred in 2020, with the rate falling to -5.80%. In 2021, there was a sharp increase of 21.80%, whereas 2022 again recorded a decline of -12.80%. The year 2023 showed a substantial rise of 29.50%, and in 2024, a slight decrease of -0.46% was observed. Overall, the data reflects notable fluctuations in juvenile delinquency trends in the state of Odisha over the given period.

The above figure presents the percentage changes in juvenile delinquency cases in India from 2015 to 2024. It clearly indicates that the rate was -13.10% in 2015, followed by an increase to 7.20% in 2016. In 2017, the rate declined to -6.30%, and a further decrease of -6.00% was observed in 2018. In 2019, the rate showed a modest increase of 2.00%, while 2020 again recorded a decline of -7.70%. The year 2021 witnessed a rise of 4.70%, followed by a decrease of -2.00% in 2022. A significant decline of -17.00%

was recorded in 2023, whereas 2024 showed a sharp increase of 19.40%. Overall, the data reflects considerable fluctuations in juvenile delinquency trends in India over the given period.

(MAP-1)

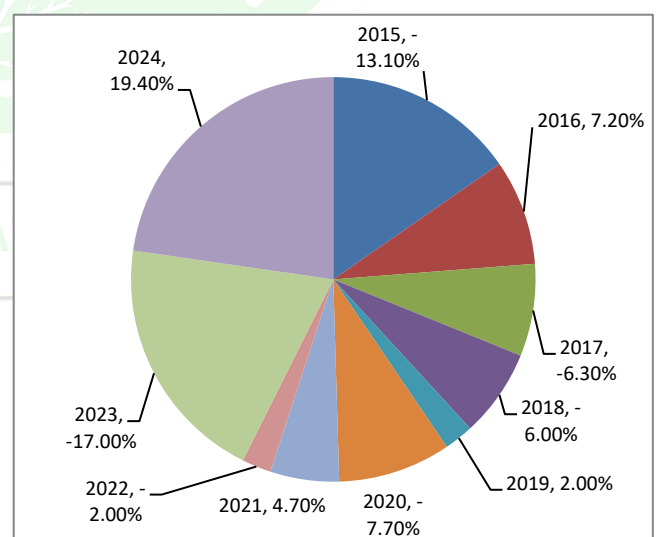


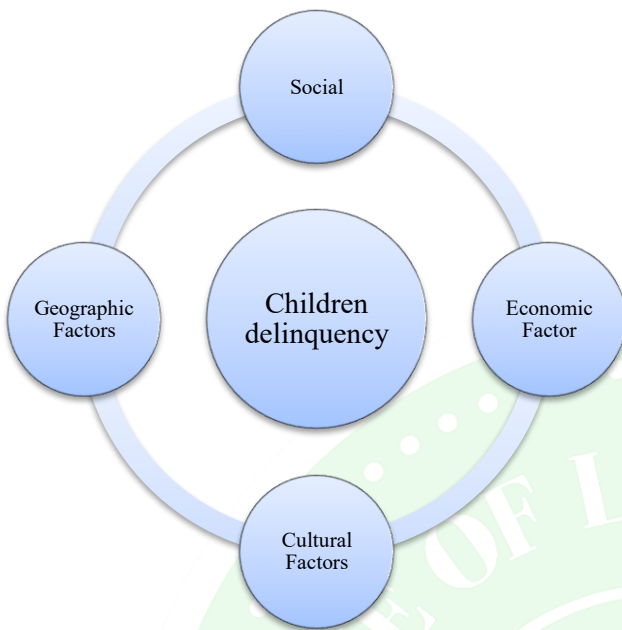
Furthermore, a state wise analysis of juvenile crimes across the various states of the country indicates in 2025 is 17,745. Nowadays, the case numbers of juvenile delinquency have risen slowly across the country.

**V. CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:**

Delinquency is a social evil. It is always unacceptable by any society. Generally, delinquency means misconduct has done by child at the age group of below 18 years of age which is not acceptable to any society and law also. There are many causes on juvenile delinquency. The author has discussed here under.

Figure -3





Sources: <https://eduindex.org/2021/07/09/juvenile-delinquency-meaning-definitions-causes-and-prevention-measures>. Last visit 21-3-26 on 400pm.

• **Socio factors**

Man is a social animal. Person cannot exist without any society. As a result socio factor is one of the causes of juvenile delinquency. Family disturbance, attitudes of the parents, Neglect of parents on child and migration are the social factors for the juvenile delinquency.

• **Economic factors.**

Crime and poverty is two sides of one coin. Generally, most of the juvenile delinquents are belonged from less income family groups. However, a child is not able to get basic necessity of life, there is high chance that child may involve in delinquent acts. According to Willem Bonger Capitalism was one of the optional causes of criminality. Poverty may lead to family disturbance and it proceeds to accept wrong path to juvenile in later.

• **Cultural factors.**

Juvenile delinquency is a multifaceted and complex and issue. Cultural norms, beliefs and values significantly influence attitudes toward authority, discipline, and deviant behavior. In many South Asian societies, traditional gender

roles, caste hierarchies, and religious practices often shape social expectations. Those factors may generate tension within families and communities. Such tensions can contribute to delinquent behavior among youth.

• **Geographical factors**

Geographical factors are one of the factors to grow of juvenile delinquency. Urban overcrowding, slum, Bed environments, regional disparities, antisocial Behaviour in different geographical area, and disadvantage of people of particular location are the major issues under geographical factors of the juvenile delinquency.

**CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION:**

The Juvenile Justice (**Care and Protection Act**) 2015 can be seen as a very progressive step of the Government India towards changing trends in Juvenile Crimes. The Union governments as well as state government have taken some project for the welfare of the children and schemes are launched their protection. But due to the lack of proper knowledge and lack of awareness of people the results are not fruitful show to curb on juvenile delinquency.

The following steps could be taken to reduce the crime rate of Juvenile delinquency.

- Proper mechanism should be created to access the needs and requirement of the juveniles and it should be reviewed regularly.
- All the stockholders like police, juvenile Justice Board , District child protection unit and NGOs should enforce the matter continuously
- The government should adopt a long term policy for the child protection and their development.
- The parents should aware on law and they would teach their children regarding for their safety and protection at different level in the society.

- Need for amendments in Juvenile Act : The new Juvenile justice Act 2015 need to amendment in serious offences
- Lectures of psychologists in schools and college should be conducted from time to time.
- An awareness campagain should be conducted for the prevention of adolescent's treatments with the help of social organizations.

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