

# Psychological and Behavioural Impact of Substance Abuse on Juvenile Delinquents

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**Abstract:** Juvenile delinquency is considered one of the major issue in today's world and the most controversial issue as well. A profusion of factors influences Juveniles to commit severe crimes, one of the most proven factor accounted is 'Substance Abuse'. It causes both Psychological and Behavioural change as well in the juveniles. The present study constitutes 30 subjects. The data has been collected by interviewing and filling the questionnaires through observation method. Results showed that males of age group 15-18 were more prevalent in committing the crime. The most abused drugs were found to be smack and cannabis causing the crimes like theft or murder respectively. In concurrence of the observed results, 50% of males were involved in crimes like theft and murder with 26.67% under the influence of drugs smack and cannabis respectively.

**Keywords:** Substance abuse, Questionnaires, Psychological, Juvenile delinquency.

## 1. Introduction

The acquaintance of tackling criminal cases has been dedicated as the most imperative social problem. Criminals are found irrespective of caste, age and patterns of livelihood. Considering the mentioned factors, Juvenile Delinquency has been the major concern in contemplating the present research work considering the socio- human field so as to prevent the society from numerous violent crimes. Multitudinous factors including behavioural, economical and mental status exaggerates crime efficiency in juveniles leading in disturbing perception of their mind [1]. Substantial aftermath has been devoted to the internet embezzling and watching savagery in movies as it imparts both violent and negative thought in the mind of youngsters making them to perceive same as the movie scenes [2].

The parent – child relationship imposes a great effect on adolescent's behaviour as both the parent and the child bonds intra-family connections and bridges the social capital that consequently focusses on the social connections among them along with extra-familial connections with neighbours, school personel [3], [4]. Family social capital is the parsimonious conceptual picture that affect delinquent behaviour as it captures two key elements: Affectionate ties and Communication patterns [3], [5]. Personal and school factors

paves a way to juvenile delinquency as the school ambience and the company of the adolescent have a great impact on their behaviour and the personal factor manifest the situation of the adolescent [6]. Correlation with peer conformity poses significant culmination on juvenile delinquency in a good or in bad sense both. Lack of support and guidance from parents and family leads a child to seek attention from the outside devastating their behaviour and psychology to a great extent which further leads to the delinquencies [7]. Most offences committed by juveniles accounts for the minor offences, including larceny-theft, liquor law violations and petty drug offences [8]. Crime is very common and even perceived as being normal for individuals during adolescence [9].

Emotional intelligence sometimes aware a child to observe right path before committing the crime. The mentioned factor could prove as an essentiate in prevalence of serious violent crime as it helps in managing or fabricating the nature or mental status of the child at that time [10], [11].

Psychopathy, violence exposure and Post traumatic stress disorder are independently linked to involvement of delinquency as youths with high psychopathic traits have an earlier onset of delinquent behaviour, bears high levels of delinquent behaviour and higher rates of recidivism due to psychics traits that consequently is a robust indicator of delinquency [12] [13]. Along with psychopathy, Temperament is an indispensable feature for the emergence of anti-social behaviour and violent behaviour among youth [14]. Mental health might play a key role in imparting criminal behaviour in young adults as if they are not mentally well they might be a threatening facet for the society. Most of the studies indicates the high prevalence of juvenile substance abuse as mental illness in adolescents and excessive dependency on drugs [15]. A deviant behaviour observed could be due to the childhood disturbances, and it is one the most important factor in determining the criminal behaviour or the reason behind the criminal offence [16].

The drug derivative offences were identified as the juvenile offender profile and the provinces that were heavily committed to the crime [17]. Peer problem behaviour is mediated with the association between girl's early pubertal timing and substance

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use and parental knowledge serve as a contextual amplifier of pubertal risk [18]. The findings reveals that the commercial sexual exploitation of youth involvement in prostitution is liked-with substance dependency and delinquency [19].

The present study focusses on the psychological and behavioural changes in the juvenile delinquents after substance abuse, the most commonly used drugs and how substance abuse affect the psychology and behaviour of the delinquents. The main concern is to undertake a research with a list of most common offences committed under the influence of different types of drugs along with statistical study of the data to find out the percentage on the basis of intake of substance abuse, gender and crime committed.

## 2. Aim of the Study

The main aim of the study is to find the relation between the substance abuse and criminal behaviour in juveniles, how the substance abuse affects the psychology, ability to understand or to perceive, their actions and emotions. The level of prominence of substance abuse for different types of drugs, the rate of increment and decrement in criminal offences and other factors as well. The objective of the research focussed on inculcating the percentage of crime committed among different age groups, gender in the influence of the substance abuse and the rate of different types of crime mostly committed by juveniles.

## 3. Materials and Methods

### A. Materials

#### 1) The subjects

The research circumscribes 30 individuals (considering both age and gender) from the Observation home of Delhi (India). They were observed, their behaviour and activities were observed.

#### 2) Questionnaires

The questionnaires were filled according to the responses given by the subjects and were analysed accordingly.

### B. Methods

The sample size of 30 individuals were incorporated in the study. The samples were collected from the juveniles in the year 2018, the data was collected in the form of oral questions and answers were written and the analysis was done on the basis of data collected through questionnaire method. The method adopted for the study was performed in the observation home of Delhi, questions were mixed type consisting both close ended and open ended questions. The exemplar with a utilitarian purpose in accordance to get the more information regarding their life and experience, the reason behind committing the crime was formed.

Along with the questionnaires, juveniles were observed and interviewed, for the sake of understanding the rebellious characteristics in the juveniles. Psychological, physical, mental changes due to the influence of substance abuse were observed and examined and the factors resulting to their violent behaviour was reported.

**SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS**

**Objective:-** To analyse the psychological and behavioural changes in juvenile delinquents.

**Age:-** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sex:-** F / M

**Ques1:-** From where do you belongs to?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques2:-** What is the profession of your parents?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques3:-** Which type of drugs you used to take?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques4:-** What was the mode of your drugs intake?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques5:-** What kind of movies do you like ?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques6:-** Were you involved in any sporting activities?  
**Ans:-** Yes or No  
If yes, please specify.....

**Ques7:-** At what age did you starts taking drugs?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques8:-** What influences you the most to starts taking drugs?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques9:-** Is there anything which freaks you out the most?  
**Ans:-** Yes or No  
If any, Please specify.....

**Ques10:-** What do you feel after consuming any type of drug?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques11:-** Have you ever been abused?  
**Ans:-** Physically ( )  
Emotionally ( )  
Mentally ( )  
All of the above ( )

(a)

**SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS**

**Ques12:-** Were you involved in any club in your community?  
**Ans:-** Yes or No  
If Yes, Please specify .....

**Ques13:-** Which type of crime you have committed?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques14:-** Under what circumstances you had committed the crime?  
**Ans:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ques15:-** Do you have any regrets now?  
**Ans:-** Yes or No  
If yes, please specify.....

**Ques16:-** Do you feel any change in your behaviour?  
**Ans:-** Yes or No  
If yes, Please specify.....

**Ques17:-** Do you get the withdrawal symptoms ?  
**Ans:-** Yes or No  
If yes, how do you control that ?

**Ques18:-** Do you think that youth centre or skilled training facility would help you?  
**Ans:-** Yes or No

(b)

Fig. 1. Questionnaires used for the data collection

## 4. Results

Different drugs actions differently in body resulting into variant behaviours, as the results varied among juveniles consuming different drugs, common use of the drugs found to be resulting in committing similar crime in nature. With the highest percentage of 26.67% juveniles were found to be involved in crimes like theft and snatching, they were found to be consuming smack mostly, juveniles consuming cannabis

were found to be mostly involve in murder with the highest percentage of 26.67% and juveniles consuming weed were found to be involve in theft with 3.33%. Juveniles consuming poppy seed were found to be involve in pick pocketing with 3.33% as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

The relation between substance abuse and crimes committed

Substance abused	Crime committed	Percentage of juveniles
Smack	Theft	26.67%
	Snatching	26.67%
Ganja	Hurt	23.33%
Bhang	Pick pocketing	10%
Weed	Theft	3.33%
Poppy seeds	Pick pocketing	3.33%
Cannabis	Murder	26.67%
Inhalants	Rape	6.67%

Incorporating the data and analysis results, the graph representing the percentage of juveniles consuming different substances has been deduced (Graph 1). The highest peak of the two drugs mostly consumed with the percentage of 26.67% were cannabis and smack and the lowest peak of the two drugs consumed with the percentage of 3.33% were weed and poppy seeds.

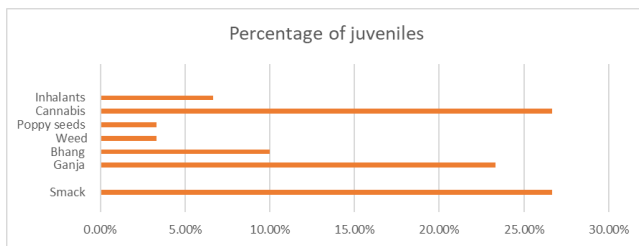


Fig. 2. Graph 1: Representing the percentage of Juveniles consuming different substances

Graph 2 represents the percentage of juveniles committing different crimes. Crimes with highest percentage were observed as murder and theft with 26.67%. The crimes committed comparatively less than other crimes were found to be pickpocketing with the percentage of 3.33%.

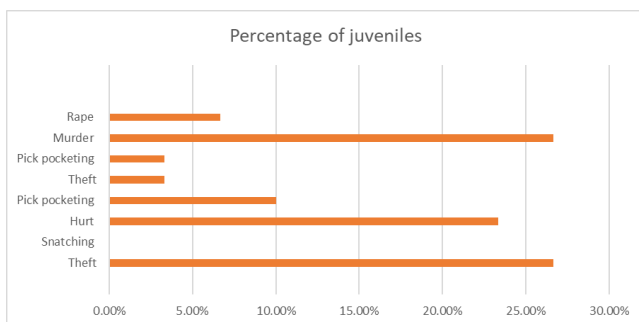


Fig. 3. Graph 2: Representing the percentage of juveniles committing different crimes

The highest peak of juveniles of age group 15-18 years of age with 50% were considered as the active age group in committing crime. The age group 7-10 years of age with 6.67% were considered least crime committing age group as shown in graph 3.

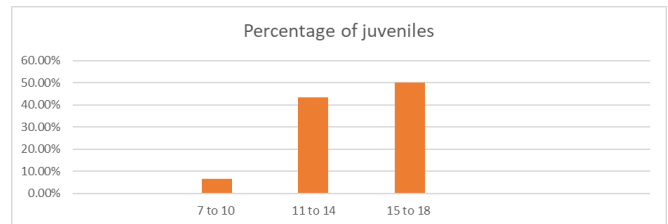


Fig. 4. Graph 3: Graphical representation of the active age group in committing the crime

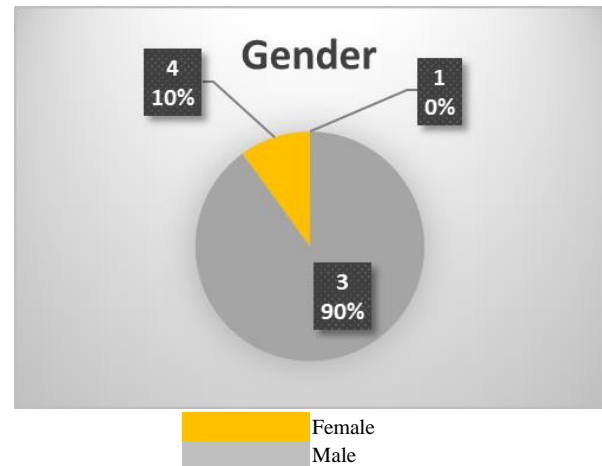


Fig. 5. Graph 4. Graphical representation of crime committed by males and females

### 5. Discussion

Numerous accountable factors cause the situation of juvenile delinquency and few are yet to explore resulting in delinquency. The delinquency is the cause of multiple factor it does not depends only on single factor. But the findings proved that one of the most important relation emerges out to be substance abuse and crime [17]. The adverse effects of drugs on the psychology and physiology of juveniles are drastic in nature that ultimately resulted into violent actions [1]. There are various elements contributing to the delinquent behaviour, Socio economic condition [5] is one of the most dormant factor that unable them to meet their sustainability or living. Under such circumstances they would not even able to meet their basic needs of commodities, these deprivations results into the urge of earning money at any cost in a short span of time following the easiest path to earn the money, their necessities became the demand to earn money at very young age and by opting the most easiest and short path, these kind of conditions noticeably are the cause of crimes like pickpocketing and theft, as a child found it the most easiest way of earning and obtaining money out of their act. Other factor points towards the family background [3]. Lack of family status and belonging to the not well developed family leads a child to commit a crime. They had faced money crisis and the condition of fighting for their living at least.

Broken family [5], [6] is also one of the cause of juvenile delinquency because the level of fragility in the phase of childhood is more, the tenderness is more among the other phases if they experience lack of care, love and protection, the possibility of developing the feeling of hatred, lack of care and

love is more which might give rise to the violent behaviour of children, the deviancy might become the habit which reflects into their action and behaviour. Lacking in emotions to conduct the ethical behaviour in society fails in their case and their acts are mostly normless in nature and they mostly indulge themselves in Eve teasing or quarrelsome.

Past experiences [7], [14] also plays a major role as after interviewing juveniles it can be inferred that most of them are being abused in their past either physically or mentally, the abuse left them with a great impact on their mind, due to being harassed for a long time in their past they imbibe with the feeling of hatred for others because having a Deteriorative past and experiencing something which destroys their innocence.

Few got influence by movies [2] as they assume their life as that of visualised in the movies, they try to opt all the possible actions which they like the most, actions in the movies and smoking, taking drugs these kind of things might influence them and the actions performed by actors became the most influential part of the movie.

The occupation of their parents are observed to be like mason, labour or maid, the lack of guidance is one of the cause of deviant behaviour as their parents were not able to take care of their children because they are impotent to do so, as they have to do work to meet their basic necessities due to which they were unable to perform their job of parenthood due to which their children are more prone to the outer world and they are more influential to the outer world activities and there are more prone to involve in crimes and in the activities like drug abuse. The most important relation proven to be the substance abuse and crime [11], reportedly the crimes committed mostly by males comparative to females falling under the age group of 15-18 years of age. Different class of drugs has different actions on the mechanism of the body, reportedly it has been observed that similar kind of drugs are consumed by juveniles committing the crime of same nature, like juveniles who consumed smack are mostly involved crimes like theft or pickpocketing as smack is the drug which temporarily brings courage to them to do such kind of crime, under the influence of this drug they have no fear of being caught by public or anything, they fearlessly do their job, according to them these are the most easiest way of earning money and to earn for their living as well as for their drugs. Eve teasing is also one of the crime committed by juveniles under the influence of smack, a drug. The effects of drugs like cannabis on the central nervous system is more drastic as takers of this drugs had reportedly committed murders because they lose control over their actions and the fearless behaviour of committing the dreadful act vanished under the influence of drugs. Inhalant in-takers are reportedly commit crimes like inhalants as they are no longer able to make judgments, and they are not in their conscience due to which they are unable to distinguish between the right and the wrong. According to the original data collected, Ganja consumers are found to be mostly involved in more or less severe hurt crime, depending upon the condition under which they commit and with how much intensity.

Drugs affect the psychology and physiology of the juveniles, trapping themselves into the trap of drugs at a vet young age

resulting as the most dreadful cause of delinquency. The withdrawal symptoms of drugs is one the most difficult phase of their life as it is uncontrollable and juveniles became more irritating, arrogant and violent due to which they might hurt themselves or others due to intolerance of anxiety.

## 6. Conclusion

The relation between substance abuse and crime emerge out to be the important relation. The substance abuse affects the psychology, behaviour and physiology of juveniles. The study reflects the male juveniles were mostly involved in committing crimes, reportedly 90% of the juveniles, 10% of juveniles were females. With highest percentage juveniles of 15-18 years of age were found to be comparatively more involved in crime with 50% in accordance to the other age group of 11-14 years of age with 43.3%. The least involved age group were 7-10 years.

The consumption of drugs were found to be common among juveniles committing similar crimes in nature, like juveniles consuming smack found to be mostly involved in crimes like snatching and theft with the highest percentage of 26.67%. Juveniles consuming Ganja were found to be mostly involved in crimes like hurt which could be serious in nature as well as less severe in nature with the percentage of 23.33%, those who consume bhang were found to be mostly involved in pickpocketing with 10%, weed in-takers were rarely found committing crimes in theft with 3.33%, poppy seeds in-takers were found to be rarely involved in crimes like pickpocketing with 3.33%, cannabis in-takers were found to be mostly involved in murder with the highest percentage of 26.67% and inhalants consumers were involved in rapes with 6.67%.

The most common crimes was concluded as theft, pickpocketing and murder with 26.27% among all the crimes. Hurt has also been considered as one of the most committed crime with 23.33% among juveniles due to their violent behaviour as they consume drugs like smack and cannabis respectively.

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