



MEDIA HAS NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY - A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes the impact of media on juvenile delinquency. The study also tries to judge the relationship between juvenile delinquency and heredity, environment, time, age, school performance, economic status, association etc. The significance of the relationships has been tested. Moreover attempt has been made to study the influence of the juveniles' sexual status and residential status on juvenile delinquency. The study reveals that media has no significant impact on juvenile delinquency. There exists no significant relationship between juvenile delinquency and age, economic status of the juveniles. The study proves that there exists a significant relationship between juvenile delinquency and heredity, environment, time, school performance, association etc. The study also proves that juvenile delinquency and juveniles' sexual status and residential status are not independent.

Key Words: *Juvenile Delinquency, Media, Heredity, Environment, Time, Age.*

Juvenile delinquency is a global phenomenon. All the countries of the world are more or less suffering from the problem. India can never be the exception to this. It is a matter of great concern. If we give our attention to daily news papers, we will see the offences are happening frequently among the juveniles. The society is changing rapidly in the breeze of globalization. Consequently, society is becoming complex and many social problems are originated. Juvenile delinquency is certainly a social problem. In the developing country like India the acuteness of this problem is very significant. In the present article, an attempt has been made to determine the causes of juvenile delinquency and its immediate effects on society. If the causes are detected specifically and are dealt with properly, it may be possible to solve the problem in near future.

Objective of the study:

The major objective of the study is to study the relationship between juvenile delinquency and the impact of media on juveniles and the

significance of the relationship. The study also tries to judge the relationship between (a) juvenile delinquency and the heredity of their family and the significance of the relationship, (b) juvenile delinquency and the environment in which they live and the significance of the relationship, (c) juvenile delinquency and the impact of time and the significance of the relationship, (d) juvenile delinquency and the impact of their age and the significance of the relationship, (e) juvenile delinquency and the school performances on them and the significance of the relationship, (f) juvenile delinquency and the economic condition of their family and the significance of the relationship, (g) juvenile delinquency and association of the juveniles and the significance of the relationship. Moreover attempt have been made to study the influence of the juveniles' sexual status and residential status and juvenile delinquency. Apart from these, heredity, environment, economic condition of the juveniles' families and association and schools' performances and age of the juveniles have been assessed and considered. Attempts have been made to judge whether the variances of opinion of guardians and also teachers regarding the impact of media on juvenile delinquency are consistent or not.

Hypothesis:

In order to realize that objective of the study, the following null hypotheses have been formulated.

- (1) H_0 : There exists no significant relationship between juvenile delinquency and (a) media, (b) environment, (c) heredity (d) time, (e) age, (f) performances, (g) economic condition, (h) association

An alternative hypothesis formulated is

H_a : There exists significant relationship between juvenile delinquency and (a) media, (b) environment, (c) heredity (d) time, (e) age, (f) performances, (g) economic condition, (h) association

- (2) H_0 : The variances of opinion of guardians and also teachers regarding impact of media is significantly consistent.

An alternative hypothesis formulated is

H_a : The variances of opinion of guardians and also teachers regarding impact of media is significantly inconsistent.

- (3) H_0 : Sexual status of the juveniles and juvenile delinquency are independent to each other .

An alternative hypothesis formulated is

H_a : Sexual status of the juveniles and juvenile delinquency are dependent to each other .

- (4) H_o : Residential status of the juveniles and juvenile delinquency are independent to each other.

An alternative hypothesis formulated is

H_a : Residential status of the juveniles and juvenile delinquency are dependent to each other.

Delimitation:

The study is confined to the jurisdiction of Katwa Sub divisional area under the district of Burdwan, West Bengal, India. The present study is based on only 21 samples of juvenile delinquent of the studied area. The major portion of the study stands on the opinion of 21 teachers of these sample juveniles.

Description of Attributes:

- (1) **Juvenile Delinquency:** In the present study it has been selected as the only dependent attribute. Juvenile delinquency means here the crimes or offences committed by the juvenile at the period of adolescence. Destructive activities, physical and mental torture to their associates, blood shed, stealing, eve teasing, use of slang, audacity, disobedience, etc. are the examples of juvenile delinquency. Such types of offences are increasing in recent time all over the world.

A relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of media, heredity, environment, time, age, performance, economic status, association may, therefore, be expected.

- (2) **Media:** In the present study it has been selected as independent attribute. Media means here both the audio visual and print media. Television., Cinema, Video etc are under the audio visual media and newspapers, magazines, journals are termed as print media. It is a fact that the impact of audio visual media as well as print media on society is very significant.

A relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of media may, therefore, be expected.

- (3) **Heredity:** In the present study it has been selected as an independent attribute. Heredity is the process by which the characteristics of parents

are transferred to their next generation. It is a continuous biological process. It means if the parents genetically inherit the characteristic of juvenile delinquency, it must be transferred to their sons and daughters.

A relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of heredity may, therefore, be expected.

- (4) **Environment:** In the present study it has been selected as an independent attribute. Here nonphysical environment is explained. It includes sociological, cultural, economic, political, educational, religious atmosphere of the area where the juveniles are living in. Environment both inside the home and outside the home, is considered here.

A relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of environment may, therefore, be expected.

- (5) **Time:** In the present study it has been selected as an independent attribute. Time means a period required for changing a society. It is consensus that the nature and habit of human being changes with the changing of society. So time plays a vital role in changing the activities of human beings.

A relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of time may, therefore, be expected.

- (6) **Age:** In the present study it has been selected as an independent attribute. Here age means the impact of chronological age of juveniles on their body and mind. It is a fact that a radical change takes place in the body and mind of juveniles at the period of adolescence.

A relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of age may, therefore, be expected.

- (7) **Performance:** In the present study it has been selected as an independent attribute. Performance means academic performances of the juveniles. It includes results of school examinations, co-curricular activities etc. Continuous poor performances in school evaluation system create frustration in the mind of juveniles and may, sometimes, be the cause of juvenile delinquency.

A relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of poor performances may, therefore, be expected.

- (8) **Association:** In the present study, it has been selected as an independent attribute. Association means here the close companion of juveniles. In

broader sense, association means the friends, parents, school teachers, private tutors, close relatives, near neighbors of the juveniles.

A relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of association may, therefore, be expected.

Methodology: The study has been conducted on the juvenile delinquency within the jurisdiction of Katwa (23° 14' N, 87° 5' E) Subdivision in the district of Burdwan, West Bengal, India. 21 delinquent juveniles including 7 female have been selected at random assuming true representatives of the total population. All sample juveniles are school students, belonging to the age group of 13 years to 16 years. 21 teachers of these sample juveniles are recognized who are closely associated with them. 21 guardians of these juveniles are identified with due sincerity.

Selection and Description of Tools:

Primary data have been collected by the investigator, in person, visiting door to door of the 21 juveniles and 21 teachers using two types of questionnaire. Data have also been collected from the sample juveniles by direct interview. These are discussed below:

1. **Questionnaire for Teachers:** Questionnaire for teachers is prepared to get the opinion of teachers of the sample juveniles about the degree of delinquency, impact of media on their mind, environment where they live in, their heredity, impact of time and age on their mind, their academic performances, economic condition of their family and their association. It is a big sized, structured, close ended questionnaire. There are three scales of opinions (high, medium, low/good, moderate, bad) having different scores for each of them. The medium of questionnaire is Bengali for easy comprehension and communication.
2. **Questionnaire for Guardians:** Questionnaire for guardians are prepared to get the opinion of guardians of the sample juveniles about the impact of audio visual and print media on the mind of juveniles. They also asked about whether the juveniles are under the coverage of media or not. It is a short sized, structured, close-ended questionnaire. There are three scales of opinions (high, medium, low) having different scores for each of them. The medium of questionnaire is Bengali for easy comprehension and communication.
3. **Direct Interview:** Direct interview has been made by the investigator to the sample juveniles and their teachers to collect more information

about the said problem. Juveniles are asked about the cause of delinquency and reluctance in study, their families, environment where they live, whether they are under the coverage of media or not, association of them, school performances etc. Teachers are asked about the aspects viz. juveniles' sexual status, juveniles' residential status, their opinion regarding the cause and acuteness of the problem. They are also asked about the influence of sexual status and residential status of the juveniles on juvenile delinquency.

Collection of Data: The data have been collected directly from 21 juveniles, 21 teachers and 21 guardians through door to door investigation by the investigator himself. Sample juveniles, their teachers and guardians are requested to give their natural, free and frank responses to the queries. They are taken into confidence and are told that the information is required only for research purpose and will be strictly kept secret.

Tabulation and Scoring of Data: The data which have been collected through two type of questionnaire are compiled on suitable tabulation sheets which are also prepared for the purpose.

The data obtained from teachers and guardians are scored, keeping in mind the 'Likert Scoring System' as follows:

1. **Teachers Questionnaire:** In the teachers questionnaire there are as many as eight questions relating to their opinion about the juveniles' family, impact of media, age, association and performance on juveniles' mind. These questions are subjected to answer one of the three options - high, medium, low/good, moderate, bad. Score 10 is allotted to each 'high'/'good' opinion. Score 6 is allotted to each 'medium'/'moderate' opinion and score 4 is allotted to each 'low'/'bad' opinion.
- (B) **Guardians Questionnaire:** In the guardians questionnaire there is only one major question relating to the impact of audio visual media and also print media on the mind of juveniles. The question is subjected to answer one of the three options high, medium, low. Score 10 is allotted to each 'high' option. Score 6 is allotted to each 'medium' option and score 4 is allotted to 'low' option.

Statistical Technique Used:

The data are tabulated and analysed keeping in view the objective spelt out and hypothesis formulated. Rank Correlation Co-efficients(ρ) are calculated to study the relationship between juvenile delinquency and (1)

impact of media, (2) heredity, (3) environment, (4) time, (5) age, (6) performance, (7) economic condition and (8) association. In order to judge the significance of these relationships 't-value' of rank correlation coefficient (r_s) have been computed. Test has been made at 1% significance level in general. Chi-Square (χ^2) test has been used for independence of the attribute - juvenile delinquency and (i) sexual status of the juveniles, (ii) residential status of the juveniles. The test has been made at 1% significance level. 'F-test' has also been used to study whether the variances of opinion of teachers and also guardians regarding impact of media in the mind of juveniles are significantly consistent or not. The test has been made at 5% significance level.

Conclusions:

1. There exists no significant relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of media. Though there exists a negligible relationship between two attributes but it is not significant at all.
2. There exists a notable relationship between juvenile delinquency and heredity of juveniles. The relationship is significant also.
3. There exists a significant relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact environment in the mind of juveniles.
4. Juvenile delinquency and impact of time in the mind of juveniles are very closely related. The relationship is not only close but also significant.
5. There exists little relationship between juvenile delinquency and age of juveniles. The relationship is insignificant.
6. Poor school performances of juveniles are a cause of juvenile delinquency. Because the relationship between two attributes is significant.
7. Economic condition of the family and juvenile delinquency is not significantly related to each other. That means juvenile delinquency does not necessarily depend upon families' economic condition.
8. There exists an important relationship between juvenile delinquency and impact of associations on the mind of juveniles. The relationship is very significant.
9. The opinion of teachers and also guardians regarding the impact of media on juveniles is significantly consistent. It means the

opinion of both is more or less the same. It confirms the impact of media on juveniles is not significant at all.

10. Juveniles' sexual status (Male/Female) is not independent of juvenile delinquency. That means male/female ratio of delinquent juveniles differs in the studied area.
11. Juveniles' residential status (developed/underdeveloped) is not independent to juvenile delinquency. It indicates percentage of delinquent juveniles which varies between developed and underdeveloped region of the studied area.

The study reveals that impact of media in the mind of juveniles is not significant at all. It also reveals that most of the sample juveniles are not under the coverage of media. Similarly, age and economic status of the juveniles has no significant impact on juvenile delinquency. Though sometimes it is presumed that the impact of age and economic status of the juveniles are two important causes of juvenile delinquency, but the study proves that the presumption is not true fully. Because all tender aged having poor economic condition do not become delinquent. The investigator identified 5 major causes viz. heredity, environment, time, school performances, association which are significantly responsible for this problem. The investigator has come to the conclusion that the opinion of the teachers and the guardians of sample juveniles regarding impact of media is more or less the same. It is also observed that the problem varies in respect of juveniles' sexual status and residential status.

Implications of the Study:

The study reveals a number of drawbacks of the guardians, teachers and administrations of the studied area. The state of affairs led the investigator to several implications for the concern authorities. Suitable steps should, therefore, be taken by the respective authorities to remove the existing drawbacks. The following recommendations are made in this regard.

- i. Guardians should be conscious of their children's education and also their children's future. They have to sacrifice many things for the development of their children.
- ii. Central Government, State Governments and local administration have a great responsibility to remove this problem. Administration should try to make the guardians of the juveniles conscious of their

children's proper education. Administration should also take a macro level plan to get rid of the trap from the problem.

- iii. School teachers and private tutors should take necessary care for the backward and maladjusted students whose school performances are very poor. Special teaching method is recommended for these students to create interest among the juveniles.
- iv. Bad associations of the juveniles must be eliminated. The role of guardians and teachers is very important in this regard.

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TABLE - I
Findings

Attributes	Rank Correlan. Coeff.(r)	Cal. Value of 't' of ' r '	T.V. of 't' at 1% Sig. Lev.	Cal. Value of ' r^2 '	T.V. of ' r^2 ' at 1% Sig. Lev.	Cal. Value of 'F'	T.V. of 'F' At 5% Sit. Lev.	D.F.	Hypothesis Accepted Ho/Ha
1. Juvenile Delinquency(J.D) vs. Media.	.29	1.31	2.86						Ho
2. J.D. vs. Heredity.	.74	4.82	2.86						Ha
3. J.D. vs. Environment	.67	3.95	2.86						Ha
4. J.D. vs. Time	.71	4.35	2.86						Ha
5. J.D. vs. Age	.25	1.12	2.86						Ho
6. J.D. vs. Performance	.69	4.17	2.86						Ha
7. J.D. vs. Eco. Condn.	.31	1.42	2.86						Ha
8. J.D. vs. association.	.76	5.17	2.86					$V_1=12/$ $V_2=10$	Ha
9. Tea. Op. vs. Guarn. Op. reg. Imp. Of Media.	-	-		10.01		1.21	2.91	2	Ho
10. J.D. vs. Juv. Sex. Sta	-	-		11.07					Ha
11. J.D. vs. Juv. Res. sta.	-	-			9.21				Ha