CHAPTER IV

METHOD OF STUDY
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The present study is designed with a view to find out the causative factors related to juvenile delinquency in Mizoram. The rehabilitation and the remedial measures for the juvenile delinquents in the state of Mizoram have also been examined. It is a descriptive survey, and the research attempts to describe, record, analyze and interpret the existing conditions related to Juvenile delinquency in the state. The descriptive survey is used for gathering data regarding current conditions of juvenile delinquents in Mizoram. The aim of this survey is to obtain insights into the nature of the incidences and causes of juvenile delinquency. Case studies of select juvenile delinquents have been undertaken with a view to achieve greater insights and to supplement the qualitative data formally collected through the survey. The case study method is widely used in social science research. Odum (1929) states that the case study method is a technique by which individual factor whether it be an institution or just an episode in the life of an individual, or a group is analysed in its relationship to any other in the group. According to Young (1958), case study is a method of exploring and analysing the life of a social unit—be that a unit a person, a family, institution, culture group, or even an entire community. Case studies refer to indepth, qualitative studies of one or more illustrative cases (Becker, 1978). It is thus a study in depth which deals with the process that take place and their interrelationships. The case study method is the study of human nature and behaviour pattern. It is used to deal with the various aspects of the life of the delinquent juvenile. It is the study which presents the life cycle from past to the present of the delinquent juvenile in detail. In other words, case study is a study of delinquents which lay emphasis on what he does and has done and the circumstances leading to his commission of such acts or offences. Healy (1915) was the first to use case study method in the study of juvenile
delinquents. In his study of a thousand juvenile delinquents he found the case study method to be a better method than the mere use of statistical data (Young, 1968). Case studies had also been done in the field of juvenile delinquency in India. Kochavara (1952) prepared case profiles of a large number of delinquent juveniles and found that delinquency is mainly due to the environmental factors. Sahni’s (1979) study examined delinquents in relation to their home, school, police, child guidance clinic, probation officer, certified school etc. and found that broken family, lack of parental control and love are the main factors in the genesis of delinquency.

In the present study the aim of case study method is employed to locate the factors that account for the behaviour patterns of juvenile delinquents and its relationships with the environment. The case data has been gathered with a view to trace the natural history and problems of the juvenile delinquency and its relationships with the social factors, like the peers influence, the family background, educational, age and rehabilitation provided. By means of case study method the researcher has analysed the complex causative factors related to juvenile delinquency and also the curative measures to circumvate the phenomenon.

4.1 Population and Sample

The sample for the study consisted of 300 delinquents selected at random from the reported cases of 700 delinquents in Mizoram. These delinquents were identified and remanded by the Juvenile court of the Government of Mizoram. The age range of the delinquents in the sample is between 7 to 17 years and the sample consisted of 41 females and 259 males.
4.2 Tools and techniques

The data for this study have been collected through field surveys using a number of tools and techniques. The investigator personally visited the parents and other family members, teachers, peers, counsellors and rehabilitation workers for collecting the relevant information of the delinquents. Data regarding the delinquent activities and remedial measures have been obtained from the official case records kept in the juvenile courts and rehabilitation centres. The investigator also obtained necessary data from the institutions through non-participant observations. The investigator provided an affidavit for confidentiality.

The following tools were employed for collecting data from the juvenile delinquents and the rehabilitation centres, remand homes, etc:

1. Interview Schedule for eliciting information from juvenile delinquents (appendix 1)

2. Institutional Data Sheet (appendix 2)

3. Socio-economic Status Index (Lalrinkimi, 1988)

4. Case Study Format (appendix 3)

4.3 Procedure

A pilot study was done with a view to pre-test the tools of the study and also to find out the feasibility for undertaking the present study. The pre-testing was done with a sample of five juvenile delinquents. On the basis of the pilot study the interview schedule was finalised and the samples for the main study and the case study were also finalised. The
records kept at the Juvenile delinquent court of the clients remanded for violating Children Acts, the IPC and CrPC and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Acts were referred to identify the delinquent and the nature of crime committed by him. The investigator interviewed juvenile delinquents with the help of a schedule and collected the information relating to their family and socio-economic background. The investigator also contacted the delinquents, parents (guardians), teachers, neighbours, counsellors and workers in the rehabilitation institutions in Mizoram. Institutional data from the rehabilitation and remand homes were collected with the help of a data blank devised for the same. For conducting case studies a case study format was used. Officials of Governmental and Non-governmental organizations have been approached to obtain data on the rehabilitative and referral measures. It took more than nine months for the investigator (Feb to Nov. 1996) to complete the data collection.

4.4 Method of analysis

Descriptive qualitative method has been followed to analyse and interpret the data. Case history contained details on aspects, such as the development of the delinquency during childhood and adolescence. It also analysed the parental influences, peer-interaction and family conditions of the delinquent. The medical and socio-demographic and economic conditions were also examined. Frequency distributions and percentages have been used for the analysis of data to identify the causative factors. Graphical presentation of data has also been given through pie diagrams. Profiles of various institutions and agencies working for the rehabilitation and welfare of the delinquents have been prepared with the help of institutional data and the field report of the investigator.