CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
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There has been a rising trend in the delinquent activities among the youth. This has become a problem of serious concern faced by the third world nations. This growing incidence of delinquency is causing concern to every sensible citizen. The recent spurt in delinquency may be the consequence of emotional upheaval of restlessness of being unable to hold anything for certain by the youth. Delinquent acts can be the manifestations of protest against the social order to which the adolescents today are unable to adjust. The hopes and aspirations, desires and demands of youth seek fulfilment in ways which the older generation finds difficult to approve. The conflict gives rise to aggressive behaviour in the youth to defy the existing social order and to break the social norms leading to social maladjustment. In other words, the delinquent behaviour in itself is the symptom of a deep malaise of a society. If left untreated, it will corrupt the whole social fabric and ruin the individual initiative. Burt (1973) defines delinquency as occurring in a child 'when his antisocial tendencies appear so grave that he becomes or ought to become the subject of official action'. The International Encyclopedia of Education enunciated delinquency as 'law breaking behaviour on the part of those who by virtue of their being young are not yet considered fully responsible for their actions'. Juvenile delinquent is a child or youth, minor in age, who deviates seriously from the norms of his culture or society and commits such acts, that, if committed by an adult should be punishable as crime. Cohen (1952) considers a delinquent as 'any child or youth whose conduct deviates sufficiently from normal social usage to warrant his being considered a menace to himself, to his future interest, or to society itself. Crime and delinquency are legal terms and their meanings varies from country to country. In India, any person 21 years or more of age convicted by a court for violating the provisions of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Criminal Procedures Code (GPC) is termed as a criminal. A juvenile delinquent, then, is in
the age group of seven to eighteen years and is convicted by a court for violating the provisions of Children’s Act, the IPC and the Cr PC.

6.1 Rationale and Significance of the Study.

Delinquency poses a problem of a very grave nature in all societies today. Delinquent acts among the young was almost unknown a few decades ago in the closely-knit Mizo society. This was due to sparse population, life of simplicity in rural settings, absence of unwanted needs and above all, the presence of love, sympathy and fellow-feeling among people. But now with the increase in population the younger generation is faced with the evils of rapid urbanisation like congested living condition, intense competition in job situations and a desire to get rich by fair or foul means. Old values which once moulded the behaviour of the younger generation are gradually disappearing. This has given rise to certain delinquent tendencies in the behaviour pattern of many adolescents. Demands for better living conditions keep both the parents busy outside home. They do not find enough time to look after the welfare of their children. The gap between the rich and the poor, which was almost absent previously in this egalitarian society has become very wide today. Children from the lower strata do not have the minimum amenities of food, clothes, etc. They leave school early only to be a potential addition to the growing number of delinquents. Mass media encouraging violent and criminal themes and cheap magazines may add to the causation of delinquency among the youth. Drug addiction has added a new dimension to the pattern of delinquent acts committed by the young. Easy availability of drugs coming from across the border of the country, illicit use of drugs meant for pain killers, cough syrup etc. are contributing to the alarming increase in drug addiction and lead to menace delinquency.
Juvenile delinquents are usually referred to as 'minors' with major problems. They violate the law of the land and commit offences like theft, gambling, cheating, picking pockets, murder, robbery, dacoity, destruction of property, violence and assault, intoxication, vagrancy, kidnapping, abduction and sexual offences. Hereditary, constitutional, physiological environmental and social factors are identified with delinquency. Recent researchers, however, have brought substantial evidence to prove that delinquent behaviour is a learned reaction. They do not inherit delinquent characteristics from their parents or ancestors but are made so by the uncongenial family, school, neighbourhood or family environment and social conditions. To quote Shanker (1988) "delinquency is not inherited; it is the product of social and economic conditions due to the friction between the individual and the community. The most important causes of antisocial behaviour are environmental and sociological in character".

6.1.1 Statement of the Problem

The present research is planned to probe into the nature and dimensions of juvenile delinquency in Mizoram. It investigated the factors that influence the youth to resort to delinquent behaviour. The study also analyses the family, socio-economic and educational backgrounds of the juvenile delinquents. Further, the educational and other remedial measures undertaken by the Government for the rehabilitation of the juvenile delinquents in the state have been assessed. Suggestions for the preventive measures and educational strategies to circumvate the social problem of juvenile delinquency have been drawn based on the findings of the research.
6.1.2 Title of the Study:

"A Study of the Juvenile Delinquency in Mizoram with Special Reference to Causative Factors and Curative Measures".

6.1.3 Terminology

**Delinquency:**

Burt (1953) defined delinquency as occurring in a child 'when his antisocial tendencies appear so grave that he becomes or ought to become the subject of official action'. Delinquency refers to the behaviour of children which is not within the range of the culturally permissible, either at home, in the school or in the community.

**Juvenile:**

The dictionary meaning of juvenile is a young person or a child and generally refer to a person who has not attained his adulthood, thus the concept juveniles embrace both the children and the adolescents.

**Juvenile delinquency:**

Juvenile delinquency refers to the phenomenon of non-formative criminal offences and antisocial behaviour pattern at certain ages as specified in the law of the land.

**Juvenile delinquent:**

An individual is termed a juvenile delinquent who is in the age group of seven to eighteen years and is convicted by court for violating the provisions of
children’s Act, the Indian penal Code (IPC) and the Crimina Procedures Code (Cr.PC)

Causative factors:

The factors which contribute for the formation or development of a phenomena can be termed as causative factor to juvenile delinquency. In this study the term causative designate the factor which are related to delinquent acts among juvenile delinquents. These factors may be personal, sociological and psychological, educational or socio-economic conditions.

Curative Measures:

Curative measures refer to the control and rehabilitation programme and actions taken by the Governmental and non-Governmental agencies to circumvate the delinqueny among the juveniles.

6.1.4 Objectives.

The following were the main objects of the study:

1. to examine the nature and extent of juvenile delinquency.

2. to establish the typology of juvenile delinquency.

3. to analyse the educational and other socio-economic factors related to juvenile delinquency.

4. to prepare case profiles of juvenile delinquents
5. to survey the existing educational and other remedial measures for the rehabilitation of the delinquents in the state of Mizoram.

6. to suggest suitable curative and preventive measures to circumvate the juvenile delinquency.

6.2 METHOD OF STUDY

6.2.1 Sample:

The sample for the study consisted of 300 delinquents selected at random from the reported cases of about 700 delinquents in Mizoram. These delinquents were identified and remanded by the Juvenile Court of the Government of Mizoram.

6.2.2 Tools and Techniques:

The data for this study have been collected through field surveys using a number of tools and techniques. The investigator personality visited the parents and other family members, teachers, peers, counsellors and rehabilitation workers for collecting the revelent information of the delinquents. Data regarding the delinquents activities and remedial measures have been obtained from the official case records kept in the juvenile courts and rehabilitation centres. Also, the investigator collected the necessary data from the Governmental and non-governmental institutions as Remand Homes, Rehabilitation Centres through non-participant observation. The investigator provided affidevit for confidentially. Case studies of select juvenile delinquents were conducted in the study.
The following specific tools have been employed for gathering data:

1. An interview schedule for collecting information from the counsellors, parents, peers, rehabilitation workers and the delinquent himself.

2. Institutional data sheet. A questionnaire to elicit the personal, social, educational and the criminal data of the delinquents devised specifically for the study.


4. Case-study format.

6.3 Method of Analysis

Descriptive qualitative analysis was followed while analysing the data. Frequency distribution, percentages and pie diagrams were used to describe the data and to find all the factors related to delinquency. Graphical presentations are also given.

6.4 Major Findings

6.4.1. The juvenile delinquency, the anti-social acts among the youths have shown a sudden spurt during the last few years in the state. It was almost non-existent a few decades ago. When Mizoram became a state in 1986, the records showed that there were only 73 reported cases of juvenile delinquents in the state. There were 150 in the year 1990 and during 1990 to 1995 the reported cases went up to 900. However, in between 1995 and 1996 there were 700 cases remanded to custody by the Juvenile Court of the Government of Mizoram.
6.4.2 The Juvenile Delinquent Court and the Delinquent Welfare Board and the Remand Homes were established in 1986 in Mizoram. The juvenile offences included stealing, burglary, murder, rape, assault, cheating and trauncy. The most prominent crimes detected among the juveniles were theft and robbery (57.3 percent) and was observed among delinquents of all ages from seven to seventeen. Murder although is found to be rare but there were incidences (7 percent). Disobedience and trauncy figured 15.3 percent followed by drug-peddling, and rape amounts to 8 percent among the juvenile sample. Violence and cheating were also reported as delinquent acts among the juveniles (3 percent).

6.4.3 The extent of delinquency in the age range of seven to seventeen years were examined. Majority of them (52.2 percent) were found to be in the age group of twelve to fourteen years while 39.7 percent were between fifteen to seventeen years. The representation in the age group seven to eight years was only 1.3 percent and of the age group nine to eleven years had only seven percent of the sample.

6.4.4 Male delinquents were much more when compared to females in the sample. In accordance with the age-wise division, there were four male juvenile delinquents between ages seven and eight. Between the ages of nine and eleven the male and female cases were 18 and 3 and that between twelve and fifteen, there were 137 males (45.7%) and 19 females (6.3%). The fifteen and seventeen age group had 100 males (33.37%) and 19 females (6.3%). The sample shows comparatively less number of juvenile delinquents among females compared to males.

6.4.5 The research revealed that most of the delinquents were school drop outs and the drop out rate is as high as 71.7 percent (215 out of 300) and the juvenile delinquents. It has been observed that 5 percent of the delinquents were illiterates, while 66.7 percent were literate and had studied upto Classes I to III, 25 percent have studied upto Class IV and 3.3 percent have
upto high school education but none of them passed matriculation. The parental education was considered as a contributing factor and it has been found that 24.3 percent of the parents were illiterates and 75.7 percent literates but with very low level of education. While 6 percent of the delinquents blamed themselves for not completing their education, 10.2 percent placed the blame on the parents and 83.7 percent stated economic hardship as the main reason. The reason for termination of studies as reported by the delinquents were 32.3 percent due to failure in studies, 11.7 percent due to parental compulsion, 56 percent as the result of poverty and family factors and 3.3 percent due to health factor.

6.4.6 The socio-economic data of the juvenile delinquents revealed that 7.7 percent came from very poor family, 55.7 percent from poor families, 33.3 percent from fairly well off families and 3.3 percent from well off families. According to the size of the family, the data indicated that 7 percent belongs to small family with two to three children, 74.7 percent from medium family with three to five children and 18.3 percent from families with more than six children. With respect to the structure of family 68.3 percent of the juvenile delinquents came from broken homes with single parent families, 7.7 percent belonged to nuclear family with both the parents, 24 percent belonged to extended family. 75% of the juvenile sample reported that they have not received any religious or moral during the childhood.

6.4.7 Regarding the family backgrounds of the delinquents, it has been observed that only 7 percent are reported to be from families with criminal history. It has observed that most of the delinquents hailed from broken families (68.3 percent). The parental education and occupation were also found to be a significant factors related to delinquency among the juveniles. The parental education was also found to be very low with respect to the delinquents. However, there is not much difference
in the socio-economic backgrounds of the delinquents as they belonged to all the categories, high and low on socio-economic status.

6.5 Measures to deal with delinquency among juveniles in Mizoram

The rise in the trend of crime among the youth is certainly a discouraging aspect in the highly literate tribal state of Mizoram. The present study has brought out the possible causative factors of Juvenile delinquency in the state. Broken homes and parental neglect seem to be the primary causes. Drug addiction among the youths, lack of moral and religious training have also been observed as factors leading the young into criminal tendencies. Another significant finding was that most of the delinquents were school drop-outs and they reported economic hardships as the cause for the termination for their studies. The case studies of the young criminals reflected that the lack of guidance, lack of law and order, and failure in studies have a combined effect leading them to crime. The peer pressures, parental neglect and excessive freedom were other factors found related to delinquency among the juveniles.

The Remand Homes for the rehabilitation of the juvenile delinquents and the certification body the Juvenile Court were set up in the state in 1986. The state Government's Remand Home can accommodate about 50 inmates. There is a home for the women in distress which houses the female juvenile delinquents. The sex criminals among the women are kept in the protective Home. Women Juvenile delinquents involved in drug abuse are sent to De-addication and Rehabilitation Centre. Besides the Governmental institutions, there are homes set up by the Salvation Army and other private agencies. The findings of the present research and the investigator's personal experience in the field have helped to suggest the following measures to circumvate the problem of Juvenile Delinquency in the state of Mizoram.
6.5.1 The community and the parents should be made aware of the rise in crime among the youth by organizing campaigns.

6.5.2 The factors related with Juvenile Delinquents should be discussed in various forums and strategies should be evolved to control the crime.

6.5.3 Guidance and Counselling Centres should be set up in schools and colleges and students should be properly guided and the criminal tendencies should be detected early in order to take steps to prevent them.

6.5.4 The law and order should be maintained at any cost and the police patrol and other forces should be strengthened to prevent the crimes.

6.5.5 Youth associations such as Young Mizo Association (YMA), YMCA, YWCA, Women's organisations and Church should be involved to influence and prevent the youth from indulging in criminal activities.

6.5.6 Government should take immediate steps to prevent drug abuse and drug peddling which is found to be a major factor for promoting crime among the youth.

6.5.7 There is a need for introducing religious and moral instruction in the educational institutions as per the findings of the study which is found to be lacking in the state.

6.5.8 Drop-outs from schools should be checked as it turned out to be a factor related to juvenile delinquency.
6.5.9 Teachers and educational administrators should be oriented to the psychological, and social basis of delinquent behaviour and should be oriented to spot criminal tendencies among the youth and correct them at the appropriate time.

6.5.10 Institutional care should be correctional and directed to denature the criminal tendencies among the juveniles. The correctional efforts should be made to bring them to the right type of behaviour and lead good life rather than punishment and just care at home.

6.5.11 It is a sin to place the juvenile delinquents with adult criminals. The practice is quite unethical and should not be allowed as the study observed incidences of such practices in preventive homes for women. Immediate steps should be taken to correct this practice.

6.5.12 A youth development programme should be launched through the mutual co-operation of governmental and non-governmental agencies with the involvement of public.

6.5.13 A multi-pronged approach is needed to maintain a healthy environment at home, school and neighbourhood community.

6.5.14 Legal steps for the detection and dealing with the delinquents should be clearly specified and strictly followed.

6.5.15 Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 provisions for the creation of ameliorative and welfare services should be imparted.
6.6 Limitations of the study and suggestions for further research

The present research, although designed scientifically and carried out systematically using appropriate methods and techniques, is not free from certain limitations. The psycho-social analysis was conducted with a limited sample of 300 juvenile delinquents in general. Intensive investigations with particular categories of juvenile delinquents such as thieves, vagrants, murderers, rapists and arsonists would have been ideal to trace the causative factors and to prescribe curative measures. Similarly, indepth analysis of male and female juvenile delinquents would have undertaken separately. It is also necessary to investigate differential effects of socio-economic conditions by designing studies on juvenile delinquents belonging to upper, middle and lower socio-economic status and also those belonging to broken nuclear and extended families. The adjustment behaviour of the juveniles need to be asserted while studying the drop out problem and low educational achievement among the juvenile delinquents. The investigator faced ample difficulties in getting the case records of the juvenile delinquents. It is also to be mentioned that the records were not maintained properly in the remand homes and rehabilitation centres. There had been a lack of co-operation and coordination among the various agencies and welfare organizations. Therefore, further research is required to study the attitudes and involvement of the public, the welfare workers and the authopritics towards the control and prevention of delinquency in the tribal state of Mizoram.