CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED RESEARCH
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The present research is an attempt to investigate the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in Mizoram. The study shall probe into causative factors of delinquency. Also it will assess the curative measures prevailing in the state of Mizoram for correcting it. In this connection, this research aims at finding the nature of delinquent acts committed in Mizoram and analyse the probable causes that has lead the young boys and girls in Mizoram to resort to delinquent behaviour. The study intends to analyse social, economic and educational backgrounds of the young delinquents and their parents. It also aims to assess the remedial measures and their efficacy in checking the delinquency in Mizoram. The research can recommend preventive measures, to the possible extend, in order to circumvate delinquency among the juveniles in Mizoram. It is, therefore, proposed to review the related studies in India and abroad with the intention of justifying the need and relevance of the present investigation.

The review has been carried out under the following heads:

1. Studies conducted abroad

2. Studies conducted in India

2.1 Studies Conducted Abroad Reviewed

Berg, Goodwin and McQuire [1985] reported that antisocial children missed more classes in school than others. The comparison of children between relatively socially disadvantaged school and home backgrounds, the delinquents were off school on an average half a
day and work more. The boys and girls were absent to a similar extent that delinquents attended school less on average. Younger delinquents appeared to have been staying off school longer, possibly indicating that absenting from school preceded delinquency and older delinquents were less persistent non-attenders. In general population, both the delinquent boys and girls absent from school to a similar extent. However, a substantially greater proportion of boys commit offences and appear in court. According to Rantakallio, Moilanen and Mattssohanni (1994), delinquency does not involve an adjustment for perinatal events such as prematurity, low birth weight, or prenatal brain damage, which were not found to be significantly associated with juvenile delinquency. Low socio-economic status and a non-standard family are both associated with juvenile delinquency. They further stated that a higher than average incidence of delinquency occurs among youngsters of the poorest social standing and with the lowest performance at school. Inability to cope with the demands of society and the external stress affecting a child with a certain kind of incapacity might have increased the propensity for norm breaking behaviour in such cases. Poor school performance, especially inability to pass through elementary school, and in a class appropriate for one's age could be seen as indicators that predict later social problems and delinquency. None of the subjects with moderate to severe mental retardation had committed an offence that lead to a criminal record.

Woodward (1963) showed that delinquents knew as well as non delinquents, what acts are socially acceptable. It is possible that low IQ children, having greater likelihood of detection, fully explains the relationship between low IQ and self-report delinquency.

Cogner, Miller (1966) proposed that intelligence influences directly the amount of reward available to the child for performance in the school. Youths with lower I.Q. experience frustration in school, obtain fewer generalised rewards for conforming behaviour and go
on to engage in anti-social acts. Nevertheless, most delinquents are found to have average intelligence. In as much as the average intelligence (IQ), the difference between delinquents and non-delinquents is not larger and there is a great deal of overlap between the two groups, low intelligence in and of itself, cannot be considered a major factor in determining most cases of delinquency.

Kvaraceus (1958) mentioned that a delinquent’s attitude towards school is commonly ‘charged with hate and hostility’. Moreover, he and his fellow failure share their resentments when he and his peers like himself show their resentments at school they are in effect, making a counter attack against assaults that have been heaped on them as consequence of their own shortcomings. Delinquents are often exploited by adults. Exploitation which is most obvious and which aroused the greatest public indignation occur when vicious adults use teenagers for criminal purposes, such as prostitution and other form of traffic in sex, for the sale of dose or as accomplices in burglary, pick-pocketing, shop-lifting and other forms of theft. However, it is not just criminals who exploit delinquents. The exploiters may also be other members of the society who use delinquents to satisfy ‘psychic needs’.

Simons (1976) suggested that many authors see poor performance on IQ tests as only one instance of the general difficulties with traditional education experienced by children from eventually deprived backgrounds; irrespective of their innate intellectual aptitudes. Children tend to experience problems in schools and score poorly in IQ tests. Such children are likely to become delinquents. The correlation between the intelligence of parents and that of the offspring is reported to be as low as +.49 by Conrad and +.3 by Wingfield (1928). Emotional immaturity and neurotic symptoms of parents are found to be correlated with excitability and emotional imbalance in children to the extent of .3 which does not support the view that
criminality is inherited. Tredgold (1915) stated that there are no such things as 'moral, imbecility' or 'innate lack of moral sense' which makes one absolutely irreformable. Slowson (1926) stated that intelligence of apprehended criminals and delinquents is found slightly lower than youthful offenders, there is a higher percentage of mentally defective and a small percentage of mentally superior individuals than in the general population. This is partly due to the fact that the dull offenders are easily apprehended and the bright ones are more apt to escape detection.

A second explanation is the inferior social background of delinquents and criminals. Most offenders are poorly educated and come from poor cultural backgrounds. The intelligence of their law abiding associates and neighbours is also noted below average. When criminals were compared with the general population of comparable educational and cultural status, no significant difference in intelligence were observed between the two groups. The review of a number of studies established the existence of a relationship between low IQ and juvenile delinquency in British and American samples. Early reviews primarily reported the results of studies comparing the IQ of the delinquent youths with the standardised norms for IQ tests. Hirschi and Hindilang (1977) reviewed several studies in which the IQ of juvenile delinquents were found to be significantly lower than that of the IQ comparison control group of normal children.

Delinquency is found to be related to low socio economic status. This finding is reported in many studies. This research finding is mainly limited to studies with cases brought before the courts and remanded to custody in correctional institutions. This has however been questioned by many investigators working in the field of delinquency. Mays (1928) administered a number of paper and pencil tests to a large number of children (totalling over 11,000) studying in public and private schools. Among the many valuable results one which is relevant in the context of the present research is that the distribution of deception was equal in children belonging to both low and high socio-economic status.
Healy (1936) observed that more than the absence of one or both parents is the presence of unfavourable intra-familial tension and conflicts that produce psychological broken houses. As they noted, delinquents rarely come from happy homes with a wholesome emotional atmosphere. They usually are unloved, uncared and poorly supervised children whose parents are unstable and immoral in character. They are often over protected by one parent and excessively disciplined by the other. Many delinquents have step-parents or are reared in orphanage or foster homes. Illegitimate birth is not uncommon. The absence of sympathetic understanding and strong affection in the families of offenders is confirmed by the large number of delinquents and criminals who leave home at an early age.

Miller (1958) found an impressive account of cultural forces that are at work in a lower-class community which is a generating milieu of gang delinquency. According to him, the gang delinquency of adolescent street-corner groups in lower class communities differs from the delinquents of other sub-cultures. This has risen in areas where there is a conflict between middle class and lower class cultures and where the lower class members deliberately violate middle-class norms. Burt (1925) on the basis of evidence from his clinical data concluded that crime is not inherited. Delinquency is therefore not inherited but is essentially due to environmental friction between the individual and the community. Page (1970) further points out that no person is inevitably destined to become a criminal because of his heredity. In selected cases, however, the inheritance of unfavourable physiological and mental traits may increase the probability that a person will engage in illegal acts if he is exposed to life situations that encourage criminality. The significance of heredity is most marked in cases of persistent criminality and in those cases where criminal tendencies are associated with personality defects. On the other hand, heredity is probably of negligible importance in most mild or isolated offences, especially when they are committed by persons having normal
personalities. Heredity plays a less important role in juvenile delinquency than in adult criminality. Only 20 to 25 percent of delinquents come from families having criminal records. Rosanoff and his associates (1974) observed that both members of a pair were delinquents in 93 percent of the cases involving fraternal twins. A high agreement in concordance rates between two types of twins favour environment as the main cause.

Goddard (1920) emphasised that the delinquency was a mental defect and emphasised that the greatest single cause of delinquency and crime was low grade mentality. It is mentioned that every mental defect was a potential delinquent as he wrote in 1919 that every investigation of the mentality of criminal, misdemeanants, delinquents and other anti social groups has moved beyond the possibility of contradiction.

Sheldon [1940] conducted a study on poor health, short or too big a structure or some physical deformity which rise to feelings of inferiority, dispose one to more aggression as a compensatory reaction for one's inadequacies. He stated that bravado, aggressive and anti social behaviour in them was only defense-mechanism against their more passive, afraid, dependent and insecure tendencies. Such delinquents are internally disturbed and their criminal activities, enterprising and adventurous spirit are mostly over-compensatory reactions. McCandle [1970] noted that the onset of adolescence is by definition marked by the addition to the sex drive to the organism. That the drive is sexual is from the prospective to learning theory, so important for explaining adolescence delinquency as that it augments the general level of drive intensity. It is this state of high drive that is at least in the first instance responsible for increased delinquent activities. Garrison [1948] found that immoralities, alcoholism, sexual irregularities in parents dispose the child towards these offences automatically and so criminality among parents is very powerful conditioning factor for juvenile delinquency.
Moodie [1940] and Rogers [1939] indicated that behaviour difficulties in children such as truancy, stealing and dishonesty were mainly due to the thwarting of the psychological needs of security and affection. Bandura and Walter [1959] noted that fathers of delinquents were rated cruel, neglecting and inclined to ridicule their children and less likely to be warm, affectionate and passive by independent observers. In both primitive and contemporary society, it has been observed that the stability of the social order is an important controlling factor. Shaw and other investigators [1929] have demonstrated the presence of differential crime and delinquency rates in various areas within the city. Empy and Raboro [1961] described the Provo Experiment in delinquency rehabilitation. The delinquent boys initial situation was purposely amorphous. They are left on their own to figure out why authorities are doing what they are doing and what they must do to get out of trouble. The new culprit soon discovered that the only avenue for release was through participation in the delinquent peer group, which was the primary source of pressure for change. The main interactions took place in daily group discussion sessions. In these group sessions, the essential ingredients of identity assault included confession of the past about one's former identities, with the aid of the peer group. Hirschi's [1969] theory does not encompass a conceptualization of control or social control; hence it appears that either term designates any condition that inhibits juvenile delinquency. The theory postulates four inhibitory conditions viz. commitment to conventional goals, attachment to conventional persons, involvement in conventional activities and beliefs in conventional norms. It is not a social control theory, but it suggested that the conditions may render a juvenile more subject to effective control by parents and other conventional persons. There is no evidence that Hirschi's four conditions are created consciously and deliberately, let alone to prevent juvenile delinquency. Schur [1971] in his study on 'role engulfment' opined that labelling the individual may affect the structure of the self concept, when the officially
certified label, instead of being one among many social identity elements becomes central of
it. This idea holds that the deviant identity becomes of overwhelming importance to the
individual. But if deviance affects the self concept, it is at least equally true that the self
concept may influence deviant behaviour. Such an effect would be expected on grounds of
the self consistency motive. Deviant behaviour may be a manifestation of the general princi­
ples that people behave in accordance with their conceptions of what they are like [Lecky
1945, Epstein 1980]. This appears to be the essential principle underlying the influential
theory of the self concept as an ‘insulator against delinquency’ (Reckless et al 1956).
One question that puzzled Reckless was why, in an environment in which delinquency
was common, some boys became delinquent whereas others did not. In an attempt to
answer this question, Reckless studied a sample of boys in a high delinquency area,
who, according to their teacher’s predictions, were or were not likely eventually to get
into difficulty with the law. Reckless et al [1956] concluded whether the youngsters
conceptualized themselves as delinquent for as ‘good boys’, subsequent researches
revealed that these self concepts were predictive of delinquent behaviour.

In addition to self consistency, the self esteem motive may also underpin deviant
behaviour. It has been suggested that the youngster may engage in delinquent behaviour in
order to enhance his self esteem [Kaplan 1976; 1980; Rosenberg and Rosenberg 1978].
Delinquency may help to enhance his self-respect in several ways-first, it provides him with a
peer group-the delinquent gang-who do value and respect him and the greater the deviance,
the greater respect. Second, he may find that he has the ability to succeed in various forms of
delinquent behaviour -in contrast to his failure as a student or a social leader. Third, in
embracing delinquency, the youngster is likely to abandon the members of the straight society
as his significant others. Although he may recognise the parents, teachers and classmates
deplore him more strongly than ever before, their views no longer count for him, his self esteem now rests on the opinion of other deviants. If he must behave in a way that commands their respect and approval i.e. behave in a deviant fashion.

2.2 Studies Conducted in India Reviewed

A number of studies have been conducted in India on juvenile delinquency. The studies were conducted mainly to examine causal factors of delinquency, personality pattern of juvenile delinquents and the psychological and familial correlates of delinquents and behavioural dynamics of juvenile delinquents.

According to Natarajan [1974] one of the factors influencing juvenile delinquency is the low income of the parents with many children. It is further stated that conviction of the parents, brothers and sisters, carelessness of parents in bringing up the children, jealousy of the relatives over rich children who have lost their parents and misunderstanding among the public and police about the children who were delinquents once are probably causes leading to delinquency among the juveniles. Lahri [1977] found that the difference between normal and vagabonds were less compared to normals and delinquents. Normal adolescents, vagabond and delinquents differed more in personality patterns than pre-adolescents vagabonds. Delinquents had normal emotional stability and stronger super-ego strength and show a tendency of self sufficiency as normals. Vagabonds and delinquents had normal values to accept social norms. Bengalee [1979] reported school factors responsible for maladjustment among juvenile delinquents. The schools were found to be over crowded. Scholarship facilities for poor students were very limited, library and laboratory facilities were also found to be missing in many schools. There was no proper guidance and counselling and there was very
low close contact between the teachers and students. It was further stated that, school examination created a number of problems to the students where greater weightage to external assessment is given rather than internal. Co-curricular activities like hobbies, scouting, magazine writing, N.C.C. and students' welfare were lacking in schools. Sahney [1984] observed the delinquents have significant differences from non-delinquents in respect of extroversion-introversion, social maladjustment and antagonism and denial. They showed significantly poor adjustments on home, health, emotional, social and total adjustment. As regards to values, the delinquents differed in their preference of values as compared to non-delinquents. Marked differences were observed on values of 'broadminded', 'capable', 'clean', 'forgiving', 'honest', 'obedient', 'responsible' and 'self controlled' in case of delinquent. Shankar [1984] showed inverse relationship between socio-economic status and incidence of delinquent behaviour. The maximum incident of delinquent behaviour was found in the lowest socio-economic status groups. The urban environment was observed to be a potent factor in determining behaviours. Low intelligence level of the child was an important determinant of delinquency where more delinquents were found in the low I.Q. category. Lack of proper socialization in home environment, over leniency to children were observed to lead to faulty development of personality which led to a child to become delinquent. Shankar [1984] stated that about half of the incidence of delinquency is a rebellion against unreasonable or hard treatment of adults. The maltreatment in many cases was found to be by step-fathers, step-mothers, uncles, aunts or elder brothers of many orphans and by employers. There are so many similar cases of bullying, harsh treatment and beating on one pretext or another. The result is that the boy ran away from home and committed anti-social acts to take revenge on the world and fate which condemned them to such a sad plight. Many leaves the home because of jealousy towards the step brothers or sisters or towards their younger sister or brother as they feel
‘dethroned’ when the parents’ interest, attention and affection become more centred on the new child. In a large percentage of delinquents, poverty is to be found the pre dominating factor as poor living conditions in the home among other factors dispose a child towards anti-social behaviour more than comfortable and well to do life, we usually find crime, disease, ignorance and vices associated with poverty more and these are conductive to the development of juvenile offenders. Sinha, Singh and Singh [1986] concluded from a study that delinquents as compared to non-delinquents were found to be more introversive, rigid, impulsive and stereo typical in their thinking. They showed less control over their emotions and expressed comparatively lesser degree of sociability. Contrary to the common view, delinquents showed a fair amount of conforming tendency. They were also found normal in intelligence and showed a marked degree of organising and analytical ability. According to Kabbur [1987] juvenile delinquents and non-delinquents did not differ significantly in emotional adjustment and total adjustment, but showed significant differences in their personality factors such as factor B [less intelligent], factor D [phlegmatic - excitable], factor Q3 [undiscipline, self conflict - controlled] and factor I [tough - tender minded]. The juvenile delinquents and non juvenile delinquents differed in parent-child relations, father’s aggression towards subject, subject’s aggression towards father, mother’s aggression towards father, father’s aggression towards mother, mother’s competence, father’s competence, father’s affection, father’s identification, mother’s denial and father’s denial. It was reported that the juvenile delinquents were less intelligent and had less ability to handle abstract problems. They were more prone to jealousy, more excitable than normal children. They were found to be less controlled, tender minded, sensitive, dependent, over protected and demanded attention. They also showed nervousness.

Imtisungba [1985] stated that the socio-cultural factors like broken home, presence of relative, maladjustment in school, influence of poor age group and gang, influence of seniors
and parents, low social criminals and immoral families were responsible for child's delinquency. He further stated from his study of juvenile delinquents in Nagaland that poverty and low socio-economic conditions, influence of cinema, parental deprivation, lack of motivation, laziness, situational and unconscious motivation were found to be the factors related with delinquency. Kshanika [1966] while investigating into parental conditions of the delinquents, it was understood that at sometime or other, some of the parents were separated and were widowed even before death, in more of the families, 20% of the cases, both the parents were dead. The study showed that they lived in wholesome families with a very poor standard of behaviour. There were cases of drunkenness, immorality, cheating, beating and more violations. Adherance to social values or consciousness of prestige or family pride was absent. He further found that temperamentally the delinquents appeared moody, often possessed of sadness and repentance. Quiet, dull and lethargic they appeared to be under a nervous tension, not having any ambition in life, remembered his mother with a sorrowful heart and used to even feel sad for not having a home.

Kanishka [1966] in his study of delinquents found that more than half of the total number of delinquents did not have any satisfactory dwelling houses. The research reported that 43 percent lived in mud houses and hutments, which were primarily built of mud and straw and consisted of only one room. More than low social status, the economic factor is usually emphasised everywhere as affecting deliquent behaviour. True, that conditions of distressing poverty were felt by 56 families. Although the general inference made from these studies has strengthened the already existing belief that poverty is found associated with delinquency, the large percentage of families belonging to the low income groups play the major cause of deliquent behaviour. The important thing is the way the individual reacts to this socio-economic condition. It was necessary to investigate the parental make up of these
boys, since it is commonly believed that broken homes contribute appreciably to delinquency. A rather abnormal structure of the home was found in 59 percent of the cases. It was seen that about 70 percent of the cases were deprived of parental affection at the most formative period of their life. More than one-third, 39 percent of the boys were separated when they were below 5, another one third between 5 and 9, only 13 percent between 10 and 14. The remaining 17 cases left home at or after the age of 25. This earlier deprivation of parental contact and affection might have had a graver effect on the lives of these boys.

Kundu [1966] acknowledged that low general intelligence was related significantly to delinquency of both tribal and non-tribal groups. It has been thought that children of low intelligence were unable to distinguish right from wrong. Kundu, in his study of 'differential personality traits in juvenile offenders' indicated that for the tribals, delinquency was related moderately to instability at home, less degree of satisfaction with self, poor health condition and power of observation. For the non-tribals the delinquency was related to a great extent with instability at home, unsatisfactory parent-child relationship, hostility from parents, absence of recreational avenues and destructive trends and to a moderate extent with desire to be away from home, constrained parent-child relationship, parent objecting to the kind of companion, permanence of residence, position in the family, level of general anxiety, feeling of resentment and depressive trends. Shanmugam [1980] mentioned multiple factors underlying juvenile delinquency. He studied 75 delinquent boys who had committed thefts and 75 delinquent girls who committed sex offences, and equal number of normal boys and girls matched for age and socio-economic status. The data were collected using a number of psychological tests and an interview schedule. The psychological factors of extroversion, neuroticism, psychocism, criminal propensity, creativity, low intelligence, low aspiration level, suggestibility and cognitive dissonance were
factors found related to delinquent behaviour. Low educational level of parents, broken home conditions and lack of emotional ties were also observed among the members of family of the delinquents. Ganguly and Maitra [1966] acknowledged that the majority of the investigator agree upon environmental factors such as poor home, over-crowding, rejecting and indifferent parents, illegitimacy, lack of parental control are the determinants of delinquency. Th delinquent acts committed by the juveniles, according to Swatanter (1977) were murder, theft, vagrancy, pick-pocketing, intoxication, various sex offences, violence and smuggling. The chief factor causing the delinquency were found to be maltreatment at home, broken homes, over-protection, poverty, neglect, maladjustment in the school, bad company, revenge, exploitation, temptation, maltreatment by the employer and unemployment.

The absence of father figure in the early childhood upon personality functions are resulting criminal behaviours in a group of criminals with the help of biographical interview Rorschach Rosenzweig P-F test and a personality inventory by Mukerjee et al (1969). Finding revealed that personality development depends more on the total personal-social situation rather than on any isolated variable such as father absence or presence.

Das (1975) analysed the causative factors of juvenile delinquency in Assam. The research revealed that the problem of delinquency was mostly related to current changes economic, social, cultural and normal life, rapid increase of population and depression rural economic growth and employment. The home of delinquents were characterized their defective family pattern, moral, cultural and material break down, the homes were found broken physically, socially and psychologically. The present educational system was found to be responsible to contribute partly and indirectly to the development of the delinquency pupils. The influence of adult criminals, bad companions, cinema and deteriorated place.
and the young delinquents concentrated their operation of delinquency in urban areas. Delinquents possessed loose temperament, and they were hostile and aggressive, desperate, less self-controlled, impulsive and more frustrated, they were found to have less resistance to crime and were easily instigated to anti-social acts, and most of the delinquents showed early symptoms of delinquency, academic backwardness and had below average intelligence.

Raychaudhri et al [1968] examined the socio-environmental correlates of indisciplined behaviours. Variables such as crowding at home, uncomfortable home condition, poor family, discipline and parental discard were found to pre-dominate the early life of the indisciplined subjects.

Shanmugam [1956] obtained significant results in a series of studies on sex differences among juvenile delinquents. Delinquent girls fantasies were found to be characterised by themes of separation and rejection, altruism, anxiety and guilt. In yet another study the delinquents were found to react aggressively to stress situation as compared to normal boys. Delinquents generally manifested hatred, rebellion, violence, suicidal tendencies, insecurity as against the sense of hope, courage, confidence and faith among the normal boys. Shanmugam and Sundari [1960] compared delinquent boys with normal boys in ‘inhibition and disinhibition’ using a word association test. The study found delinquent boys to be lacking in disinhibition as compared to normal boys. In another study by Shanmugam and Govindarajan [1967] on ‘motivational rigidity’ found that delinquent boys were characterised by greater rigidity than the non-delinquent boys. Shanmugam [1980] investigated the psychological factors underlying juvenile delinquency and observed that delinquents are low in intelligence and more extrovert than non-delinquents, more suggestible, have a low level of aspiration but are more ideal self-incongruency and having unrealistic vocational ambition. Rajeswari [1967] analysed the level of aspiration pattern of delinquent boys using Rotter’s
level of aspiration board and found no difference in the overall performance of the two groups. However, delinquents were found to have greater rigidity. Rajangan's [1957] studies of delinquent girls and prostitutes revealed that low intelligence, mal-adjustment in the areas of home, emotion, society and health are the main factors which influence the delinquency and prostitution. Shanmugam [1953] conducted a series of studies on the personality aspects of delinquents and stated delinquents to be more emotionally unstable than non-delinquents.

Walter [1971] and Bandura [1963] studied sociopathy and delinquency and reported that there is high incidence of sociopathic traits in parents of delinquents. Some of the sociopathic traits found among fathers are alcoholism, anti-social attitude, frequent and long absence from home etc. Even there were instances of sexual relationship with daughter. Thomas [1970] studied delinquency based on the Eysenck's theory that the dysthymic neurotics suffering from anxiety, reactive depression, obsessions, phobias and so on, would be found in the introversion neuroticism gradient. Marked differences had been identified between the delinquent and the normal, and orphans and the normal in family background. Delinquents outscored the normal and orphans in neuroticism and psychoticism and had lower intelligence than the normal group.

Hamid [1972] examined delinquency with reference to psycho-social conditions and personality characteristics of delinquents that would differentiate them from non-delinquents. The results revealed that there is a significant difference between the two groups concerning their environmental conditions and that community is another situation found to contribute to the delinquent acts. With regards to personal characteristics, no significant difference was noticed. Sheth [1957] observed the social background of the juvenile delinquents with poverty, crowded housing conditions, slackening of the family
control, broken homes, gang and peer influenced. Lack of recreational facilities at home and in the locality is another aspect found related to acts among the juveniles.

Studies conducted on juvenile delinquency and homeless children by Sheth [1957], Thomas [1970], Hamid [1972], Khatoon [1976], Chatterji [1974], Reddy [1979] and Shanmugam [1980] revealed that delinquents are lower in intelligence, poorer in performance, indifferent in interest patterns and unrealistic in vocational aspirations. The factors affecting are unsatisfactory relations between family members, broken homes, lack of parental interest and supervision, too lenient or too dominant parental behaviour, too many or too little recreational facilities at home and in the neighbourhood, congested and crowded home conditions, slum neighbourhood, frequent movie viewing and low achievement are found to be some of the factors associated with delinquency.

The causes and curative measures of juvenile delinquency in Bangalore city was studied by Reddy [1979]. His findings relating to causative factors included undesirable family conditions influenced by alcoholism and delinquency of parents, less literacy, neurological problems. With respect to the curative measures the study indicated that there are no special institution for juvenile delinquents.

Khatoon [1976] studied the social background of delinquent behaviour in Uttar Pradesh. The objectives of the study were to examine the social surroundings of the juvenile delinquents in which they reared and their living conditions. The study revealed that - death, divorce or separation of either of the parents, very lenient or over dominant behaviour of parents, incompatible relations between juvenile siblings, poor socio economic conditions, uncongenial employment, absence of recreational facilities, uncongenial or difficult school subjects resulting in poor achievement and undesirable living conditions are the reasons that contribute to juvenile delinquency.

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2.3. Measures undertaken in India

In India, many measures have been taken by the Central and State Governments, Voluntary and religious Organizations to control and cure juvenile delinquency. According to Shukla (1987) ‘Generally speaking, delinquents against whom the juvenile justice machinery particularly the police, initiates action are complex or residual cases where other modes of intervention do not succeed or informal agencies show their inability to handle them’. Thus, the police plays an important role in the control of juvenile delinquency. In 1952 the first Juvenile Aid Police Unit was established in Bombay. In establishing Juvenile Aid Police Unit/Bureau Bombay was followed by Calcutta in 1956, Hyderabad in 1958, Madras in 1960, Patna and Ranchi in 1961, Poona, Sholapur and Nagpur in 1967, Calicut in 1970 and Indore, Bilai and Jabalpur in 1974 (Srivastava, 1989). The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 broadly divides juveniles requiring care and protection into two categories: (1) delinquents and (2) non-delinquents like destitutes, orphans, unwanted etc. Police handles both the cases of delinquent juveniles, their cases are referred to the Juvenile court and to the Juvenile Welfare Board in the case of non-delinquent juveniles who need care and protection. The police may also release the juveniles after warning or admonition depending on the nature and seriousness of the offence he has committed. But in the case of serious offences the police takes the juvenile into the custody and hand over to the Remand Home or Observation Home. The police also conducts investigation of cases of juveniles for onward submission to the juvenile court or to the Child Welfare Board. Besides, the police plays an important role in the rehabilitation of released juvenile delinquents. According to Shukla (1981), the role of police in relation to the rehabilitation of the released juvenile delinquents are:“(a) helping and giving all possible assistance in the rehabilitation or released juvenile offenders (b) maintaining benevolent and unobtrusive supervision over the released juvenile offenders in cooperation with probation
officers, (c) affording protection to released juveniles, especially juvenile probationers, against threats and victimization by their erstwhile associates in crime”. Therefore, the police not only apprehends the juveniles but also takes active part in their rehabilitation.

Institutional facilities: The main purpose of institutions are to provide for the care, protection, maintenance, welfare, education and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. The institutions are thus to act as reformatories where the delinquent children could be trained and prepared for a productive future. These institutions are established on the recommendations of the Indian Jail Committee (1919 - 1920). The Committee recommended separate machinery for the trial, conviction and treatment of juvenile offenders. Accordingly the Children Acts of Madras, Bengal and Bombay were enacted in 1920, 1922 and 1924 respectively. In order to bring about uniformity in the implementation of children acts, the Central Government passed the Children Act of 1960 for the centrally administered states and Union territories. According to these Acts, delinquent juveniles are to be sent to approved, certified or Special schools and the non delinquent juveniles to Children Homes or Fit Persons’ institutions. The passing of Juvenile Justice Act 1986 replaces both the state Children Acts and the Central Children Act 1960. Section 10 of the Juvenile Justice Act 1986 empowers the state government to make the following provisions:

(1) The State Government may establish and maintain as many as special homes as may be necessary for the reception of delinquent juveniles under this Act

(2) Where the State Government is of opinion that any institution other than a home established or maintained under sub-section- 1 is fit for the reception of the delinquent juveniles to be sent under this Act, it may certify such institution as a special home for the purpose of this Act
(3) Every special home to which a delinquent juvenile is sent under this Act shall not only provide the juveniles with accommodation, maintenance and facilities for education, vocational training and rehabilitation but shall also provide him with facilities for the development of his character and abilities and give him necessary training for his reformation and shall also perform such other function as may be prescribed to ensure all round growth and development of his personality.

(4) The rules made under sub section - 4. may also provide for the classification and separation of delinquent juveniles on the basis of age and the nature of offences committed by them.

Treatment of juvenile offenders, being the main objective, the institutions provide a continuum of professional services of case workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, vocational instructors etc. Institutionalization is a positive step for making the juvenile unlearn his negative values and learn other positive ones in the interest of his rehabilitation in the community. In other words, delinquent juveniles are given education, counselling, guidance, treatment, training and rehabilitation so that on their return to the society they would become a good citizen. However, institutions have been criticized that juveniles were exploited and abused, become more hardened and sophisticated in the ways of committing crimes. According to Carney (1977) “There is ample evidence to indicate that our prisons and juvenile correctional institutions not only do not correct but contribute negatively to the very anti-thesis of reformation”.

Non-Institutional facilities: Due to its inadequacies, institutional measures of juvenile correction has been suggested only as a measure of last resort. Many status offenders are in need of care, protection and treatment but their needs should not be met by placing them in
the institutions designed for children involved in criminal acts. All such children should be kept out of institutional facilities but be placed in the non-institutional correctional settings. The obvious implication of this suggestion is that children should be saved from unnecessary institutionalization and consequent stigmatization, (Srivastava 1989). Community based correction has been found as reliable measures of delinquency control. The advocates of this idea hold that the best way to reform and rehabilitate the delinquent juveniles is to help them learn to cope with and adjust to the real world and not within the artificial environment of the institutions. The increasing incidence of crimes committed by juveniles and the social problems arising out of this, calls for immediate solutions. To control this problem, Children’s Act and the Probation of Offender’s Act have been implemented in the State of Mizoram. The Juvenile Justice Act 1986 has also been enforced in the state. Accordingly the Mizoram Juvenile Justice Rules 1988 has been passed by the state legislative Assembly. The Act primarily aims to the control and prevention of crimes committed by and against children upto the age of 18 years in the case of girls and 16 years in the case of boys. With a view to making them useful citizens, the Act aims at doing away with the evil practices of confining young offenders with adults and hardened criminals since such contacts and the jail atmosphere itself have considerably adverse effect on the development of the child.

Under the Juvenile Justice Act of 1986, it is mandatory to establish separate observation homes for neglected and delinquent juveniles. The Act also envisages provision for the establishment of Juvenile Court and Child Welfare Board. The Juvenile court set up under the Act is to deal with the cases of delinquent juveniles and the Child Welfare Board to deal with the problem of neglected children. In Mizoram, Juvenile court/Children’s court has begun to function with effect from 1st September 1985. Under the Act, all criminal cases involving children are to be tried in the Children’s Court or Juvenile Court only and
not in open Courts established under the Criminal Procedure Code. Observation Home (Remand Home) and Special Home (Certified School) have also been established. In addition to these, religious and voluntary organizations have set up various centres particularly for drug and alcohol addicts. Alcohol and drug addicts are mainly adults but some juveniles have also been rehabilitated in these centres. Some of these voluntary established centres are assisted by the State Government through the Social Welfare Department. However, Aftercare services is yet to be developed in the state of Mizoram.

2.4. CONCLUSION

It is fairly evident from the review of related research that while some attempts have been made to study the phenomenon in general, not much work seems to have been done to examine the nature and causes of juvenile delinquency. Particularly in a remote and fast developing state of Mizoram, studies of this kind are almost conspicuous by their absence. It is disappointing to note that in this highly literate North-Eastern State, no empirical study has been conducted to investigate the causes of juvenile delinquency and to look into the efficacy of the curative measures provided to the delinquent juveniles. As such, one can hardly find any study probing into the nature of the crimes committed by young boys and girls. The causes for their behaviour which may be the resultant of family and socio-economic background, child rearing practices, drop out from studies as found in many other places. The present study has solicited that the family plays a crucial role in character formation. Lack of smooth and healthy familial relationship begets stress and strain on the part of a young boy or girl and thus generates delinquent propensities. Naturally, family should be the focal point in devising preventive as well as reformative measures of delinquency. Thus one worthy point to be considered is that as the incidence of delinquency
is increasing so one should not lay for weight either on preventive measures or on reformative measures. Both should go hand in hand. The present study assumes significance as it will examine the nature of crimes committed by the juvenile delinquents and examine the causes for such behaviour. The study also shall highlight the measures taken by the government and other agencies for circumventing the delinquent activities in the state.