CHAPTER III

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: CONCEPT AND DIMENSIONS
3.1. Concept of Delinquency:

Criminal behaviour or tendency to commit crime is not only found among the adults, but minor children and adolescents do commit crimes. Juvenile or young delinquents, minor in age are usually referred to as minors concerned to major problems. The juvenile delinquents deviate seriously from the norms of his culture. Children who are guilty of offences such as stealing, burglary, violence, vagrancy, gambling, sexual offences and other anti-social behaviour are known as juvenile delinquents. The delinquent is one who has failed to internalise the primitive taboos and code of conduct set by the family and society. He has failed to identify with the values of his parents and seeks pleasure at the cost of sacrificing the principles of reality and morality. From a legal point of view, a young man or woman who is referred and convicted by the juvenile court is a juvenile delinquent. They do not extend the designation of the delinquent to those who do not come within the purview of the juvenile court eventhough their behaviour might have been referred in court. If a particular individual starts behaving in a way which is below the normal social standard and behaviour, then he is called a delinquent. Delinquency is a product of social environment and it is a rebellion and an expression of aggression aimed at breaking down or changing the norms. But this rebellion is mostly against the social conditions which deny the individual his basic rights. It is a sign of the frustration of ones' fundamental needs. It is a maladjustment and a sign of a disordered development. The delinquency is considered to be a multifactor phenomena caused by various genetic, physiological, psychological and sociological factors. The International Encyclopaedia of Education defines 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 or young delinquent is
a child or young [minor in age] who deviates seriously from the norms of his culture or society commits such acts, that if committed by adult would be punishable as crime. I.evys [1943] emphasized that delinquency was mainly due to defective parent-child relationship that resulted in inner-psychological disturbance on the part of the child. The sociological school emphasizes situational and environmental factors responsible for behaviour formation and are accounted for crime causation theory. According to the sociological approach social behaviour is not something given in the individual psyche independently of his experience in society but produced in social groups and internalized within the individual as a result of his exposure to the pressures of these groups.

3.2. Delinquency: Certain Theoretical Dimensions

Different theories have been propounded to explain the etiology of juvenile delinquency.

3.2.1 Biological Theories:

The biological approach to the study of criminal behaviour marks the beginning of scientific understanding of the varied forms of criminal behaviour. Lombroso et al (1968) find the roots of criminal behaviour in bodily characteristics such as slanting forehead, large jaws, heavy brows etc. Glueck and Glueck (1950) who examined the relationship between body type and delinquency in their study of 500 institutionalised delinquents and other 500 non-delinquents came to the conclusion that 60 per cent of the delinquent as opposed to 31 per cent of the non-delinquents were mesomorphic. Another biological theory associating physical characteristics with criminal behaviour is the chromosome Theory. Though this abnormality was first discovered in 1961, the theory became popular only after papers were published by
Jacobs et al in Scotland (Reid 1979). According to this theory, a normal human being males have XY and females have XX chromosomal combination. If a man gets extra Y in addition to XY, he is likely to be gigantic, turn violent and aggressive but the evidences are not conclusive. It may also be mentioned here that in his later works, Lombroso takes into account other factors like climate, race, alcoholism, education, wealth etc in his search for the cause of crime and delinquency. To sum up, the biological theories attempt to explain crime committed by juveniles primarily in terms of factors within the criminal or delinquent, that is, physical, biological etc. Though this approach to the study of juvenile delinquency or crime has been severely criticized, it contributes immensely to the development of scientific approach to the study of criminal behaviour and towards the reforms of the criminal laws.

3.2.2 Psychological Theories:

The psycho-dynamic explanations of juvenile delinquency are mainly derived from the theory of Freud, the father of the psycho-analysis. According to Freud, criminal or juvenile delinquent is one who is suffering from weak ego control over the id and obtaining psychic relief from being caught and punished. His idea was applied by Healy and Browner who emphasised personality and home environment as key factors in delinquent behaviour. Thus, the main principle which deals with juvenile delinquency can be traced to faulty relationship in the family during the first few years of a child's life; these faulty relationships result in inadequate ego and super ego development and these inadequacies in turn make it impossible for a child to control his later delinquent impulses (Finckenauer, 1984).

According to the approach of psychoanalysts, delinquency occurred due to deficiency and failure in the formation of super ego. Mowrer [1961] defined delinquency as moral deficiency because of weak conscience to proper teaching of the child in early years of life. Bandura and
Walters (1959) write that delinquency is the manifestation of the frustrated needs of the child ultimately leading to aggression. Some psychologists hold the views that delinquency is influenced by the activities of the central nervous system. The individuals have genetically-based inability to learn clear responses to secondary situations. The delinquent according to Quary (1965) then would be a person whose misbehaviour is relatively serious legal offences, which is in appropriate to his level of development, is not committed as a result of extremely low intellect and is alien to the culture in which he has been reared'. Merton's theory of anti-social behaviour emphasised that when an individual finds no avenue towards identification his goals, the individual is compelled by circumstances to reach his goal by anti-social methods. Thus delinquency is the result of unsuccessful efforts to achieve goals set by the society. The psycho analytical school highlights the role of unconscious in the individual behaviour. Jenkins [1956] marked two types of behaviour viz. 'adaptive' and 'maladaptive' that would be responsible for delinquency. Levy [1943] emphasised that delinquency was mainly due to defective parent-child relationship that resulted in inner-psychological disturbance on the part of the child. Erikson [1956] advocates that feeling of insecurity and identity crisis play important role on the youth, these generate delinquent tendencies in his mind. According to Erikson, when a child is deprived of the basic needs he diverses himself from adult control. Consequently the sociological school emphasizes situational or environmental factors are accounted for crime causation theory. According to the sociological approach social behaviour is not something given in the individual psyche independently of his experience in society but produced in social groups and internalized within the individual as a result of his exposure to the pressures of these groups.

There have also been attempts to explain the relationships between personality and deviant behaviour. Schuessler and Cressey (1950) attempted to measure the differences between personality traits of delinquents and non-delinquents and found that only 42 per cent
showed differences in the case of non-delinquent and the remaining 58 per cent shows no difference. Thus, the study did not produce sufficient evidence to show that personality trait is related to criminality. In his review of the literature Cortes also could not conclude that personality traits cause delinquency. Various studies had also been conducted to show that mental deficiency is related to criminality. While Goddard (1917) found mental deficiency in almost half of all the criminals; Goring (1913) found mental deficiency as the major cause of criminality except in the case of fraud. Thus, it may be stated that mental deficiency may not be directly responsible for the cause of criminality, but it may indirectly lead to deviant behaviour and criminality.

Mental hygienists’ view is that delinquency is the expression of an individual’s needs. The individual by means of anti-social behaviour attempts to gratify his needs by socially acceptable behaviour. When the individual fails to reach his goal by socially acceptable means because of his incompetence or socio-economic barrier, he attempts to reach the goal by anti-social activities which are termed it as delinquent act. Thus the delinquent behaviour of an individual is symptomatic of his needs, which have not been fulfilled by socially acceptable methods. The adolescent wants to reach his desired goal but may find the barrier insurmountable, and tries to gratify his demand by anti-social means. Juvenile delinquency constitutes a serious deviation from norms of any real change in the extend to which the relevant behaviour is occurring with the change of time, systems and pattern of culture are fast changing. Thus different nature under different culture define delinquency differently. The figure that appear in official statistics reflect not only what young people are doing but also the legal provisions in force, the activity of law enforcing agencies, and the organisation of the juvenile justice system. This makes it extremely difficult to compare the situation in different countries. Not only thus the actual coverage, in terms of acts prohibition differs from country to country but so does the age range of offenders who are seen as juvenile.
It is very difficult to reach unanimity regarding the definition of the term delinquency because the term is an umbrella for a wide variety of society disapproved behaviour that varies with the time, place and cultural variance in socio-economic and political conditions of a country. Every society prescribes a set of norms which it expects that all its members should follow, but those who violates the social norms and behave in anti-social manner are called delinquents under different names. Criminal and delinquent acts are anti-social conducts that violates established laws and varies with time and place. Thus by reasonable inference, it is unlikely that some form of behaviour in different countries or at different times which in the other case is not. There is no uniformity in defining the phenomenon of delinquency. There is no definite or fixed criteria to distinguish delinquent acts from non-delinquents. It is not possible to coin a definition which fits all cultures at all times. The factors that affects young adolescents also varies from place to place and time to time. Therefore, as there are variations in all aspects, it is difficulty to have a proper fixed criteria. It may vary depending on the particular environment of the locality at present situation within the limits of the socio-cultural pattern and political set up. In our civilization, adultery is an anti-social act, but it would be inhospitable for an Eskimo to refuse to share wife with the guest. Treason, murder, incest and theft are almost universal crimes, but there are exceptions even in these regards. Killing and head hunting are crimes and against the laws of India but there were times when these kind of activities were only essential role and a sign of heroism and loyalty. According to religious view, in the general exercise of free will, man will seek pleasure and avoid pain. Seeking pleasure sometimes lead to delinquency. Delinquency refers to the behaviour which is not within the range of the culturally permissible, either at home, in the school, or in the community. The delinquent children creates problems in schools, destructive, quarrelsome and socially immature. They seek undesireable companions or be isolated become socially maladjusted, and drop out of schools.
Delinquents are mentally deficient that they have defective physique and defective intelligent [Lambroso 1968]. Some studies assert that the delinquents are not mental defective but are rather dull. Burt considered that the average I.Q. of delinquents was about 85. Merrill and Healey et al (1947) give figures of the average I.Q. ranging from 80-90. In a study conducted by the writer of 140 juvenile delinquents in the District Jail in Delhi, the average I.Q. of the group was found to be 83 ranging from 40-142 and a large majority of them fell between 70-90 I.Q.

Cavan [1968] defined a delinquent as 'only child or youth whose conduct deviates sufficiently from normal social usage to want his being considered a menace to himself, to his future interest, or to society itself. According to Burt [1925], 'a child is to be regarded as technically delinquent when his anti-social tendencies appears so grave that he becomes or ought to become the subject of official attention.' A delinquent child has repeated conflict with his siblings, parents, classmates, teachers and community. Parents call him a bad boy, teachers call him incorrigible, social workers say he is socially maladjusted. Psychiatrist and Psychologist may say he is emotionally disturbed. And if he comes in conflict with the law, the judge designate him delinquent.

3.2.3. Sociological Theories: The approaches that have been discussed earlier have focussed attention on the biological, psychological and other characteristics of the offenders to explain the causes of delinquent behaviour. The sociological theories attempt to explain the phenomenon of delinquent behaviour with reference to factors outside the personality of the delinquents. These are

3.2.3.1 Cultural Deviance Theory: The ecological studies conducted by Shaw and Mc Kay (1942) in Chicago reveal that the causes of delinquency are to be found in kinds of social condition and not the kind of people who live there. Rapid social change associated
with industrialization, urbanization, and immigration produce social disorganization which, in turn deteriorated the inner city neighborhood (Waegel, 1989). People who migrated to this industrial centre from rural areas with rural background and cultural setting couldn’t adjust themselves to the new conditions of urban industrial life. Parents had to work long hours for low wages, having no time to attend to their children. Under these conditions, parents were unable to exert control over their children and many juveniles turned to delinquent ways of life.

According to Miller (1958) the lower class has a distinctive culture of its own. The lower class has certain “focal concerns” such as trouble, toughness, smartness, excitement, fate and autonomy. The street corner gang in their attempt to retain these focal concerns produce behaviour which may be regarded deviant behaviour. The six “focal concerns” which characterize the lower class way of life may be explained briefly here. (1) Trouble: Getting into and saying out a trouble, on the one hand, involves behaviour which include fighting, drinking, having sexual adventure and on the other hand, it means getting status in the peer’s group or in the gang; (2) Toughness: It includes physical prowess, bravado and masculinity; (3) Smartness: This means the skill to outsmart the other fellow and the ability to keep oneself from being duped; (4) Excitement: This consists of seeking excitement through drinking, gambling and sexual adventuring, (5) Fate: This refers to a belief that one’s life is guided by force over which man has little control. For example, winning or losing is attributed to destiny and not to their personal efforts; and (6) Autonomy: This means rejection of external control.

The main cause of delinquency is due to social disorganisation and the physical environment. It must, therefore, be recognized that social and physical environment as a powerful factor in the development of juvenile delinquency.
3.2.3.2 Strain Theories: Strain means frustration and discontent. Strain occurs when the society prohibits opportunities to achieve some goals or status in conventional ways. Durkheim (1964) used the term anomie to refer to a social condition in which normlessness prevails. According to him, anomie is likely to occur during period of rapid social change, when traditional norms have not been effective in regulating human conduct and when new modes have not yet been accepted. Merton (1938) elaborated and made anomie the central feature of the strain theory of crime. According to him, it is the social structure which produces a strain toward anomie and deviant behaviour. According to Cressey (1983) “Delinquent gangs are above all, important agencies for diffusion of the values that make up delinquent sub-cultures. The lower class youths reject the middle class virtues and values, and found the solution for their problem in the delinquency of the sub-culture of the gang. Some children of the lower class are denied status in the respectable society on the ground that they are unable to meet the criteria of the high status level. The delinquent sub-culture gives to the lower class status which was denied to them in the middle class world. Delinquent subculture is thus a logical response to their frustration. It is a way of dealing with the problem of adjustment which are mainly status problems. It can thus be stated that delinquency is a lower class phenomenon which is due to the dissatisfaction of the lower class children in their way of life.

Thrasher (1960) in his studies of juvenile delinquency focussed attention on the groups to which the delinquents belonged. He found the gang in what he called ‘poverty belt’ which is characterized by deteriorating neighbourhood, shifting population and high mobility. Thus, poverty and lower class may not necessarily cause delinquency, but their influence can directly lead to formation of juvenile gangs. The chances of formation of juvenile gangs are higher in areas inhabited largely by lower class people compared to neighbourhood of predominantly middle class socio-economic status.
3.2.3.3 Differential Association Theory: Sutherland (1939) believes that delinquency is learned while interaction with other people. His theory consists of nine postulates which may be summarized as: (1) Criminal behaviour is mainly learned (2) Criminal behaviour is learned in interaction with other persons in a process of communication (3) Criminal behaviour is mainly learned within intimate personal groups (4) when criminal behaviour is learned, the learning includes (a) techniques of committing the crime, which are sometimes very complicated and, sometimes very simple and (b) the specific direction of motives, drives, rationalization, and attitudes (5) the specific direction of motives and drives is learned form definitions of the legal codes as favourable or unfavourable (6) a persons becomes delinquent because of an excess of definitions favourable to violation of law over definitions unfoundable to violation of law (7) the theory may vary in frequency duration, priority and intensity (8) the process of learning criminal behaviour by association with criminal and anti criminal patterns involves all of the mechanisms that are involved in any other learning and (9) while criminal behaviour is an expression of general needs and values, it is not explained by those general needs and values, since non-criminal behaviour is an expression of the same needs and values.

3.2.3. Control Theories: According to control theory, delinquency occurs when the natural tendency towards violation of law is not held in check. Control theory consists of Containment Theory of Reckless (1961), which emphasizes weak inner control as an explanation for the cause of juvenile delinquency. Sykes and Matza (1957) also developed control theory known as Neutralization Theory for the explanation of the juvenile delinquency. They enumerated five major strategies people use to avoid self blame and blame from others. The strategies known as techniques of neutralization are: (1) denial of injury (2) denial of the victim (3) denial of responsibility (4) condemnation of the condemners and (5) appeal to higher loyalties (Bartol and Bartol, 1989). Matza (1964) also developed “Drift Theory” which states that
juveniles engage in delinquent acts because their normal attachment to conventional forms is temporarily suspended by neutralization techniques. Hirschi's (1969) theory of social control known as “Social Bond Theory” emphasises weak ties between individual, conventional persons and institutions. Social Bond Theory is based on four basic elements: (1) attachment to parents, teachers and peers (2) commitment to conventional lines of activity like school activities (3) involvement refers to participation in conventional activities, such as, studying school works, joining boy scouts or church groups (4) belief means acceptance of the legitimacy and morality of the social rules and laws. In short, the theory states that the more a person or juvenile is bonded to the conventional society, the less he will be inclined to violate norms or commit a crime. It may be reiterated that the biological and psychological approaches to the study of juvenile delinquency attempt to explain the cause of delinquency primarily in terms of factors within the delinquents. Thus the biological, mental and other characteristics of the offenders are considered as the main factors in causing deviant behaviour in children. In contrast to biological and psychological explanations, the sociological approach provides explanations of juvenile delinquents. From the above discussion, it is clear that there can be no single theory to explain all the causes of juvenile delinquency. For example, various types of offences including thefts, murder and rape have different kinds of motives and all of them could not be explained by the same theory.

3.3. Nature of Delinquency:

The juvenile offences include stealing, burglary and arson, murder and suicide, gambling, assault and rape, sedomy and so on. The delinquent children roughly fall into two distinct groups. One group consists of delinquents who are energetic, active, restless etc. The second group consists of those juveniles who are generally shy, quiet, vindictive and highly selfish.

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A juvenile delinquent is a minor but with a major problem and shall turn into a criminal if not handled properly. With the rapid social changes arising out of urbanization, industrialization, migration of rural masses to cities and towns, urbanization and consequences of social disorganization, delinquency is rising in all the developing countries like India. There is rebellion against the existing authority etc. Of course, not all are guilty of delinquent acts but number of crimes and delinquencies are increasing day by day. The crimes committed by the young students (student delinquency) inside the educational institutions against its laws, norms and outside are also on the rise. There are cognizable as well as non-cognizable offences committed by the school juveniles. Teenagers and youth are becoming more and problematic. Authorities, parents and teachers, who are interested in social welfare and responsible for shaping the personality of younger generation are faced with the phenomenon of delinquency. It is high time to take appropriate measures to check it. Students and youth unrest, their mal-practices, mal-adjustment, damage to public property, destruction to the welfare of peace of humanity are increasing making alarm to the authority. These delinquents become aimless, ill-adjusted, but stimulated to aggression, leading to hostility and rebellions against parents, teachers and other authority for the satisfaction of their urges and needs. They not only create trouble, and difficulties for others but blocks their own wholesome growth. They becomes rebellious to protect their own integrity and attack the threatening situation either by escape by taking revenge.

3.4. Type of Delinquency:

Delinquents can be classified as the extrovert and introvert. The extroverts are open, adventurous and uninhibited. The introverts are open, adventurous and uninhabited. The introvert are schemy, silent, repressed and cautious type. Extrovert became hardened
with punishment and are cured by love. Introvert are not so easily controllable, curable or divertable. Delinquent behaviour covers a wide range from murder to defying one's parents, from armed robbery to petty pilfering. Most instances of delinquency, however, seem to fall into four main categories; theft, violence towards property, controvention of status laws and unruly behaviour in groups, which has a high nuisance value for fellow citizens and which may appear menacing because of the noise and physical activities involved. It is possible to classify delinquents according to the offences. Some offences are found to be more in incidence than others. It is sometimes estimated that stealing, pilfering and burglary are the commonest of all the crimes. The delinquent acts may be classified as follows:

1. **Acquisitive tendency:**

   Delinquent among the adolescents can be connected with the aim of satisfying acquisitive tendency and can be grouped as follows: Stealing, Robbery, Pilfering, Ordinary theft, Cattle theft, Drinking and Intoxication.

2. **Forgery**

   Another delinquent form is forgery. Adolescents commit forgery of several types. They may forge the signatures of their parents and authorities cheating them.

3. **Aggressive tendency**

   Many juvenile offences are due to aggressive tendencies in adolescent life. The aggression may be against intimate or animate objects of the environments. The mode of attack may be physical aggression or by less direct
method of mental cruelty such as: Damaging school/college property, Fighting, Bullying and Mockery, Cruelty, Torturing, Murder, Committing suicide, Dacoity, Destruction, House breaking, Violence, Riots, Assault and Man slaughter

4. The Sex delinquency:

Adolescents may also indulge in sex delinquencies as: Homo-sexuality / Sodomy, Exhibitionism, Making sexual suggestion, Sexual offences, Corruption by talk, Bestiality, Obscene drawing and writing, Kidnapping, Prostitution and Abducting and raping

5. Tendency to Escape

Truancy from School
Running away from home
Aimless wandering
Vagrancy
Non-support or neglect
Disobedient to parents or authority

For legal labelling, the persons between the age group of 7-18 who violate the provisions of the Children's Act, the Indian Penal Code [IPC] and the Criminal Procedure Code [Cr.PC] are considered as juvenile delinquents and the act of violation committed by the delinquents is called delinquency. The individuals between the age group of 18-21 who violate the provisions of IPC and Cr.PC are midway between criminals and delinquents and
are labelled as 'Young' or 'Youthful' offenders when convicted. After trial by the court, they are sent either to institutions or Borstal school or to prison depending on the seriousness or nature of the offence.

In a study of large group of delinquents, Ross (1954) encountered a type of lower-class delinquent youth who tended to become a stable family and who did appear particularly, troubled emotionally. Ross found another type of lower-class delinquents who are not likely to be described as emotionally normal. This type, with the defective super ego delinquent, was apt to come from a lower-class background, and are not likely to be described as emotionally normal. This sort of boy typically grew up in a very unstable family marked by divorce, desertion, alcoholism and consistent lack of naturance. In gang robberies and pocket-picking, young boys are invariably involved. Adult criminals keep a watch on young boys, drew them towards themselves initially, talking to them pleasantly, then tempt them with luxurious of life over a period of time ranging from three to six months, before training them in their trade. In house breaking, children are let through windows by removing a bar or two and are asked to open the main door inside to gain easy entry and easy escape. For carrying illicit liquor also young boys are often arrested. The adult criminals can influence their parents to pay seizable amount to bail them out or defend them through lawyers and get them released. In the Indian context both police and judiciary are very lenient towards offences committed by children and women. Delinquency tends to be a shared experience for both males and females.

3.5. Characteristics of Delinquents:

A number of characteristics have been observed on juvenile delinquents. A delinquent is a child who seriously or persistently misbehaves with cruel ways and indulged in riots in
playground, destroys school materials or properties and even projects temper tantrums in classroom. They have a feeling that they do not belong to the class or school and often stop going to school. According to Kvaraceus [1959], delinquency prone children show certain characteristics in school. The delinquents resent school routine and restrictions, dislike and are not interested in school programmes. The child fails in a number of subjects and repeats one or more grades. Frequent change of schools was also observed for the delinquent student. They intend to leave school as soon as possible. With limited academic ability, delinquents have vague academic and vocational plans.

3.6. Causative Factors

There has been a rising trend in the delinquent activities among the youth. This had become a problem faced by every society everywhere in the world. It is a complex social problem that has been vexing parents, teachers, social members and legal authorities alike. The growing incidents of delinquency are causing concern to every sensible citizen and caused great concern to the social scientists as well as reformers of different societies. The causative factors of juvenile delinquency may be many. That is why a comprehensive study of delinquency is essential in order to control the crime. Even a few decades ago, delinquent behaviour was not so common as it is today. Delinquency is a phenomenon effected by the growth of population. Tremendous increase in population in recent years bringing in its diverse social problems like congested living, erosion of age old values and growing unemployment among the youths has created in them a sense of aimlessness, helplessness and frustration. The recent spurt in delinquency may be a consequence of emotional upheaval of restlessness, of being unable to hold anything for certain by the young and the adolescent in the society. Delinquent acts are nothing but the manifestations of protest against the social order to which
the adolescents of today are unable to adjust. Delinquent behaviour in itself is the symptom of a deep malaise of a society. If left untreated, it will corrupt the whole social fabric. The youth today live in a world of crisis. Their hopes and aspirations, desires and demands seek fulfillment in ways which the older generation finds difficult to approve. The conflict that give rise to aggressive behaviour in the youth from which emanates the adolescents’ desire to defy the existing social order to break all social norms. This leads youths towards social maladjustment. This is the reason why psychologists now consider adolescents socially maladjusted.

Juvenile delinquents usually tend to hail from broken homes, homes which are emotionally disturbed over the conditions of their lives. The children, who are slow in learning become frustrated with the requirements of the school and so on. In order to understand the nature of delinquents, it is necessary to discuss some of the factors associated with their behaviour deviations. This would enable to adopt social, emotional and educational programme for their control, rehabilitation and welfare.

The child who is played in a situation that does not satisfy their drives and motives lead to abnormal reactions with the prevailing environment as fighting, regressing, showing temper tantrums, etc. Shankar [1984] stated that “He is still forced down as a child as the parents or other superiors in the home thwart the adolescent desires of emancipation from the dependency of childhood, the child is frustrated and the conflicts lead to aggression, rebellion and anti-social acts. In this period when he feels independence of thought and action, has new outlook, and belief, which are often contrary to the social conventions, he comes in dash with the elders and is ill-adjusted.” The situation in adolescence, in the words of Dollard et al [1939], “his sphere of activities is circumscribed, his efforts to assert himself are suppressed,
his positions are definitely limited, his economic independence is not tolerated, his status as an adult is unrecognised and many of the restrictions of his childhood remains in force. Since frustration stimulates aggression and as the adolescent feels many frustrations, he is likely to show greater degree of aggressive behaviour. The young offenders mostly begin their criminal activities in early adolescence which being an undeterminate stage of psychological development, presents various conflicting impulses and desires which make the difficulty for the youth in social adjustment very acute and that is why adjustment occurs at this period of adolescence than at any other time in the developmental history of the individual. It has been observed that internal factors in terms of unconscious motives as a cause of delinquency. Though the boy was brought up in a healthy social environment, he manifests anti-social activities like stealing, destructiveness, truancy and wandering. Psychoanalysis revealed that the delinquent had fixation in the oral and odipal phase of psycho-sexual development. Several of these studies point out multiple causes, rather than any single cause for delinquency.

In contrast to the delinquency which is generated by a given sub-culture, much delinquency is an outgrowth of individual predicaments which might arise in any culture. Delinquency may be a form of problem-solving behaviour or a response to cumulative frustrations. Many delinquents are emotionally disturbed or have personality disorders (Glueck and Glueck 1940) which would make life a burden to them and to others even if they did not violate the law. However, most delinquents are emotionally disturbed children. They can openly express their aggressive impulses. In this respect, they have more of the vital spark and are more venturesome than disturbed youngsters who are entirely withdrawn and eventually are classified as mentally ill. Jersild (1978) found that delinquent acts frequently are aggressive acts springing from frustrations. All children however, meet innumerable frustrations without officially becoming delinquents. Many studies in the field of delinquency report low intelligence as related
to crime. Individuals with low intelligence are not able to understand social mores and cannot conform to them. They are also easily led away by adult criminals. Among girls, sex delinquency is an important category in which low intelligence becomes more suggestible. It is reported that five percent delinquents are mentally retarded. There are studies which report delinquents to be high in neuroticism and psychotism [Shanmugam 1975]. The delinquent act in the case of individuals with neurotism may take the form of compulsive act. Delinquency associated with psychotism has a long history of stress and consequent emotional disturbance which express itself in violent outburst. Personality inventories and clinical observations indicate that delinquent and criminals are somewhat more neurotic than the general population, but the differences are not marked significantly.

Bengalee [1975] studied maladjustment among juveniles in Bombay observed that maladjustment was greater among boys than girls. About 50.9% were socially maladjusted children due to low intellectual conditions showed considerably more symptoms of depression, hostility towards parents, and emotional tensions. The physically handicapped were more introvert and had neurotism. According to the teachers' estimate, the maladjusted children were nervous, aggressive, and showed symptoms of psychosomatic nature. As for the home conditions, it was revealed that material deprivation was more likely to have ill effects. Under achievement occurred more frequently among children who have emotional problems and those who came from low socio-economic backgrounds and also from immigrant families. Booz [1968] made an intensive case study of juvenile delinquents and found to have more fantasies, Kalique [1966] found step children to be characterised by a greater amount of insecurity feeling and anxiety than children with mothers.
In the delinquent character, the ego or the self becomes weak and insignificant. It is mostly governed by the 'pleasure principle' or the momentary pleasure seeking impulses. The ego has to decide which of the impulses can find expression and it is to be guided and supported in his decision by the conscience or the super-ego. But since the system of values or the conscience of the potential delinquent is still in the rebellious and weak state due to lack of proper identification with weak and inconsistent parents, it has not acquired enough independence and strength to put a check on the impulse, the impulse have the upper hand. The weakness of the ego is also enhanced due to lack of sublimation in intellectual or social activities and the super-ego being inadequate gives no support to the ego. The result is that if the persons in authority are absent and if there is no outside forbidding force, the delinquent, find no checking force outside and having no inside restriction, is driven to committing the offence. Thus according to Frieldlander (1967), the delinquent character formation, which finds itself unable to withstand and control impulses regardless of the consequences, results from three factors viz., the strength of unmodified instinctive urges, the weakness of the ego and the lack of independence and strength of the super-ego. But certain delinquencies are found to be neurotic symptoms, arising from the frustration of erotic impulses. Some delinquents are unstable psychotic individuals whose difficulties and delinquent behaviour are largely due to unconscious sexual problems. The psychoanalysts [Pearson 1956] attribute kleptomania and hence stealing in women, to an unconscious or repressed wish to possess the penis and arson or interest in destruction and flames, to the fixation to the anal and urethral stages of libidinal development. Shankar (1984) stated that with very strict, rigid and dominating parent or the super-ego of the child at first glance is good, polite, courteous, obedient and dependable but deeper still he is troubled, shy and rebellious.
His ego does not allow to develop and is very weak to check the upsurge of repressed and suppressed impulses, which find overt expression, though in a concealed and distorted form of neurotic symptoms, also, the super-ego, being too strict does not approve of their free and direct gratification.

The central Psycho-analytic proposition about delinquency is that the adolescent withdraws the erotic attachment from the parents and re-establish them with extra familial peers. In the transition entailed by this requirement the adolescent is especially prone to act for several reasons. According to Spiegel [1951] diminished attachments to parents weaken the internalised social control that has been established. In psycho-analytic terms, withdrawal of cathexis from psychological representatives of the parents weakens the force of the super-ego. This leaves the individual more free to express forbidden wishes of behaviour. According to Blos [1962] psychic disengagement from internalised objects of love and hate is experienced as a severe deprivation of stimulation, emotions are flattened and the fantasy of life is impoverished.

(i) Psycho-social factor

Psycho-social factors responsible for juvenile delinquency may be categorised into: early home experience and the social and economic aspects of the child’s environment. Early home experience means certain unpleasant experiences faced by the child at home during his early childhood which leads to the deviation of behaviour. The second aspect of psycho-social factor is related to the poor social and economic life of the child which would lead to the practice of anti-social elements.
(ii) **Physiological factor**

In analysing the physiological factor, brain damage is considered to be the cause of delinquency. Brain damage may result from poor parental care, a difficult delivery, inadequate post-natal care, infant malnutrition and due to infections and diseases.

(iii) **Learning disability**

The delinquents are mostly drop outs of the school. Critchley [1964], a British authority in reading and language disorders, found 75 percent of the delinquents he studied, to be functionally illiterates. It is therefore, understood that learning disability may be one of the factors of delinquency. Those children are found to be slow learners, emotionally disturbed, mildly retarded and other belong to minority group.

3.6.1 **Family Size and Birth Order**:

Family size means the number of siblings in a family and Birth order refers to the ordinal position in the birth sequence among the siblings. Research findings reveal that family size and birth order are related to juvenile delinquency. Glueck and Glueck (1950) observed that compared to non-delinquent group, delinquent group was more likely to come from large families. This finding is further supported by Hirschi (1969) from his study of juvenile delinquency as children from large families are more likely than children from small families to have committed delinquent acts. Similar findings have been reported by West and Farringston (1973), Ernst and Angst (1983). On the other hand, Sarkar (1987) in his study of relation between size of family and delinquency found that medium size families are responsible for the causes of delinquency. Sharma (1989) reported that 80 per cent of the delinquent children come from large families consisting of 6 to 14 members of the household. The research evidence indicate that more delinquents are likely to come from larger families than from smaller.
3.6.2 Broken Home:

Broken home may be defined as a family where at least one parent is absent. This absence may be due to divorce, death or desertion. It is, thus, a family where only one parent is present. Many researchers use the term ‘single parent’ for broken home (Barker, 1987). Dornbusch, et al (1985) in their study of ‘Single parents’ extended household and control of adolescent found that the proportion of delinquency among the mother only household was greater than with the two natural parents even when social class and income were taken into account. The study also reveals that the finding was true not only for female but also for father only household. In the case of mother only household the presence of second adult could reduce the chances of delinquency. Adult may be anyone, grand mother, friend, aunt (other than step father). Juveniles living with step fathers are found to engage in delinquency in as much as those living with only mother. Presence of step-father also produces stronger negative impact on male than female juveniles. Steinberg (1987) in his Self Survey of 65 Adolescents in Modison and Wisconsin found that those living in step-parent families were as much at risk of becoming delinquents as their peers living in single parent family. Shukla (1977) in his study found that home structure and material facilities are related to delinquency. Pathak (1967) concluded from his study of “Social Background of the Delinquent Child” that the social and cultural background of the juveniles are the main causes of juvenile delinquency. Home condition, thus, plays an important part in the development of juvenile delinquency. Hence, children living in homes with both natural parents are much less likely to become involved in delinquent behaviour than children from broken homes.

In a broken family, a child is deprived of his basic needs to be loved, recognised and understood. Failure to meet these basic needs often result in dissatisfaction and violence in the child. The development of a child’s personality is, thus, greatly moulded by what he learns during his early life.
3.6.3 **Marital Conflict**:

Marital conflict within the family also contributes to the causes of juvenile delinquency. Emery (1982) and Gove and Crutchfield (1982) concluded after conducting extensive literature reviews that it is parental conflict in the family rather than separation per se which results in delinquency. According to Chokalingam (1984) “the home conditions, particularly lack of harmonious relations between the parents gains importance in the normal development of the personality of the children”. Srivastava (1963) found that out of 123 cases, 94 cases are from families where parent engaged in regular quarrels. Sharma (1989) also states that parents’ quarrels or marital conflict play significant part in causing delinquent behaviour among the children.

Marital conflicts may occur due to disagreement of the married partners over basic goals or values. In a family where there is marital conflict, the child does not know what to do and which side to take. If the child takes the side of one parent, another parent may resent it. In this situation, it is very difficult for the child to stay close and show affection to both parents. Conflicting parent thus make home life distressing and create anti-social attitudes in the minds of the children. The child finds home life unattractive and miserable. Unless the child finds happiness and enjoys the home life, he tries to seek satisfaction outside the home. This attitude of the child results in run away from home etc. He may gradually expose himself to indecent film shows, gang influence, and lure of easy life. In this way, the conflicting parents model their children the ways of deviant behaviour. In short, the development of the child’s personality is greatly influenced by the family in which he lives. Marital conflict in the family often causes juvenile delinquency.
3.6.4 Faulty Parental Discipline and Supervision:

Family is the first training centre for the child. Faulty parental discipline and supervision may often cause delinquency among the children. According to Quay (1987) "Poor and erratic discipline practices contribute both directly and indirectly to the development of delinquent behaviour. Parents may contribute directly to the anti-social behaviour by failing adequately and consistently to label, track, and check delinquent behaviour, and by modelling and reinforcing aggressive anti-social modes of behaviour. Both in terms of opportunities and consequences the family provides the training ground for the child to become skilled in the use of coercive modes of dealing with other people. The resulting high frequency performance of anti-school aggressive behaviour contributes to delinquency directly by increasing the likelihood of rejection by normal peers and association with aggressive anti-social peers". According to Healy and Bonner (1926) 40 percent of their samples of 4000 juvenile delinquents came from homes where the parents did not exercise even a minimum amount of discipline. McCord and McCord (1975) in their study of the effects of parental role model found that (1) Boys reared by parent both of whom were loving were generally no criminal (2) Boys reared in families where only one parent was loving were strongly affected both by methods of discipline and by the parental role model (3) In families where neither parents was loving, the crime rate reached a high level regardless of the parental model and (4) Among subjects whose discipline has not been consistent, parental affection seemed to have a stronger influence on criminality. Wilson (1980) also found that parents who lacked in discipline and supervision were more likely to have delinquent children than those who were strict in discipline.

Sarkar (1987) stated from his study of the relation between discipline of father and delinquency that punitive type of discipline often causes juvenile delinquency. Thus, if the
parents were criminals, there is every chance that the children in most cases, turn out to be criminals or delinquents. It is because criminal parents failed to maintain proper control and supervision of their children. Harsh punishment may also turn the child to be more aggressive and violent. Similarly, lack in discipline may also cause delinquency. Some parents used to give their children more than enough to buy their daily needs. In this way, they unknowingly help their children to love money. Some parents also encourage their children to steal because of poverty, ignorance or as a profession. While some parents do too many things for their children, others do too little depriving them to the guidance they needed. Thus, in a family where there is strict supervision and constant love from the parents, the chance of delinquency is minimum. Contrary to this, where there is no parental love and proper supervision children are likely to become delinquents.

3.6.5 Economic Causes:

Study to the causes of criminal behaviour in terms of economic condition can be traced back to the writing of Marx. Marx believed that private ownership of property results in poverty and it distinguishes those who own the means of production from those whom they exploited for their economic benefits. As a result of their poverty, the exploited turn to crime. According to this view, economic system was the basic cause of crime and delinquency. The pioneer in the study of correlation between poverty and delinquency was an Italian Fornasari di Verce (Teeters and Reinemann, 1952). He pointed out that the poor class of Italy amounting to 60 percent of the total population contributed 85 to 90 percent of the convicted criminals. Burt (1938) in his studies came to the conclusion that over half of the total amount of juvenile delinquency of London came from poor and very poor families. Studies conducted in India also show similar findings. Sheth (1961) in her study of economic basis of delinquency, reveals poor economic
conditions as the main causes of delinquency. Shukla (1977) stated that poor economic conditions of the families were found related to delinquency. In India, where majority of the people live in poverty, delinquency is closely connected with poverty. An analysis of the statistics available with the national crime records bureau revealed that in the year 1991, 60.45 per cent of the juvenile delinquents came from the income group of below Rs. 501 per month, followed by the income group of Rs.501 to 1000 per annum (22.88%). This trend is an indication of the fact that poor economic condition contributes to the problem of juvenile delinquency. (Government of India,1991). Economic factors play a vital role in causing juvenile delinquency even in the state of Mizoram. The poor children see everyday the life of the rich people which they could not afford. Their inability to have certain amenity which they thought they deserve often cause children to resort to delinquent acts. Poverty may also cause undernourishment and poor physical health which, in turn, may also lead to lowered resistance to the temptations that confront them. Being human beings, their thoughts turn to self pity or envy. These feelings often result in frustration and bitterness which may lead to deviant behaviour.

3.6.6 Slum Neighbourhood:

Slum neighbourhood provides a good ground for the growth of juvenile delinquency. No juvenile is born delinquent and, thus, delinquent behaviour is learnt. In her study of disadvantaged inner city families in Britain, Wilson (1975) found that 62 per cent of the delinquent children came from 16 per cent of the families. Farington et al (1975) also found that 4 per cent of the families from a working class neighbourhood in London produced 47 per cent of the convicted delinquents. According to Basu (1984) the gambling, smoking, vagrancy, truancy, indecent film show, pornographic literature, immoral, and indecent way of life of the neighbours are the factors which promote delinquency. Battacharyya (1976) states that deviant behaviour of a youth is often the reflection of his surrounding.
As delinquent behaviour is acquired while interaction with others, children could easily learn and imitate the way of life of those who indulged in gambling, crime etc. From the above, it appears that the children are exposed to different kinds of anti-social activities in the neighbourhood and once a child is lured by anti-social behaviour, it is very difficult to come out of it. Slum neighbourhood is, therefore, an important factor in the causation of delinquency.

3.6.7 **Urbanization and Industrialization**

Urbanization and industrialization have been considered important factors in stimulating crime and delinquency. According to Singh and Khan (1983) (a) the process of urbanization stimulates the incidence of crime (b) the magnitude of the rate of urban growth in a geo-political unit finds to influence the nature and extent of crime in the constituent areas (c) a state having a high urban growth rate is likely to face a spurt in violent crimes and a state with lower urban growth in property offences and (d) while urbanization escalates violence it may lower the incidence of property offences. The urban growth has been greatly stimulated by the new method of production and is associated with industrial revolution. The factory system required a concentrated population rather than dispersed one. For the hope of getting jobs and of high wages in the new factories, many people abandoned their rural jobs and moved to the industrial centres. Immigration produced not only a great population, but also a population having diverse cultural background. They brought with them a language, a culture and a religious traditions different from those of established groups in the industrial centres (Waegel, 1989). Majority of these immigrants were poor and had only little formal education. Many workers in the industrial centres had work very hard to earn their daily bread. They had to work away from home and come back late at night. There is little time for them to teach their children the good way of life or to exert control over them. Under this condition, the children are free and may get into bad
companionship leading to delinquent behaviour. Friday and Hage (1976) state that increase in juvenile delinquency is due to industrialization in many countries of the world. Sheth (1961) from her study of 400 offenders and 180 non-offenders in Greater Bombay, Ahmedabad and Poona concluded that with rapid social change the coincidence of delinquency tend to increase. Industrialization entails residential mobility, workers particularly skilled, trained or professional are constantly on the move to get better and different jobs. High residential mobility lessens neighbourhood stability which is also considered an important factor for informal control of delinquent activity. In view of the above, it may rightly be stated that urbanization and industrialization are factors causing juvenile delinquency. In addition to the causes mentioned above, other factors, namely, social class, mass media, school etc. breed delinquency in one or the other way. The statistic on juvenile delinquency in India reveals that the lower the social class the greater is the likelihood of involvement in delinquent behaviour. Increased exposure to violence in television, video, cinema and pronographic literature also cause delinquency.

3.7 Rehabilitation and Remedial Measures

The Juvenile Justice Act contemplates three types of institutions such as: (1) Juvenile home which is intended for the reception of neglected juveniles (2) special homes which is meant for the reception of delinquent juveniles and (3) observation homes for juveniles and delinquent juveniles which are established for the temporary reception of juveniles during the pendency of any inquiry regarding them under this Act. "The professed purpose of institutions under the Children Acts is to provide for a protective and rehabilitative umrella to children in conflict with law, as also for those found in situations of social maladjustment and vulnerability to crime. The more vocalized purposes of using the institutional apparatus of delinquency control are to provide for the care, protection, maintenance, welfare, training,
education rehabilitation and aftercare of delinquent children, as also for those living in situations of social marginality. The institutions are mainly intended to act as reformatories where the delinquent and the distressed children could be trained and prepared for a productive future.” (Srivastava, 1989). From the above, it is abundantly clear that the Juveniles have to be looked after well in the institutions and should be given not only accommodation and maintenance but also care for their physical, educational and moral needs.

The first institution specifically created for the purpose of corrections of delinquent youths was Hospice of San Micheile. It was opened by Pope Clement XI in 1703 in Rome. Youth below twenty years of age who were incorrigible and those who had been found to have committed offences by the Court were housed in this institution. The main aim of the institution was to teach them discipline as well as a trade. Discipline in the institution was very strict and severe (Teeters and Reinemann, 1952). In Britain, the pioneer group to work for the unfortunate juveniles was the Philanthropic Society of London founded in 1788. In the United States, concern about the imprisonment of children along with the adults led to the creation of House of Refuge in New York in 1825. This was quickly followed by the Boston House of Reformation in 1826 and the Philadelphia House of Refuge in 1828. The first reformation school, the Lyman School for Boys was started in 1846 in Massachusetts, followed by the Maine Boys Training School and the New York State Agricultural and Industrial School in 1853 and 1859 respectively. In the United States, most of the States had established Juvenile Training facility by the year 1900.

In India, the idea of juvenile correction was not known until the mid-nineteenth century. Juveniles were committed to adult penal institutions or jails even on minor offences. Only at the beginning of the twentieth century the need to separate juvenile offenders from
the adult offenders had been realised. The Indian Jails Committee (1919-20) criticized this method of treatment and laid the foundation of Juvenile Correction System in the country. Madras, Bengal and Bombay were the first three states to pass Children Acts in the country. The Central Children Act 1960 provided for the establishment of approved schools, Certified school or Special schools for the delinquent juvenile and children home or Fit persons Institutions for the non-delinquent juveniles like destitutes and orphans. The Juvenile Justice Act 1986 also provided more or less the same type of institutional facilities.

Juvenile institution may exist with different names in different parts of the world but the main aim and objectives of the institutions are the same, that is, to correct the delinquent. In the United States, adjudicated delinquents are sent to the training schools, Mental hospitals, Group Homes, Community based day treatment programme. Community based secured facility etc. While some institutions like training schools maintain high security levels, others function at lower security levels which provide a cottage type institution (Waegel, 1989). In England, there are also different types of institutions dealing with juvenile delinquents. The juvenile institutions where the child or young persons are committed include (1) Probation Home (2) Remand Home (3) Approved Schools (4) Detention Centre (5) Probation Hostel (6) Attendance Centre and (7) Local authority as a “fit person” which may again send to a children Home (Attar, 1964).

There are also a number of institutions dealing with the problems of juvenile delinquency in the country. According to Singh (1993), all the institutions under the states are non-penal correctional institutions. These institutions blend control, protection, treatment, and rehabilitation in their programmes. In India there are three principal types of institutions: (i) government - run institutions (ii) semi-government institutions and (iii) voluntary organizations.
The government-run institutions are fully financed by the government. The semi-government organizations are partly financed by the government and partly by donations. In this case the salary of the employees and the establishment cost is met by the government. Voluntary institutions rely on personal contributions and occasional government aid. The main aims of these institutions are to provide educational, vocational, moral and spiritual training with a view to socialise and to develop skill in the juveniles. In other words, these institutions train and shape the juveniles for becoming good citizens of the country.

1) Government Institutions:

State Government sponsored institutions for juvenile delinquents are Observation Home or Remand Home and Certified School or Special Homes. These institutions are located in various parts of Aizawl.

a) Observation Home/Remand Home: Observation Home is a place where the juvenile is kept during the pendency of his trial in the juvenile court. Thus, as soon as juvenile accused is apprehended, he is sent to the Observation home or the Remand home till the case is decided by the juvenile court. It can be said as the first step in the method of juvenile correction. According to Section 11 (3) of the Juvenile Justice Act “Every observation home to which a juvenile is sent under this Act shall not only provide the juvenile with accomodation, maintenance and facilities for medical examination and treatment, but also provide him with facilities for useful occupation”. Every juvenile has been provided accommodation including clothing and bedding. Medical treatment is also given to the juveniles under observation. Each juvenile has to be examined by a certified medical officer within forty eight hours after admission to the home. An inmate who has been found or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease is to be isolated from other inmates or to be sent to the Government
Hospital. Vocational training has also been imparted to the inmates mainly in tailoring, knitting, carpentry, cane works etc. Indoor and out door games are also provided for him. Thus, Observation Home not only provides for accomodation, maintenance and facilities for medical examination and treatment of the juvenile but also provides him facilities for useful occupation such as tailoring and carpentry and also takes care of the recreational aspects.

b) Certified Schools / Special Homes: Under the Juvenile Justice Act, there are various alternatives before the Juvenile Court processes the cases of delinquent juveniles. Juveniles may be restored to their parents or guardians, or released on probation supervision with or without surety, or sent to the certified school/special homes. Juveniles are brought to this institution for the period until they cease to be juveniles, that is, 16 years for boys and 18 years for girls. However, the juvenile court in exceptional circumstances can reduce or extend beyond the time when the juvenile attains the age of eighteen years in case of a boy, or twenty years, in the case of girl. Thus certified school/special home is an institution where delinquent juveniles are remanded for a longer period and where accomodation, maintainance, education, vocational training and rehabilitation etc., are provided for the juveniles. The institution is not a penal but correctional one where total reformation and development of the concerned delinquent is the primary aim. The institutional programmes also include provisions as:

1) The institution provides for physical exercise and recreational facilities. The recreational facilities include radio, television, musical instrument, library, indoor games like carrom, table tennis etc.

2) The institution organises activities and programmes for the socio-cultural uplift of the inmates, viz., cultural events, parents-inmates-staff meeting and visit to outside institutions.
3) The non-formal educational programme has been developed with emphasis on health, social, moral and ethical aspects. Since formal education was not possible, facilities are made for inmates to attend schools outside institution.

2) Non-governmental institutions:

Non-Governmental institutions which provide services to the Juvenile would further be divided into religious and non-religious institutions.

Institutions of Church: There are institutions which are established and run by different churches or group of evangelical team. These correctional institutes are under the denominations like Presbyterian, Baptist, Salvation Army, Roman Catholic and the United Pentecostal church of Mizoram. The church provides services to the juveniles, pre-delinquent and post-delinquent stages in Mizoram. According to Neumeyer (1950) “Churches can provide spiritual guidance, help children gain a proper perspective of life and develop character, that enables them to overcome temptations and to face difficulties with confidence. They likewise can provide spiritual guidance by private counselling and through worship and instruction”. The churches conduct seminar, conference, worship etc. on the prevention and control of social evils including juvenile delinquency. Local church leaders from each locality or village participate in these seminars, conference and workshops. They discuss the problems being faced in their respective areas and work out plan for their future course of action. Local church leaders then launch house to house campaigns in their respective areas on the role and importance of family in proper upbringing of children. As personality traits of human beings start early in childhood, parents must be very careful in handling with their children. In addition to these, the churches include sermons and fellowship programmes exclusively for the young children in the regular church services.
3.8 Conclusion

The growing incidence of delinquency is posing a problem of very serious nature in Mizoram. This complex social problem has been vexing parents, teachers, socio-political leaders and legal authorities. Delinquent acts were uncommon a few decades ago. Simplicity in life was respected in this well knitted society. Old values which once moulded the behaviour of the younger generation are gradually disappearing. Now with the increase in population the younger generation is faced with the evils of rapid urbanisation like competition for jobs and desire to get rich by any means, aimlessness and aspiration for money and power which has given rise to juvenile delinquency. Parents being in different services 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 in the Mizo society has become very wide today. Mass media encouraging violent and criminal themes through films and cheap magazines may add to the causation of delinquency among the youth. Drugs addiction and AIDS have given another dimension to the pattern of delinquent acts committed by the youth. It is necessary to understand the environmental and sociological factors associated with juvenile delinquency. This will enable us to form a concrete understanding of the nature and dimensions of juvenile delinquency. The research will also help to adopt and evolve curative measures and to circumvate the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in the state of Mizoram.