CHAPTER 5

FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

Juvenile delinquency is a global phenomenon. It is one of the burning issues all over the world. Industrialisation in conjunction with urbanisation has shaken the very foundation of traditional mode of living. Social order is undergoing bewildering metamorphosis. The intensity and severity of juvenile unrest and offences are generally determined by the social, economic and cultural conditions prevailing in a country. The ongoing process of urbanisation in developing countries is contributing to juvenile involvement in deviant behaviour. The basic features of the urban environment foster the development of new forms of social behaviour deriving mainly from the weakening of primary social relations and control, increasing reliance on the media at the expense of informal communication, and the tendency towards anonymity. These patterns are generated by the higher population density, degree of heterogeneity, and numbers of people found in urban contexts.

The rate of crime and delinquency is a reflection of the degree of disorganization of the control mechanisms in a society. Social disorganization is high for a locale when residents do not get along with one another, do not belong to local organisations geared to the betterment of the community, holds different values about acceptable behaviour on the street, and are unlikely to intervene when they encounter wrong doing. High rates of crime and delinquency is a natural outcome when community activities are weak.

The present study, conducted with the objective to investigate the influence of four social institutions the family, the school, the religious institution and the mass media in the formation of deviant behaviour among juvenile delinquents. The data were collected through a self structured interview schedule by the researcher and were analysed following
descriptive techniques. The major findings that are obtained from the analysis and interpretations of the study are as follows:

5.1 FINDINGS REGARDING PERSONAL INFORMATION OF THE SAMPLE

I) It was found that the sampled population was mostly from semi-urban areas (42.33%) followed by rural (36.00%) and urban (21.67%). Same trend of distribution was found individually in all the four different offence categories except physical offence category where numbers of rural individuals (9.67%) were more than reported from semi-urban areas (7%).

II) The whole population interviewed was comprised of 85.67 per cent of male and 14.33 per cent of female individuals.

III) The result reveals that the highest number of population (38.33%), in overall sample, was in secondary level followed by 40.67 per cent in upper primary level, 13.00 per cent in the lower primary group. Children exposed up to higher secondary level were the lowest in number (8%) in the sample.

IV) The result of the study reveals that the sampled population was highest (58.67%) in the age group 15 to 18 years followed by 38 per cent in 11 to 14 years and 3.33 per cent in the age group 7 to 10 years. In behavior offence 7.00 per cent, 6.67 per cent and 0.67 per cent individuals were found in the age group of 15 to 18, 11 to 14 and 7 to 10 years respectively. The highest numbers of individuals (33%) were found in property offence in the age group of 15 to 18 years followed by 20.33 per cent in the age group of 11 to 14 years in the same offence category. Only 1.33 per cent was recorded in the property offence in the age group of 7 to 10 years. In physical offence category, the numbers of individuals were 13.00 per
cent, 8.00 per cent and 1.00 per cent in the age group of 15 to 18, 11 to 14 and 7 to 10 years respectively. Miscellaneous offences were recorded by 5.67 per cent, 3.00 per cent and 0.33 per cent in the age group of 15 to 18, 11 to 14 and 7 to 10 years respectively.

V) The numbers of middle child were more (42.33%) in the study followed by eldest child (28.33%), youngest child (26%) and only child (3.33%).

VI) The sampled population was predominantly represented by the followers of Hinduism (79.33%) followed by Islamism (19%) and Christianity (1.33%). The same trend of distribution of the sample was observed in all the four offence categories by religion.

VII) Sampled population was more from semi-urban locale, yet the number joint families were very low (17%). Most of the families were of nuclear type (83%). 10.67 per cent and 3.67 per cent of the individuals from nuclear and joint families respectively are committing behavior offences. The numbers of individuals committing property, physical and miscellaneous offences from nuclear and joint families were 47.67 per cent and 7.00 per cent, 17.33 per cent and 4.67 and 7.33 per cent and 1.67 per cent respectively.

VIII) The number of intact family in the sample was 56.33 per cent and the number of broken family was 43.67 percent. In all offence categories the number of individuals was more from the intact families than the broken families.

IX) A large number of the fathers of the delinquent children were found to be illiterate (32%) followed by 10.67 per cent, 23.33 per cent, 18.33 per cent, 6.00 per cent, 8.33 per cent and 1.33 per cent having educational exposure up to lower primary, upper primary, secondary, higher secondary, graduation and above respectively.
X) More than half (55.33%) of the mothers of the delinquent children were found to be illiterate followed by 15.33 per cent, 16.67 per cent, 8.00 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 0.67 per cent and 0.67 per cent having educational exposure up to lower primary, upper primary, secondary, higher secondary, graduation and above respectively. Same trend of descending order from illiterate to higher level of educational exposure had been observed in all the four different offence categories with a minor exception.

XI) Most of the fathers of the delinquent children were casual worker (31.33%) followed by farmer (20.67%), retail trade (16.67%), private sector (16.33%) and Govt. service (15.00%).

XII) 68.33 per cent of the mothers of the delinquent children were house wife followed by casual work (23.33%), retail trade (4.00%), private sector (2.67%) and Govt. service (1.67%). In all categories of offences mothers were found more to be house wife. In casual work, retail trade, private sector and Govt. service, the number of mothers were found to exhibit a descending order starting from house wife.

XIII) Most of the families (67%) were having no criminal history, only 33 per cent of the families were found to have criminal records. In all offence categories the numbers of families having criminal history were less except behavior offence where numbers of families having criminal history were more (7.33%) than the families having no criminal history (7%).

XIV) 18.67 per cent delinquents came from well off families whereas 24.00 per cent from families of well economic condition. 20.00 per cent of them found from very
poor families and the remaining 37.33 per cent were from families of poor economic condition.

5.2 FINDINGS REGARDING THE INFLUENCE OF FAMILY

I) Only 3.00 per cent of the respondents experienced a home environment full of love and affection where 27.00 per cent found a harmonious environment. 36.33 per cent respondents had been brought up in a home where no cordial relationship existed among the family members and the other 19.33 per cent experienced a home environment full of tense. The remaining 14.33 per cent respondents came from quarrelsome home environment.

II) 2.33 per cent parents maintain authoritative discipline to control their children while 6.33 per cent followed authoritarian type of discipline at home. 28.67 per cent respondents enjoyed permissive type of discipline from their parents while 31.00 per cent parents were found to be lenient in maintaining discipline at home. The last 31.67 per cent parents are totally indifferent to their children.

III) 3.00 per cent parents were very strong in monitoring the behavior of their children and 5.33 per cent are found to be strong regarding keeping eyes on their children’s activities. 29.67 per cent respondents reported that their parents are average in monitoring their behavior whereas 35.33 per cent parents rarely conscious about their children’s activities. The other 26.67 per cent delinquents were totally deprived of parental monitoring.

IV) Only 0.67 per cent and 2.67 per cent respondents experienced a high level of intimacy with their parents. 30.33 per cent parents were found to maintain average
level of intimacy with their children while 43.00 per cent and 23.33 per cent maintain very low level of intimacy with their kids.

V) Only 33.67 per cent delinquents enjoy a minimum level of communication with their parents while 44.00 per cent parents used to communicate with their kids rarely. The other 18.67 per cent respondents are found to suffer from very weak communication with their parents that their parents are never concerned with their personal problems and future plan.

VI) 47.33 per cent parents have indifferent attitudes towards their kids whereas 14.67% have experienced hostile attitudes from their parents. Only 11.00 per cent parents show affectionate attitudes to their children and 27.00 per cent a have friendly attitudes towards their kids. No parent in the study found to show respectful attitudes to their children.

VII) Only 1.66 per cent parents maintain a very high level of moral values in their day to day lives. 15.33 per cent parents are found to be of strong moral values while 39.67 per cent respondents reported that their parents maintained only minimum level of moral values. 34.00 per cent and 9.33 per cent delinquents expressed that their parents are weak and very weak regarding moral laws respectively.

VIII) Only 8.67 per cent parents are very conscious in fulfilling the needs and wants of their kids while 25.67 per cent respondents have come from families where parents can fulfill their minimum needs. 28.67 per cent and 24.00 per cent parents are weak and very weak respectively in fulfilling the minimum needs and wants of their kids due to economic hardship.
IX) 5.67 per cent delinquents enjoy a very healthy relation with their family members while 30.33 per cent reported healthy relation with their family members. A total of 45.33 per cent expressed that they have no cordial relation with their family members.

X) 20.33 per cent respondents reported that they never faced violent behaviour from their family members whereas 19.67 per cent faced such behaviour only rarely. 15.00 per cent and 11.00 per cent delinquent children faced violence often and very often respectively in their family. 34.00 per cent experienced violence sometimes. 60.00 per cent of the children were found to experience violence in their family.

5.3 FINDINGS REGARDING THE INFLUENCE OF SCHOOL

I) 7.67 per cent respondents liked to stay at school most and enjoyed school life always, 13.33 per cent enjoyed almost always while 40.00 per cent of them enjoyed school life sometimes. 23.67 per cent and 15.33 per cent delinquent children responded negatively by commenting rarely and never respectively. A total of 79.00 per cent delinquent children were found not enjoying school life.

II) 4.33 per cent responded very interesting to the course content imparted at school, 16.33 per cent interesting and for 28.67 per cent the course content were not so interesting. 32.00 per cent children expressed that their course contents are dull while 18.67 per cent were found to comment as very dull. A total of 79.34 per cent of them were found to respond negatively regarding their interest to course content.

III) 8.00 per cent thought that what they learned at the school was very important for their later live, 15.00 per cent as important while 40.00 per cent of them regarded the
school learning not so important. For 12.67 per cent respondents, school learning was not at all important whereas 24.33 per cent of them felt it slightly important. A total of 70.00 per cent of the delinquent children were found to respond negatively to the learning of school in their later life.

IV) 40.00 per cent, 28.67 per cent and 15.67 per cent of the children were found to express that their schools were not so strict, weak and very weak respectively in respect of maintaining discipline. Only 3.33 per cent responded their school discipline as very strict and another 12.33 per cent as strict. The total number of negatively responding children was 84.34 per cent.

V) Teachers’ knowledge about students’ engagement outside the classroom is mournfully poor. Only 3.00 per cent delinquent children opined that their teachers are very strict while 4.67 per cent are strict in this regard. 34.00 per cent reported as not so strict, 40.00 per cent weak and 18.33 per cent very weak regarding teachers’ knowledge about students’ activities. A total of 92.33 per cent delinquent children were found to respond negatively.

VI) Only 1.33 per cent delinquent children experienced respectful attitude while 6.67 per cent reported affectionate attitude from their teachers. 30.00 per cent of them found indifferent attitude, 41.00 per cent disrespectful and 21.00 per cent experienced hostile attitude from their teachers. 92.00 per cent children experienced negative attitude from their teachers.

VII) Most of the heads in the eyes of delinquent children are not adequate to lead the school in a right way. Only 4.67 per cent respondents reported their school heads were very reasonable person while for 16.33 per cent expressed as reasonable person. Remaining 26.00 per cent, 42.33 per cent and 10.67 per cent expressed their school
heads to be indifferent, lenient and very lenient respectively. Negatively responded number of children was 79.00 per cent.

VIII) Only 4.67 and 11.00 per cent of the respondents enjoyed healthy interpersonal relation with their classmates. For 35.33 per cent of them the influence of interpersonal relation with their classmate was found to be indifferent. 28.67 per cent and 20.33 per cent of the children found to respond the interpersonal relationship as weak and very weak respectively. A total of 84.33 per cent respondents negatively responded.

IX) 4.87 per cent delinquents opined their peers to be very attentive in class and have a study habit and 11.00 per cent as meek and mild. Children found to discussing film heroes and heroines (35.33%), in backbiting and gossiping (28.67%) and in discussing about opposite sexes and pornography (20.33%) is very large (84.33%).

X) In this study 6.33 per cent respondents expressed that their school environment is very supportive for all round development of their personality while for 16.33 per cent it is supportive. 43.66 per cent, 24.66 per cent and 9.00 per cent opined it to be not so supportive, oppressive and very oppressive respectively. A total of 77.32 per cent children commented that their school environment is not supportive for their all round development.

5.4 FINDINGS REGARDING THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION

I) Only 2.00 per cent attended religious institution several times in a week, 10.00 per cent once in a week, 30.33 per cent once in a month, 27.00 per cent once in a year and the rest 30.67 per cent never attended religious services. Total number of children not attending religious institutions is 88.00 per cent.
II) It is found that 5.67 per cent of them prayed God very often while 21.00 per cent often prayed God. 27.67 per cent of them were found to pray God sometimes. The number of delinquent children who rarely pray God were 28.33. 17.33 per cent of them were found never pray God (Table 38 and figure 36). The total number of delinquent children not interested in praying God is 73.33 per cent.

III) It is found that 9.67 per cent of the respondents informed that their parents are very religious and for 28.33 per cent religious. 34.33 per cent of the parents are found to be not so religious whereas 20.67 per cent respondents reacted negatively to their parents’ religiosity by saying that their parents are irreligious. 7.00 per cent of the children told that their parents are very irreligious. A total of 62.00 per cent delinquent children were found to negatively comment on their parents’ religiosity.

IV) It is found that 3.67 per cent delinquent children reported the religious environment of the community as very liberal followed by 15.33 per cent as liberal and 28.33 per cent as not so liberal. 33.67 per cent believed their religious environment to be dogmatic. The remaining 19.00 per cent expressed their religious environment to be very dogmatic. A total of 81.00 per cent commented their religious environment as not liberal.

V) It is found that 1.33 per cent respondents found social control very strong followed by 3.00 per cent strong. 26.67 per cent delinquent children expressed social control as not so strong while majority of them 39.00 per cent and 30.00 per cent are found to comment social control as weak and very weak respectively. Altogether 95.67 per cent of the children were found to comment social control by religious institution as negative.
VI) It is found that a little per cent of the delinquent children (0.67% and 5.67 %) responded positively by commenting very often and often respectively. 24.67 per cent of them responded as sometimes. The remaining major part of them expressed as rarely (35.67%) and never (33.33%). Altogether 93.67 per cent of the children expressed negative role in solving personal problems by religious institutions.

VII) It is found that 4.33 per cent and 14.33 per cent respondents responded very often and often respectively. 32.67 per cent and 19.67 per cent responded negatively by saying rarely and never respectively. The remaining 29.00 per cent commented sometimes in following religious rites. The number of negatively commenting children is 81.34 per cent.

VIII) It is found that only 0.33 per cent and 9.33 per cent delinquent children responded positively regarding the importance of religious institution for maintaining law and order in society by commenting very often and often. 40.33 per cent and 22.00 per cent responded negatively by saying rarely and never. The other 28.00 per cent were found to believe sometimes in the importance of religious institutions in maintaining order in the society. A total of 90.33 per cent children commented negatively about the role of religious institution in maintaining law and order in society.

IX) It is observed that 0.67 per cent and 11.00 per cent respondents learned good manners from religious institution. 34.33 per cent and 17.67 per cent responded negatively by saying rarely and never respectively. The other 36.33 per cent responded sometimes regarding learning good manners from religious
institutions. A total of 88.33 per cent of the children were found to comment negatively.

X) It is revealed that 2.67 per cent and 10.67 per cent respondents learned to be sympathetic from religion. 28.67 per cent, 42.67 per cent and 15.33 per cent expressed negative comment (86.67%) by saying sometimes, rarely and never respectively.

5.5 FINDINGS REGARDING THE INFLUENCE OF MASS MEDIA

I) It is revealed that a few (3.67%) of the delinquent children have very high media exposure while 14.00 per cent of them are of having high exposure. 38.33 per cent of them are of having high exposure. The remaining 17.33 per cent and 26.67 per cent respondents are found of having very low and low media exposure respectively. A total of 56.00 per cent respondents are found to have high media exposure.

II) It is found that 6.67 per cent respondent experience parental supervision very often at the time of media enjoying while 15.67 per cent of them often find supervision. 30.67 per cent sometimes experience supervision and the remaining 25.00 per cent and 22.00 per cent respondents reported that they got parental supervision rarely and never respectively at the time of enjoying media. Most of the children (77.67%) were found not having parental supervision during their media exposure.

III) It is revealed that 9.33 per cent and 18.33 per cent of delinquent children were found to learn very often and often honesty and sympathy from media respectively. 34.67 per cent of them learned these two qualities from media sometimes. 20.33 per cent and 17.33 per cent expressed that they rarely and
never learned these two qualities from media. Total number of children expressing
negatively regarding learning honesty and sympathy from media is 72.33 per cent.

IV) It is revealed that 27.67 per cent delinquent children never think that the media
reflect reality while 35.67 per cent believe media programmes to be rarely real.
22.33 per cent of them believed the reflect on media to be real sometimes. The
remaining 11.00 and 3.33 per cent of them believed often and very often
respectively the media programmes to reflect reality. A total of 63.34 per cent of
the delinquent children reacted negatively.

V) It is revealed that 9.67 per cent are found to never tolerate media whereas 22.00
per cent rarely can tolerate. 33.00 percent of the respondents tolerate the media
programmes sometimes while 20.33 per cent were often found to be tolerant and
15.00 per cent very often.

VI) It is found that 21.00 per cent and 17.33 per cent respondents acknowledged easily
that their aggressive behaviour were the result of violent scenes seen in different
types of media while another 36.00 per cent also agree it by commenting
sometimes. 7.00 per cent and 18.67 per cent delinquent children expressed that
media violence played a little or no influence on them by commenting never and
rarely. The total number of children expressing media violence responsible for
their aggressive behaviour is 74.33 per cent.

VII) It is revealed that media imitation influenced 28.00 per cent delinquent children
sometimes. 16.00 per cent and 9.33 per cent of the children were found to imitate
often and very often. 27.67 per cent of the delinquent children were found to get
influenced by media imitation rarely and 19.00 per cent have never been
influenced by media imitation. A total of 53.33 per cent of the children were
found to imitate someone in media.
VIII) In the study 9.67 per cent and 22.00 per cent delinquent children responded negatively by saying never and rarely respectively. On 33.00 per cent the influence of identification with media characters were found to be sometime. 20.33 per cent and 15.00 per cent of them usually identified themselves with media characters often and very often respectively. A total of 68.33 per cent children were found to be identifying themselves with socially undesirable media characters.

IX) In the study 8.00 per cent and 20.33 per cent respondents replied negatively regarding importance of media by replying never and rarely respectively. 35.67 per cent felt the importance of media programmes in real lives sometimes. The number of children felt the importance of media programmes in real lives often and very often are 22.33 per cent and 13.67 per cent respectively. The total number of children found media programmes important for healthy living is 71.67 per cent.

X) It is found that 35.67 per cent and 16.00 per cent of the respondents in the present study responded positively by saying often and very often and think that media programmes are socially approved and reflect society’s real-self while another 28.33 per cent also feel it sometimes. 7.33 per cent and 12.67 per cent gave replied never and rarely respectively. The total number of children feeling media programmes having societal approval is 80.00 per cent.

5.6 IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

Children are always believed to be the most important asset of this planet and every possible effort should be made to provide equal opportunities for their development so that they become robust citizens of tomorrow.
A child is born innocent and if nurtured with utmost care and attention, will blossom with faculties, physical, mental, moral and spiritual, into a complete person of excellent stature. On the contrary, unhealthy surroundings, negligence of basic needs, wrong company and other abuses may turn a child to a delinquent. The rapidly changing patterns of modern lifestyle have created difficulty among young people regarding adjustment to new ways of life. They are seriously confronted with the problem of culture conflict and usually fail to differentiate between what is right and what is wrong which may so easily drive them to commit delinquent acts.

Juvenile crime is now a global problem of the planet earth. No nation of the world is free from the burning problem of juvenile delinquency. Though the behavioural problems of the children are an age-old problem of the earth, but now it takes a horrible shape. Open market economy not only brings a rapid change to the economic environment of India but also changes the socio-cultural environment from more traditional, supportive, cooperative and collective approach to a more individualistic approach which is detrimental to human development. Polluted culture can not create healthy and complete children.

This research study has been undertaken to leave an implication on the parents’ community, teachers’ community, persons connected with religious institutions, persons related to different types of media, police administration and the policy planners for children, officials and other individuals related to juvenile justice and all the adult members of the society. This study is believed to give an insight to the parents on the upbringing of their children. A child from the very day of his birth lives and grows up in the family. Family is the only primary socialising agent in a society. If a child does not find love and affection as well as support and supervision at home, he may often join groups of deviant nature outside the family.
It is also thought to leave valuable implication on the teachers’ community to maintain a healthy environment in the school campus. The school environment is not only of importance for learning and school performance, but also for the development of values, norms, behaviours and social skills. Teachers’ are the builders’ of the future generation of a nation. They are the only persons who get the children in a formal situation to influence directly and with full freedom within their classrooms and school campus. They can play a great role to prevent children from doing wrong by their positive role modeling and by the depth of their personalities.

Neighbourhood institutions play a great role in personality development of our children. Religious institution is a neighborhood institution and is an important agency of social control and contributes much to the development of the child. Persons involved in religious institutions in every locality are supposed to do their best for the welfare of the community. They are supposed to help each other and advise people in need. This study tried to analyze how neighboring people associated with local religious institution may provoke children to be aggressive and violent by their own activities. This study is an warning to the leader and the adult members of the community to be cooperative, helpful and sensitive to our children.

Most of the present-day movies, various TV programmes, serials, cartoons and video-games sharpen the appetite of the growing generation for excitement and violence. A number of cases are being reported in the newspapers when young persons have used the same techniques of committing crimes as were shown in the movies they had watched. This study leaves an implication on all the parents, teachers, guardians, social organizations, govt and non-govt organizations, journalists and other media persons analyzing the influence of media
exposure, media imitation, media identification, media violence etc. in promoting deviant behavior among juvenile delinquents.

In conclusion, it may be said that every man is the product of his environment. Man does not learn anything by birth. Most of their qualities, both social and anti-social, are formed and developed during the course of their individual and collective life rather than inherited by birth. A child is really innocent. He acquires deviant and anti-social behavior in the midst of society. So it is the duty of the mature individuals of the society to involve themselves in such activities which can create a healthy environment based on unity, equality and humanism for balanced development of personality of the child. This is the message the researcher wishes to move all over the world.

Child is the most precious asset of the society, and so it is only the society itself who can save it from stepping forward into the heinous world of delinquency and crime. Healthy parenting, healthy education and responsible community services can therefore transform a child into a responsible and robust citizen of tomorrow.