CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Crime and delinquency have always been one of the major prevailing problems in society ever since the dawn of human civilization. Very hardly any society can be thought about without besetting the problem. Human beings inherently by nature are fighting animals. To think about a society without crime and delinquency thus is nothing but a mere myth. Delinquency, which is forerunner of criminal behavior, has always been a serious concern and threat to the civil society.

The present age can be regarded as one of the toughest times in the post-independence period in India. The age-old and cherished values are eroding rapidly and the venerated pillars of social structure are at an all time low. To be very precise, all these have become prominent from the beginning of the nineties and with the advent of the open market economy. The new economic formation brought along with it many vices and above all the philosophy of rapacity. This has led to the emergence of an eccentricity within the society along with violence, crime, delinquency and other behavioural problems among the children, in particular, which is dragging it towards a final destruction. Involvement of Juveniles in the anti-social or delinquent behavior leads to the development of criminal behaviour during the adulthood.

In the present study, the investigator had made an attempt to study the influence of different social institutions namely the family, the school, the religious institution and the mass media in the formation of deviant behavior among juvenile delinquents. In the first chapter, the investigator has tried to bring focus on the meaning, nature and approaches to
juvenile delinquency, the difference between crime and delinquency and minimum age for criminal responsibility. It has also been tried to have a look on the history of the problem of delinquency.

A thorough account of the various theories of causation of delinquent behaviour among children has also been incorporated. The theories discussed here are from the early theories of ‘Superstition and Myth and Demonology’ to ‘Radical Criminology and Integrated theories’. The problem of juvenile delinquency in Indian scenario has been highlighted with its occurrence in North Eastern Region including Assam.

In this chapter, the investigator has tried to make a comparative study of the juvenile delinquency cases in India from the year 1999 to 2011 and has made an attempt to state that juvenile delinquency is a major social problem of India which needs serious attention from all concerned including the need of in-depth study. The study has been undertaken with four objectives to be analysed and four hypotheses to be tested. Definition of the key terms like influence, social institution, deviant behavior, juvenile, delinquent have also been done here.

In the second chapter of the thesis, the investigator has tried to search the related literature in Assam, India and abroad. This has been done to avoid unintentional duplication of well-established findings and to know about the recommendation of previous studies. Various studies have been reviewed to know different aspects of the problem of juvenile delinquency.

In the third chapter, the investigator has tried to focus on the methodology used in the present study. Descriptive survey method has been used with convenient sampling technique as the basis of the investigation. The study has comprised a sample of 300 nos. of delinquent children out of which 200 nos. were official delinquents found in 3 different observation
homes in Assam and the rest 100 nos. were unofficial. Unofficial delinquents were found from the reports of schools, families and communities of Kamrup district of Assam. As statistical design, descriptive statistics have been used. Per cent of the distribution of the sample and their responses have been used for analysing the data.

In the fourth chapter, the investigator has tried to analyse and interpret the data according to the design. The per cent analysis reveals that the four social institutions namely the family, the school, the religious institution and the mass media have significant influence in the formation of deviant and anti-social behavior among juvenile delinquents. After analysing the data according to the objectives of the study, hypotheses have been tested and found to be true.

In the fifth chapter, the investigator reported the major findings of the study on the basis of the objectives and hypotheses framed for the investigation. The study has firmed that the social institutions like family, school, religion and mass media greatly influence the behaviour pattern of the children and adolescents. In modern time, family as a primary agent of socialisation fails to perform its desirable duties towards the children. A major portion of the day the children spend at school with their friends and teachers. It is also found in the study that overall school environment is not conducive for the development of healthy personality among the pupils. Religion is very important for spending a life peacefully and happily. In modern times, rapid industrial, urbanisation and globalisation have made religion and religious institutions as a neglected area in one’s life. It has failed to perform its duties as a neighbourhood institution towards the children of the community. Mass media are the wonderful inventions of the modern society. Through it the happenings of far away places can be watched sitting comfortably at home. But the programmes broadcasted through it are not conducive for mental health of the people, particularly the children. The programmes are
full of sex and violence which increases childrens’ inclination towards delinquency and criminality. The study proved the negative influence of mass media on the children.

From the study it may be concluded that juvenile delinquency is a by-product of rapid socio-economic and cultural changes that had taken place after second world war in India. The influence of globalisation and open market economy has also changed the face of the delinquency problem in India. These changes indirectly brings tremendous influence in India’s age-old value system based on equality, unity, humanity and cooperation. Rapid pace of industrialisation and urbanisation has already brought about a structural change in traditional Indian family from joint to nuclear. Structural change has brought changes in the function of the family. Traditional families were self-supporting business enterprise. Such family was itself the centre of consumption, distribution and even production. But industrialisation has transferred economic production from the home to factory. Capitalist system in production has taken both the work and workers out of home. The family is no longer a self-supporting unite. Economic division of labour has reduced greatly common participation of the family members in the various interests of life. In traditional joint family system, the child learned all his beliefs, attitudes and the entire socially-accepted behavioural pattern among a host of family members including grandparents, uncle-aunties, cousins besides his parents, brothers and sisters. Modern family is a nuclear one. The enculturation of a child is essentially the primary function of the family. But the members of the modern families have either little or no time or zeal to perform this function effectively, efficiently and sincerely. Growing intensity of superficial and impersonal relations among the members of the family ultimately leads to the lack of smooth relationships. Parental monitoring, parental discipline, parental-child-communication, parent-child-attachment were found to be very weak in the present study. Attitudes of the parents towards most of the respondents were
also found to be hostile and indifferent. Home environment was also not congenial for healthy development of the personality of the children.

After home the next institution the child spends most of his or her time is school – a second home. Imparting the knowledge of three R’s is not only the duty of the teachers in the school. Teachers have a great role to play in the all round development of the personality of a pupil. Among all the adults having a relation with the child, teacher is the only one who gets a very strong formal situation to shape the desired behaviour among the pupils. But today, it is seen that modern schools fail to serve their desired purpose to mould healthy personalities among the pupils. On the contrary, a healthy child may develop undesirable behaviour pattern in school environment with a bad companion. Children from different families having different family backgrounds come to school and remain together for the whole day. They are influenced by each other. Unhealthy peer influence hinders the healthy personality development in a child. In the present study it is found that school discipline, teachers’ monitoring, school environment, teacher-students relationships are found to be detrimental to the healthy personality development of the child.

Religious institutions are assumed to instill normative beliefs and foster individual attachment, commitment, and involvement within a larger society. By strengthening an individual’s bond to society, religious institutions can deter criminal behavior. It is an important agency of social control and contributes much to the development of the child. Religion further deters an individual’s criminal behavior through the threat of supernatural sanctions, and it promotes normative behavior through the promise of supernatural rewards. Humans participate in religion because it provides a certain level of comfort. Religious effects on delinquency vary depending on ecological conditions such as the religious climate of the community. Religious individuals are less likely to commit delinquent behavior, but
only where the majority of the people are actively religious in their community. Religiosity deters delinquency by strengthening an adolescent’s attachment and commitment to conventional society. The present study shows that the religious climate of the community is not conducive for healthy development of personality of the child. Religious institutions are not related to the personal problems of its members and fail to play their positive role in controlling law and order of the community. Therefore the respondents of the study are not involved in the neighbourhood religious institutions.

Living in a media-saturated world, the media has become an integral part of everyday life of today’s children and adolescents. During the socialization process the mass media forms one of the most important connections between social and individual culture and its use is the means by which individuals internalize their shared sets of values. With ever-increasing use of media, the mass media has become like a third parent for the children. In the past, parents, teachers and religious leaders told most of the stories to children. Today the mass media tell most of the stories. The media is increasingly fulfilling the functions previously performed by family, school and religion.

The media exposes the children to a world far beyond their immediate experience, presenting attitudes and values different from those of their family and in quantities far greater than available firsthand. Excessive time spent in media tends to introduce opportunities in which children bond with anti-social values, consequently delinquency. Children who consume a lot of violent media become desensitized to it over time and less sympathetic to victims of violence. Excessive exposure to media violence is responsible for aggressive behavior among children. Today’s movies are so full of sex and violence that the children easily pick up new values, attitudes and personality traits. Many a time, such movies teach techniques of crime and delinquency and also develop attitudes conducive to delinquent
behavior by arousing desires for easy money, suggesting questionable methods for their achievement, arousing sexual desires and by invoking day-dreaming.

The present research came to the conclusion that mass media has an adverse effect on children and adolescents. Most of the respondents revealed that parents were not aware about what they had seen in TV for hours together. Children did not learn good manners and sympathetic behavior from TV, music video and movies but learn sex, violence and anti-social behavior. Most of the delinquents expressed that media imitation and media identification had great role in their behavior pattern. Only a few of the respondents reported that media is not important for their lives while majority of them acknowledged that media has become an integral part of their lives as they have been addicted to media programmes.

6.1 PREVENTIVE MEASURES

A child is born with no vice in his mind. All the vices he learned from his surroundings. The child is not born in a vacuum. He takes birth in the social environment. Social environment not only includes the broader society but also the family, school, religion, neighbourhood, mass media and all such other social institutions.

Family is the primary social unit of a society. Here the relationship among the members is more informal, cohesive and intimate. Family gratifies the primary needs of its members. But today, some families loses its qualities and becomes the breeding ground for delinquent behaviour of the children. Family environment producing delinquent behaviour may be analysed with reference to quarrelsome environment, defective discipline, immorality or criminality of parents, lack of parent-child attachment, lack of parental monitoring and the like. These are the contributing factors in developing anti-social behavior among the children.
and preventive devices are to be formulated in the light of these unfavourable family conditions.

Most of the children, in their early years of lives are neglected by family members as they think that children can never develop consciousness at such an early age. But in reality, the early years are the foundations of the human lives. The successful upbringing of a child should be in the early years before age five. What kind of person a child will be mainly depends on what the parents make of him by the fifth years of his life. If the parents do not give him the necessary upbringing before age five later it will be necessary to re-educate him. Parents think that everything is going just fine. And then at the age of ten or eleven everything suddenly takes a turn for the worse and starts running way out of hand. And the parents begin searching for who it was that corrupted their child. It is out of their knowledge that they themselves corrupted him regularly from age one to age five. **To prevent behavioral problems of the children the parents should be very cautious from the very beginning of child’s life to the age of five or six because this period is the foundation of a healthy individual in future.**

Education during most of a person’s formative years has increasingly become the responsibility of the school. Schools are the principal agency not only for socialization but also for social correction. School-based programs for the prevention of juvenile crime are oriented towards students, teachers, curricula, administration, physical design of the school, parents, security personnel, community and legislation. Schools are potentially one of the best weapons in the fight against delinquency. In the school, there are only a few teachers against a good number of students who follow the every walks of the teachers. The tender aged children are usually imitative. So the teachers should show good manners and behaviors to the children. They should maintain a personal and healthy relation with every student. He
should have the knowledge of child psychology. A teacher should love and take care of his students as his own kids.

From the present study, some suggestions may be made to prevent the problem of juvenile delinquency in our society. They are:

i) Infra structural facilities of different social institutions like school, neighborhood, religious institution and others should be improved to contribute to healthy personality development and adjustment of children.

ii) Government should help the poverty-stricken families in getting cheap rations, cloths and other basic needs from licensed shops so that poor and needy parents can fulfill the fundamental needs of their children.

iii) Govt. as well as Non-govt. organizations should provide recreational facilities for children in neighbourhoods by establishing different hobby centres, library and sports facilities, co-curricular activities and other such avenues.

iv) Providing adolescents and young people with increased equal economic opportunities, professional and vocational training, incentive in establishing small and medium businesses etc. can prevent youths from involvement in delinquent activities.

v) Community control exercises on its youths should be increased in a reasonable and systematic way.

vi) Every adult member of the community should be a positive role-model for the growing generation.

vii) To prevent child delinquency media programmes should be changed keeping in mind the delicate and sensitive mind of the kids. Instead of sex, violence, rape and
murder the child should be taught love, affection, equality, humanity, friendliness and other qualities through media which can endow the child with a soft heart and a determined brain. Govt. and Non-govt. organizations have to keep eyes on the media programmes so that these programmes can not corrupt our child.

viii) To prevent delinquency the education system of our country should be restructured, based on our own ground and keeping in mind our rich socio-cultural heritage. Besides, the curriculum should also be constructed in such a way that the child can learn first the qualities of a real human being but not to be competitive robot from the very tender age.

ix) Parenting is an art. Most of the parents of our society are not skilled parents. Non-govt. organizations and other concerned organizations should arrange seminars, lectures, demonstrations, counselling, street plays, cultural programmes etc. on healthy parenthood to prevent the influence of family environment on juvenile delinquency.

x) Ensuring serious involvement and participation of the children in different competitions on sports, literary, debating, extempore speech, essay writing, drawing, painting etc.

xi) Respecting, honouring and involving children in decision making at school, at home and at community services as far as practicable.

xii) Specific programmes should be organised in a systematic way, both long and short term, involving all stakeholders separately and collectively connected with the children.

xiii) Serious, sincere, efficient and effective counselling should be organized for all stakeholders like parents, teachers, religious institutions, mass media personnel,
juvenile police, juvenile justice board officials, observation home personnel and 
NGO's connected with children activities in presence of child psychologists and 
psychiatrists.

xiv) Judicial machinery should be made more efficient and sensitive. Timely disposal 
of the cases will ease the life of most delinquent children.

xv) Infrastructural, recreational, vocational training, academic and other homely 
facilities of observation homes be developed and made more sensitive so that 
children never feel that society does not accept him after release.

xvi) Establishing the children after their release from observation home in a war 
footing to their previous position in society and monitoring the process sincerely 
so that people can not label them as delinquent children.

xvii) Door to door survey be made so that no delinquent boys left untouched and 
unattended from counseling and other remedial measures.

However the overall social environment should be made conducive for the child 
community. The gap between rich and poor should be reduced, the corruption from top to 
bottom in the social hierarchy should be stopped, equal distribution of wealth, opportunities 
to all the members of the society according to their capabilities, desirable status to every one 
as a human being should be made where people can live easily, comfortably and happily.

6.2 SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Research is a continuous process. A research study is not complete in itself. It is a small step 
in the never-ending process of research.

In the field of juvenile delinquency much research studies have not been done in India 
though the present scenario of the problem is horrible. In Assam also research studies on
delinquency is less in number. The present study is an extension of the ongoing studies on delinquency in the state. From the observation and analysis of the present study the investigator believes certain areas to be most essential for further study on delinquency by prospective researchers. They are:

I) In depth study can be undertaken to investigate the influence of family, school, religious institution and mass media individually in the formation of deviant behaviour among juvenile delinquent.

II) Study can be made on parenting process and delinquency.

III) Influence of economic condition in the formation of delinquent behaviour may be made.

IV) A study can be undertaken on self concept of the juvenile delinquents.

V) A comparative study can be made between the influence of Govt. and the private school in the formation of deviant behaviour among the students.

VI) A study can be made between the relation of exposing to songs, films, music videos having contents full of fighting, easy-money, kidnapping, sex, violence, rape and murder and the formation of deviant behaviour by acquiring the techniques thereof.

VII) A study can be conducted on the influence of neighbourhood on delinquency.

VIII) A study can be undertaken on the relation between market economy and delinquency.

IX) In depth study can be done between the relation of delinquency and criminality.