CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Juvenile delinquency is the most critical and challenging problem of today’s world. Rights of the child and juvenile justice are issues which need to be addressed by one and all – citizens, civil society organisations and Governments. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, incorporates liberal thinking, international resolutions and national concerns with children and their problems based on interventionist approach, it protects and promotes children and juveniles facing adversity, and envisages a range of services which would enable them to participate in change and develop into constructive citizens. Delinquent or antisocial behaviour of the juveniles is destructive and harmful not only for the society but also to juveniles own life. Delinquency halts the development of the juveniles as well as that of society. It has cost thousands of lives of innocent children. The problem of juvenile delinquency is spread all over the world. The main causes in different parts of the world are different. To tackle this problem various attempts have been made worldwide. The problem of delinquency took an alarming state in western countries since the First World War. In the beginning of the present century starting from Healy (1915), Cyril Burt (1925), C. R. Shaw (1969) to Bernard Glueck, Kenoworthy, Bronner and other pioneers in child guidance have blazed on the intricate process of maladapted behaviour pattern of the children and the adolescents. This chapter deals with various studies already made at different levels worldwide to study the root causes and remedies of the problem of juvenile delinquency.
2.1 STUDIES ABROAD

Burt, C. (1925), in his study statistically attempted to discover the circumstances that are found in criminal behaviour. He published a book based on his work with young offenders, called *The Young Delinquent*. He made a study on 200 children with delinquency records in juvenile court of London and 400 pupils of some schools in London with no delinquency records. He argued that delinquency was caused by neglect and various forms of poor parenting, and again emphasised that the treatment of such children by the courts required careful investigation and an individualised approach. He pointed out 170 factors under 9 categories. Burt characterized the family backgrounds of delinquents in terms of ‘defective family relationships’ and ‘defective discipline’ and he argued that parents are primarily responsible for the offending conduct of their children. He found that parental discipline was the most striking difference between the two groups. To him defective discipline, parental indifference, vacillation, disagreement between parents about control of their children and observity occurred about seven times more frequently in the delinquent group than in non-delinquent. Burt argued for the extensive use of child guidance clinics by all juvenile courts as a means of preventing future recidivism.

Bowlby, J. (1946) in his ‘Forty-four juvenile thieves: Their characters and home-life’, a pioneering work on the psychology of deviance argued that a child has certain basic needs, the most important being security, which can be provided most effectively by a close and intimate relationship with her / his mother. Psychiatrist in-charge of the Child Guidance unit of the Tavistock Clinic, London, Bowlby in this interesting series of case studies of young boys and girls who were referred to the clinic
for stealing, demonstrated beyond doubt that the elucidation of the problem of juvenile
delinquency is dependent upon psychoanalytic investigation. Not denying that the
problem is also one for the sociologist and the economist, he takes the traditional
psychological stand that persistent stealing by young children is due to inner stress and
strain rather than to economic need or social pressure. A psychiatric study of each child,
supplemented by case histories, mental tests, and school reports, led him to conclude
that the prolonged separation of a child from its mother at some period in the first five
years of its life causes emotional traumas that almost invariably result in socially
unacceptable behavior; in these cases, habitual stealing. If a child is deprived of
maternal love, particularly during its early years, a psychopathic personality can
develop. Psychopaths tend to act impulsively with little regard for the consequences of
their actions. They rarely feel guilty and show little response to punishment or
treatment. Bowlby claimed that those delinquents who constantly broke the law with
little regard for the possible consequences had suffered from maternal deprivation
during their early years.

**Sutherland, E. H. (1947)** studied group influence in the formation of deviant
behaviour. He concluded that delinquent behaviour is learnt in interaction with persons
in a pattern of communication and the specific direction of motives, drives,
rationalization and attitudes whether in the direction of anti-criminality or criminality is
learnt from persons whose attitudes are unfavourable and favourable to violation of
legal codes, respectively. A person becomes delinquent because of excess definitions
favourable to violation of law over definitions of unfavourable to violation of law.
Aichorn, A. (1955) was the first scholar to use Freud’s psycho-analytical approach for studying delinquents. He argued that ‘dissocial behaviour results from the inner play of psychic forces’. In a well-balanced personality id, ego and super ego work in a relative harmony. But in abnormal cases imbalance and disharmony occur. When super-ego is not sufficiently developed, the released repressed instincts may lead to anti-social behaviour. He relates the causation of delinquency to early childhood experiences, emotional deprivations, child-rearing processes which influence the formation of the personality and the development of attitudes, values and lifestyle.

Cohen, A. (1955) in his ‘Delinquent Boys: The culture of gang’ states that delinquency is mainly a working class phenomenon. The working class boy finds himself at the bottom of status hierarchy whenever he moves into the middle-class world. To the degree to which he values the middle class status either because he values the good opinion of middle class person or because he has to some degree internalize middle class standards himself, he faces the problem of adjustment. Not having learnt the behaviour that equip them to deal with competitive struggle for success, the working class boys feel frustrated, react against middle class values and standards and their very anti-thesis that is no utilitarian, malicious and negativistic values. Group or gang delinquent activity legitimizes and support aggression against middle class institutions. Cohen also noted that working class boys are at a particular disadvantage in achieving success in school because such institutions are designed to ‘reward middle-class ambition and conformity to middle-class expectations’. As a result, students who are unsuccessful in school, either socially or academically can experience strain that increases the likelihood of delinquent behavior. Strain may result in a variety of adaptations by youths within the school setting including involvement in delinquent
behavior, to associate with youths in similar circumstances, may encourage the
development of delinquent subcultures or act as a predisposing condition that increases
the likelihood of delinquency for some individuals under certain circumstances.

Gluek, S and Gluek, E. (1962) used family study designs to examine the
heritability of crime among their classic samples of delinquent youths. In their sample
of male delinquents, the Glueks found that prevalence of family member arrest was
nearly 200 percent greater among probands than among controls. For females the
prevalence of family member arrest was about 160 percent higher among probants than
among controls. Glueks have explored the relation between criminality of parents and
delinquency rate. They have used the term ‘delinquency of parents’ instead of the term
criminality of parents. Their investigation reveals that more than 66 percent of
delinquents had delinquent father and 44 percent of delinquents had delinquent mother.
But about 32 percent of non-delinquents had delinquent father and 15 percent of non-
delinquents had delinquent mother. Again in the same sample they have showed that
more than 62 percent of delinquents had intoxicant father and 23 percent of delinquents
had intoxicant mother. But on the contrary only about 39 percent of non-delinquents had
intoxicant father and 7 percent of non-delinquents had delinquent mother. The Glueks
provided speculative but empirically compelling evidence that crime runs in the family.
They found that not less than 60.4 percent of delinquents compared with 34.2 percent of
non-delinquents have in fact broken home experience. They have shown that 46 percent
of delinquents compared with 12 percent of non-delinquents had foster or step-parents
or had lived with relatives. Hence it has been seen that character of the parents plays a
decisive role in making the children delinquent.
Reckless, W. (1967) studied the important aspect that must be answered in explaining criminal behaviour is why do some people turn to law-abiding behaviour and the other law-violating behaviour from his study he suggested that self-concept is the key factor in explaining the choice among alternatives of behaviour. A favourable self-concept directs an individual towards law-abiding behaviour and an unfavourable self-concept directs him towards delinquent behaviour.

Merton, R. K. (1968) from his study argued that deviance results from the culture and structure of society itself. He begins from the standard functionalist position of value consensus that all members of society share the same values. However since members of society are placed in different positions in the social structure, for example, they differ in terms of class position, they do not have the same opportunity for realizing the shared values. This situation can generate deviance. In Merton’s word ‘the social and cultural structure generates pressures for socially deviant behaviour upon people variously located in the structure’.

Hirschi and Stark (1969) from their study on ‘Hellfire and Delinquency’ drew extensive attention to the question of whether religious belief played a significant role in preventing delinquency. The hellfire hypothesis is based on the premises that religion plays an important role in ensuring conformity and deterring deviance. The authors hypothesised that delinquent behaviour could be deterred (i) through religious beliefs which legitimise social values, (ii) through religious rites and rituals such as church attendance, which reinforce the commitment to these values, and (iii) through eternal rewards and punishment which ensure the embodiment of these values in actual behaviour.
Using both a self-report delinquency survey and police records from a sample of over 4000 students entering junior and senior high schools in California, Hirschi and Stark examined whether religious belief played a central role in preventing delinquency by testing the association between delinquency and church attendance, acceptance of moral values, respect for law and the police, belief in the existence of a supernatural powers, and sanctions in life after death. They found that church attendance and belief in supernatural sanctions were not significantly related to official and self-reported delinquent behaviours. In addition, they found that there was little or no association between church attendance and either an acceptance of moral values or respect for law and the police. There were, however, strong inverse associations between delinquency and acceptance of moral values and respect for law and the police. Hirschi and Stark concluded that religious belief had no direct or indirect effect on delinquent behaviour.

**Bailey, K. (1993)** investigated 40 adolescent murderers and 200 young sex offenders and claimed that repeated exposure to violent and pornographic videos was a significant factor in these crimes including in some cases actual imitation of the screen image. He proposed that these individuals are lacking internal boundaries, driven by distorted ideas and have unstable and violent feelings as well as deviant role models from real or fictional sources.

**Stern, S. B. and Smith, A. (1995)** explored the association of high risk for serious delinquency by surveying 1000 adolescents. The results in general implicate the family as the most important developmental factor in the development of delinquency patterns. More specifically, the findings suggest that life distress in the family often results in adolescents developing delinquency tendencies. This distress disrupts
parenting and affects child behaviours. When parents are under distress, parental involvement and supervision decline. Children and adolescents find it difficult to express their thoughts and feelings to their parents. Many adolescents become at risk for delinquency.

**Paetsch and Bertrand (1997)** conducted a major research study on how grades are related to delinquency. This research examined the relationships between self-reported delinquency and academic in junior and senior high school students. The results indicated that students reporting a 90 per cent to 100 per cent grade average were more likely to report no delinquency than low levels of delinquency. Students with poor grades were much more likely to a moderate or high level of delinquency. In addition, the more time students spent on homework, the less likely they were to report delinquency. For instance, of the students reporting five hours per week on homework, 56 per cent of them reported no delinquency. Conversely, of students who reported doing no homework, 65 per cent of them reported moderate levels of delinquency. They also found that skipping classes is often related to delinquency. The results indicated that 61 per cent of students who reported skipping class also reported high levels of delinquency. Students who skip class are three times as likely to report moderate or high levels of delinquency. This particular research study concludes that skipping class in the most common behaviour of delinquents in the school setting.

**Shek, D. (1997)** in a major research study entitled, ‘Family environment and adolescent psychological wellbeing’ showed that adolescent's perceptions of parenting styles, conflict with parent, and overall family functioning were significantly related to the adolescent's psychological well-being and potential for delinquency. This study
showed that parenting styles with the characteristics of acceptance, positive regard, love, encouragement, and reasoning tend to induce positive social development in children and adolescents and inhibit delinquent behavior. Paternal and Maternal Styling Scales were used to assess adolescent's perceptions of parenting styles. These scales reported high internal reliability, test-retest reliability, and concurrent validity. Perceived family functioning was measured by the Self-Report Instrument. The Father and Mother Conflict Scale were used to measure conflict between the child and parent. The results were based on the responses of 365 secondary school students. The results for the most part show that measures of family environment were associated with indicators of problem behavior. The data demonstrated that adolescents with negative perceptions of parenting styles, family functioning, and parent-adolescent conflict exhibited more delinquent behavior than students with positive perceptions. These findings suggest that a more positive perception of overall family functioning is related to better adolescent adjustment and fewer incidences of delinquency.

Jenkins, P. (1997) conducted a comprehensive research study to assess the overall school social bond and its manifestations on delinquency. The study hypothesises that the school social bond is important in explaining delinquency. The study examines four components of the school social bond-school commitment, attachment to school, school involvement and belief in school rules. Jenkins asserts that it is necessary to examine the combined effects of the four elements of the school social bond on delinquency. The sample consisted of 754 students ranging from 11 to 15 years old. Data was collected by an anonymous questionnaire. The results indicate that the most frequently reported school crimes are hitting another student and damaging school property, respectively. Only 6 per cent of the students reported using drugs. Talking in
class and copying someone's homework were the most common forms of school misconduct. Being late for class and school were the most commonly reported types of school nonattendance. The evidence collected in this study confirms the importance of bonding adolescents to school as an important step in reducing delinquency. The data collected reflects how the school social bond plays important roles in predicting delinquency. The results also indicate that certain elements of the school social bond have more impact on delinquency. For instance, school involvement was found to be the weakest factor. School commitment was found to be the most important element in explaining delinquency. Regardless of which element was most important, it is important to realize that the whole school social bond is essential in understanding factors that lead to delinquency.

**Linda Panani (1998)** conducted a longitudinal study entitled ‘The Impact of Family Transition on the Development of Delinquency in Adolescent Boys’ to examine the impact of divorce on the development of delinquency in boys from low-income neighbourhoods. This study specifically focused on the developmental patterns through adolescence. The boys were grouped according to the age at which the divorce occurred. This facilitated the understanding of the developmental factors in delinquency. The findings suggested that boys who experienced divorce between the ages of 12 and 15 were more likely to engage in delinquent acts than their peers who were from intact families. More specifically, the boys from divorced families engaged in more activities involving physical violence. Boys between the ages of 12 and 14 perceived their relationship with their parents as unsupportive. They also reported being unsupervised. A major finding was that boys from divorced homes reported difficulty in sharing their thoughts and feelings with their parents.
Graybill, A. (1999) focused on studies dealing with three factors, namely family relations, school and peer relations which are pertinent in the identification of certain clinical traits that exist among juvenile delinquents. He observed that weak parenting skills, child-parent conflicts, family transitions, and overall poor family functioning and relations has a negative effect on adolescents and may foster delinquent tendencies. Delinquents usually have a negative affiliation with school as an institution which results in low self-esteem and negative impact on academic achievement including development of social skills. As a result of this poor relationship with school, delinquents tend to lack motivation to achieve, have poor attendance, and usually experience alienation from school in general. Juveniles who are aggressive and have a tendency for delinquency usually experience rejection from conventional peer groups. This rejection leads delinquents to form friendships with other delinquents. Over time, identities are formed within the group. It becomes extremely difficult to change delinquent behavior if this group has a long duration.

Pennell, A. E. and Browne, K. D. (1999) from their proposed that heavy exposure to violent material on film and video in childhood is associated with violent crime as an adult although others have emphasised that experiencing ‘real’ violence as a child has a much greater effect on aggressive predispositions. Ways in which screen violence can affect behavior includes: imitation of violent roles and acts of aggression, triggering aggressive impulses in predisposed individuals, desensitising feelings of sympathy towards victims, creating an indifference to the use of violence, and creating a frame of mind that sees violent acts as a socially acceptable response to stress and frustration. It is argued that young offenders may like violent videos because of their aggressive background and behavioural tendencies. Whether such tastes reinforce
violent behavior and increase the frequency of aggressive acts and antisocial behavior is open to question. Pennell and Browne provide a thorough examination of the prior research in the field of media effects on aggression and efficiently critique the various research methods utilized by prior research studies. They summarized three equally important main theories in support of media influence as desensitization, social learning, and cognitive association. Each of these theories plays a significant role in explaining why and how media violence contributes to imitation. The authors acknowledge that juvenile aggression is due to several factors in addition to the media such as family background and peers. In addition, they stress that it is not the viewing, in itself, that results in delinquency but the interpretation of the material. This supports the notion that interactive co-viewing and accompaniment is important for parents to consider.

**Pechmann and Shih (1999)** studied eight hundred 9th graders emotional reactions during viewing, and smoking-related thoughts, beliefs, and intent were assessed afterward. They found that smoking scenes positively aroused the young viewers, enhanced their perceptions of smokers' social stature, and increased their intent to smoke. The authors decided to test only two theses: Excitation Transfer Thesis and Forbidden Fruit Thesis ruling out any other alternatives. Since there is a favourable effect of screening anti-smoking ads prior to a film according, it would be interesting to look into advertisements for other forms of contentious movie depictions such as violence or street racing.

**Anderson C. A. et al (2003)** in their study on violent television and films, video games, and music revealed unequivocal evidence that media violence increases the likelihood of aggressive and violent behavior in both immediate and long-term contexts.
The evidence is clearest within the most extensively researched domain, television and film violence. The growing body of video-game research yields essentially the same conclusions. Short-term exposure increases the likelihood of physically and verbally aggressive behavior, aggressive thoughts, and aggressive emotions. Recent large-scale longitudinal studies provide converging evidence linking frequent exposure to violent media in childhood with aggression later in life, including physical assaults and spouse abuse. Because extremely violent criminal behaviors are rare, new longitudinal studies with larger samples are needed to estimate accurately how much habitual childhood exposure to media violence increases the risk for extreme violence. Media violence produces short-term increases by priming existing aggressive scripts and cognitions, increasing physiological arousal, and triggering an automatic tendency to imitate observed behaviors. Long-term effects are several types of learning processes leading to the acquisition of lasting aggressive scripts, interpretational schemas, aggression-supporting beliefs about social behavior, and reduction of normal negative emotional responses to violence. They suggested some avenues for preventive intervention like parental supervision, interpretation, and control of children’s media use. Recent surveys reveal an extensive presence of violence in modern media. Furthermore, many children and youth spend an inordinate amount of time consuming violent media. Although it is clear that reducing exposure to media violence will reduce aggression and violence, it is less clear what sorts of interventions will produce a reduction in exposure. Though the scientific debate over whether media violence increases aggression and violence is essentially over, several critical tasks remain they argued.

Mapp, R. (2009) in his paper entitled ‘The role of religiosity and spirituality in Juvenile Delinquency’ showed that religious involvement throughout adolescence
significantly lessen the risk of later adult criminality. For the study a total of 745 adolescents were interviewed over telephone. After appropriate data cleaning, the sample comprised 684 adolescents ages eighteen to twenty-two. This paper provides new evidence regarding the association between religiosity and spirituality and juvenile delinquency and substance abuse, using several measures of religion. The independent variables of religion and spirituality included religious affiliation, attendance of religious services, importance of religion, and importance of spirituality. Religious affiliation was dichotomized into whether the adolescent was affiliated with a religion or denomination versus if the adolescent had no religion or was atheist or agnostic. Attendance of religious services was determined by whether the individual attended religious services at least once a week. Importance of religion and importance of spirituality were both measured by whether the adolescent felt that religion and spirituality were somewhat or very important versus not important. Descriptive statistics for the sample shows that about 19 per cent of the sample, 41 females and 90 males, had been arrested for a crime at least once prior to the survey. Sixty-four juveniles (9.36 % of the sample) were categorized as ‘light’ offenders, while another sixty-seven adolescents (9.80 %) were categorized as ‘heavy’ offenders. Regarding illegal substance use, 629 juveniles (91.96 %) had never used cocaine while 55 juveniles (8.04 %) had used cocaine at least once. For marijuana use, 365 adolescents (53.36 %) had not used marijuana, compared to 319 individuals (46.64 %) that had used marijuana at least once.

In terms of religion, there were 545 juveniles, or 80 per cent of the sample, that were religiously affiliated, and 139 adolescents who said that they had no religion, were atheist, or agnostic. There were 178 juveniles, or 26 per cent, that attended religious services at least once a week, and 506 individuals who attended religious services less
frequently or not at all. One hundred ninety-five adolescents (28.51 %) did not consider religion important, while 489 juveniles did consider religion to be somewhat or very important. For importance of spirituality, 313 individuals (45.76 %) considered spirituality to be not important, and 371 individuals considered spirituality to be somewhat or very important. There were 160 adolescents that only considered religion important, while 42 respondents only considered spirituality important, suggesting that importance of spirituality was generally the more broadly perceived measure as compared to the importance of religion. The result of the study also shows that religious affiliation was significantly and negatively affiliated with marijuana use, but was not with the other measures of delinquency. In particular, compared to their peers who had no religion, or were atheist or agnostic, religiously affiliated adolescents were 14.7 per cent points less likely to smoke marijuana. In addition, peer drug use was significantly and positively associated with arrest, ‘heavy’ crime, cocaine, and marijuana use. Adolescents whose friends usually use drugs were 20 percentage points more likely to be arrested, 5.6 per cent points more likely to commit a ‘heavy’ crime, 17.98 per cent points more likely to use cocaine, and 47.3 per cent points more likely to smoke marijuana. Juveniles that were frequently involved in extra-curricular activities were 1.2 per cent points less likely to be arrested, 0.5 percentage points less likely to commit a ‘heavy’ or ‘light’ crime, and 1.6 percentage points less likely to smoke marijuana compared to their less involved counterparts.

Ngale, I. F. (2009) studied a purposive probability sample of 120 adolescents of the Betamba children’s correctional center in Cameroon, using a questionnaire. He highlighted the facts that the family structure of the juvenile delinquents are characterized by structural fragmentation, functional dissonance (two parent co-habiting
couples), permissive parenting style (abandonment of children to their devices, indifference and outright parental neglect), financial hardship (lowest paying jobs for parents, with high rate of mother joblessness), general overcrowding, and parental jobs having heavy job time constraints overriding quality time parents should spend with their children even no time for their children. The family structure of the respondents of this study is characterized by father/mother vacuum, moral vacuum, financial vacuum and contracting space. The latter factors render children vulnerable, and force them into the streets in despair. The atmosphere of physical, psychological, financial and moral lack, are conducive for the perpetration of non-violent crimes like stealing, running from home and school. This Big Five factors named above account in his opinion for the existence of dysfunctional Cameroonian family structures portraying simultaneous unresolved contradictions, based on the commingling of traditional and modern socio-economic systems. The use of quantitative statistical analysis revealed the following significant relationships: (i) Juvenile delinquents mostly come from homes in which the parents are married, (ii) The moral education of juvenile delinquents is undertaken more by others than their biological parents, (iii) Most delinquent children come from the lowest socio-economic stratum of society, (iv) About two-thirds of the juvenile delinquents come from homes where 7 persons and above live under the same roof, (v) Most parents of our respondents have low paid jobs which keep them for long periods away from their children. A growing number of parents need additional socioeconomic support, development of vital skills of responsible parenting, in order to adequately manage periods of rapid social change and simultaneous multidimensional challenges.
2.2 STUDIES IN INDIA

Research on juvenile delinquency in India has received scant attention from criminologists and others. In contrast to voluminous literatures found for other countries, a coherent body of research and thought relating to juvenile delinquency in India is simply not available.

Seth, H (1957) in his study made an effort to examine the social background of the juvenile delinquents in Bombay state. Case histories of juvenile offenders in Bombay, Ahmadabad and Poona are examined and showed the trends and relative magnitudes of different categories of juveniles brought before the juvenile courts on the basis of statistics of Govt. reports for years 1941-1954. The study deals with the problem of juvenile delinquency in the context of the background of the new as well as old social set-up and values. The characteristics of the present Indian society which have significance for child’s delinquent behavior are examined. Indian society at present is at the cross-road of social values. This study is an effort to analyse the problems of delinquent behaviour of juveniles in an Indian atmosphere of cultural change. The researcher here examined the general problems of children’s Acts in India. The historical background of children Acts in India, the children Acts in Indian states as well as detailed analysis of Bombay children Act and its evolution are traced. Regarding methodology, he concluded that the delinquency cases reported to the courts and recorded in the statistics are never more than a fraction of the total maladjustments and deviations that exist at any given time in our population. The statistics published by the different Govt. and non-Govt. agencies are usually of general nature. They can not be expected to provide exhaustive data on all the relevant factors that a sociologist would
demand for his scientific analysis. In India statistics relating to juvenile delinquency and related problems is extremely limited. Thus use of advanced techniques is ruled out. A detailed discussion of juvenile court facilities in the state of Bombay, of the types of problems of the offenders, the socially handicapped children, the uncontrolled children and victimized children, their sex composition, community patterns and place of origin are presented with a view to working out trends as well as the role of peculiar socio-economic factors. The 400 case studies made by him focused on the impact of social conditions on juvenile delinquency. The analysis of the comparison of juvenile delinquents indicates that there are variations in the delinquent population as to age, sex, types of offence committed, educational level, occupation, size of family, and race or community. The ecological distribution of the delinquents is also made in the study.

Channabasavanna, S. M. et al (1981) in their study made a brief discussion of social and demographic characteristics of delinquency in Indian city. They documented the age, religion, social class, and other characteristics of delinquent boys in an Indian city, Bangalore. This study found that most of the boys were under 15 years of age and lived in urban areas. Most of the boys were from nuclear families whose household heads were typically poorly educated, unskilled and earned a small income.

Rao, P.K. (1987) made a study on juvenile delinquency in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad from human ecological point of view. The data for the study were collected from the office of the Inspector General of Prisoners, Hyderabad, which had a special wing called the probation wing dealt with delinquency. The data were restricted to the municipal limits of Hyderabad. That is, only the cases of juvenile delinquents whose home addresses were within the 35 wards of the Municipal
Corporation of Hyderabad had been taken into consideration in the study. A total of 1000 cases of male juvenile delinquents from the year 1978 to 1983 had been considered. The main concern of the thesis was to find out the major ecological factors that have contributed towards the making of delinquents. Along with these ecological factors the researcher also investigated the socio-economic factors which were responsible for the children to have indulged in delinquent behavior. An analysis of these had shown that a majority of delinquents were from the lower income group. Hence most of the delinquents were found to be concentrated in certain specific areas where a majority of the people was from the lower income group. The parents of the delinquents were mostly illiterate practicing low paid occupations. Hence the delinquents themselves were mostly illiterate and majority of them were school drop-outs. The researcher also found that lack of parental affection and control, indifference and irresponsibility on the part of the parents due to poverty and large size of the family were all the contributing factors to delinquency. The study had also revealed that heavy concentration of delinquents occurred in those areas which are congested and where there was an influx of business and commercial establishments leading to succession of people with different socio-economic backgrounds. Again the researcher found that the delinquents were concentrated in certain specific areas of the city which have certain characteristics like rapid population increase or decrease, maximum concentration of slums, high density of population and residential houses and deterioration.

Sarkar, C. (1987) in her ‘Juvenile delinquency in India’ made a comprehensive study on the etiology of juvenile delinquency. Her study is both theoretical and empirical in nature. So, the questions like how and when juvenile delinquency has become a living social problem, the meaning and the nature of the problem, the etiology
of the concept and the like have been discussed from theoretical standpoints. Moreover, a historical background of the evolution of the various laws in relation to the treatment of juvenile offenders have also been studied. Apart from this, the machineries for execution of the laws, social rehabilitation of the juveniles have also been delineated in the study. She collected data from 110 delinquents for the purpose of empirical analysis. She interviewed the delinquents who are in the correctional institutes, reformatory school and borstal school at Behampore in Murshidabad district, West Bengal. Besides she also met the delinquents whose residential addresses were available from the probation officers appointed by the juvenile court as the supervisors during non-institutional type of treatment. She found in her study that both broken and nuclear type had shown greater propensity in delinquency trend. Regarding the home atmosphere she concluded that delinquency rate is very high in quarrelsome families. Her data revealed that lack of affectionate discipline of parents or parent-substitutes creates adversity among the children. She also concluded that majority of respondents have shown unpleasant attitudes towards parents or parents-substitutes. Unequal treatment for all children is one of the causes of this type of attitude formation. It has been seen that the offenders do not develop unpleasant attitudes towards an individual unless they receive unfair treatment from him. For example, they do not possess hostile attitude towards the siblings or the siblings are not hostile towards them. But they are not respectful towards parents or parent-substitutes because they receive unfair treatment from them. Hence discipline or treatment of the parents or parent-substitutes has significant impact on character of an individual if there is any anomaly in this respect, a child develops non-normative or anti-social behaviour pattern.
Vadackumchery, J. (1996) from his study opined that juvenile problem is a new area for Indian police. The police department has yet to understand that the root cause of adult criminality lies in the extent of delinquency. Usually a delinquent child is handled by the low ranking police personnel who is mostly ill-equipped and ill-qualified so much so that he often mishandles the child. The importance of educating the police in the field of juvenile delinquency particularly in identifying the delinquents, potential delinquents and conditions inducing delinquency has not been seriously taken into account by the police till today in most of the state in India. Unlike the police in the developed countries, the police in India are handicapped. They have a lot of limitations to affect a proper control over juvenile delinquency. He indicates a number of factors associated with delinquency in India. Indifference, alcoholism, rigid discipline, absence of one of the parents at home and the consequent problems connected with exerting due control over the children, too lax and liberal family discipline and even abuse of children instead of proper care, consideration, affection and understanding make emotionally crippled children in families, specially in nuclear families in India. As a retaliation to the treatment the children get from homes, they become intolerant and sometimes aggressive energies, they embrace the option of running away from home. Besides he also mentioned in his writings that crime and violence have become an integral part of the visual media. There is an allegation that Indian movies have a formula of crime + sex + violence +rape +love + murder + suicide usually make a successful box picture in the present day. People see them and juveniles do enjoy such movies more than value-oriented cinemas. Formerly people used to accuse the western movies saying that they show more of violence, crime and perverted sex scenes. But now many are of the view that Indian movies are very much ahead of the Western
cinema in those areas. A great number of children who are influenced by movies are unbelievable on the increase. Children who have been caught by the police for their involvement frankly admitted that they were influenced by the visual and print media to commit the crimes. They were influenced not only to the methods adopted to commit the crimes but also to the ways and means by which they could escape from the police and sometimes to fool the police. Moreover involvement of children in strikes, dharnas, riots and others organized by students’ associations is on the abnormal increase. Children who even study in primary schools are also found to be taking active interest in such type of riots, fights and destruction of property or valuables.

Organisation for Applied Socio-Economic Systems, New Delhi (1996) conducted a study in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Meerut and Lucknow to find out if delinquent persons, children and youth, had a higher or different media exposure that changed their behaviour patterns. A sample of 280 was selected, which included children aged 6-18 years and youth aged 18-25 years. The study used methodological-mix including a survey, observations and discussions. Delinquents were interviewed in jails and non-delinquents were interviewed in low-income colonies of these cities. The survey showed that a majority (68.5%) of the respondents had studied only up to middle school. 80 per cent of the delinquents and 68 per cent of the non-delinquents had studied in government schools. Generally, respondents had low income, not exceeding Rs.4000/-p.m. The study indicated that those who were more exposed to mass media were not necessarily delinquents. It was revealed that a combination of media exposure or consumption, and other factors, either inherent in a person or in her / his social milieu influenced their behavioural patterns. A higher percentage of delinquents tried to copy scenes from TV, compared to cinema. It was found that advertisements led to a feeling
of deprivation among the population, more among delinquents than non-delinquents. One-third of the delinquents, mostly youth, felt that they were influenced by mass media in their criminal behaviour. Majority of those who felt that media had influenced their criminal activities blamed films, but it was found that they watched more TV. 61.5 per cent of the delinquents who rarely watched movies were those who preferred to be ‘mostly alone’, and 31.3 per cent who regularly watched movies never liked to be alone. This indicates that merely watching movies is not enough to make a person delinquent, but if he prefers to be ‘mostly alone’ then his chances of being a delinquent increases. 34.6 per cent non-delinquents and 29.3 per cent delinquents said that they used songs to tease girls. It was found that 87 per cent non-delinquents felt secure in a group as compared to delinquents (72%). Delinquents had a tendency to restrain themselves from participating in discussions, while non-delinquents were socially more interactive. Most respondents did not get an opportunity to participate in group activities. A higher percentage of delinquents had limited communication with their parents for various reasons. The inter-personal communication of delinquents was restricted, both, in content and frequency. The study was able to highlight a number of contextual issues related to influence of mass media on criminal behaviour among juveniles and youth. Media should censor stories involving sex, violence, crime, etc., and show self-restraint by following a system of internal censorship. It is also necessary for media persons to understand how their stories influence people.

**Muddassir, A. (1998)** studied 421 juveniles in four different juvenile homes of Bangalore and Mysore regarding their psychosocial and health aspects, self-esteem, adjustment problems and to examine provisions under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 and its relevance in the present day context. Through physical examination and
interviews it is revealed that most of the juveniles (70%) were in the 12-16 years age group and were from large nuclear families. More than 90 per cent of the parents were illiterate and were from low socioeconomic class. 58% of the inmates came from broken homes. Nutritional deficiencies, common diseases of eyes, ears, skin, and tooth were seen in over crowded homes. The common offences committed by delinquents were ticketless travel (38%), stealing (22%), begging (12%) and wandering (9%). Only boys were involved in gambling (7.24% of total children; 13.5% boys) and only girls were involved in prostitution (4.34% of total children; 9.37% girls). 77 per cent inmates agreed that they harboured some sort of alienation, and the alienation was more among girls than boys. The Juvenile Homes provided accommodation, education, recreation and rehabilitation facilities. Education was given upto 7th Standard, and for those children who had no inclination for studies, vocational training like tailoring, weaving, carpentry, bakery, etc. was given. Television, books, magazines were provided, festivals were observed, creative arts such as teracota, doll making, painting, music and karate were also taught to interested inmates. Regular health checkup was conducted once a month. Academically inclined students were sent to high schools and thereafter sent to after care homes to complete their graduation. Juvenile homes for girls were in a better condition, as they took initiative to keep the premises spick and span.

The study recommended that parents should be counseled regarding positive approach in disciplining their children and size of the family should be small so that parents could give child-centred care to their children. Review and modification of the existing acts dealing with problem children was also recommended. Rehabilitation should be more meaningful and suited to modern day trades and skills. Preventive and
corrective measures within the available resources were suggested to solve the social problem of delinquency.

**Tiwari, O. N. (1998)** studied to assess and evaluate the working of the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act) 1986 in Uttar Pradesh. Meerut, Agra, Gorakhpur, Mathura, Kanpur, Varanasi, Lucknow and Deoria districts were identified for data collection regarding implementation of the Act. The study analysed the functioning of various institutions and infrastructure under the J.J. Act, namely Juvenile Welfare Boards, Juvenile Courts and Children's Institutions. Officials of Government Departments were interviewed to capitulate their perceptions and opinions. Results showed various gaps in implementation of the Act. Minimum age of the juvenile has not been fixed and nodal officers were unable to devote quality time to ensure effective implementation of the Act. There is lacuna in the provision of institutional services. No clear identification between neglected and juvenile children was done and they were kept together in Observation Homes. Staffs were insufficient and untrained and had no proper knowledge of the Act. Observation Homes had poor maintenance and low allocation of budget. Functioning of the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) in UP was casual, inefficient, inadequate and did not serve the cause of children. Members of the JWB were mostly unqualified, resided in remote areas, and generally remained absent from meetings. The JWB proceedings were conducted in a casual manner without observing any uniform procedure. Juvenile Courts had been constituted at the regional level only. The members were not necessarily qualified, and they belonged to the Judicial services under control of the Department of Law, which caused some conflict. Due to lack of training and awareness about its objectives, Juvenile Justice Administration is handled like any other scheme of the Government. It was recommended that a separate Juvenile Wing should
be established in Directorate of Mahila Kalyan (Women and Child Development Department). Minimum qualifications should be made compulsory for staff appointed. The identification of children should be much more a child centered process, and neglected and delinquent juveniles should be kept separately. Counselling and guidance services should be provided to the children in Home compulsorily. Jails should be replaced by child guidance centres and they should have adequate infrastructure for education, training and recreation. Juvenile courts should be established at district level and the cases should be disposed of within 3 months. Total emphasis should be on rehabilitation of the child, for which policy guidelines need to be developed. All categories of staff involved in Juvenile Justice Administration need to be trained. Involvement of NGOs in the juvenile justice system should be encouraged. There is need to strengthen monitoring of children released from homes.

**Dhanva, N. (1999)** in his study to assess the self concept, personality characteristics, social tendencies and level of aspiration of juvenile delinquents among 100 juvenile delinquents, in Coimbatore, Cuddalore and Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, revealed that a majority of the Juvenile delinquents left home due to poverty, negligence and violence. 70 per cent of the delinquents had primary school education, and they were engaged in hotels (32%) and domestic work (17%). The Moshin Self Concept Scale showed significant difference at 1% level, and Eysenck's Personality Test and Test for Level of Aspiration each showed significant differences at 5 per cent level between boy and girl juvenile delinquents.

**Joglekar, A. and Patel, R R. (1997)** has undertaken a study in Mumbai with the following two objectives:
i) To find out if there is a need for a separate category called Neglected Juveniles

ii) To compare the delinquents and the neglected children with respect to their -
    intellectual abilities, personality profiles and psychiatric morbidity and to
discuss the implications of the differences between the two groups.

The sample under study consisted of 60 children from the streets. Children were
divided into two groups - delinquents and neglected. A semi-structured interview
schedule was used to gather preliminary data and reach a psychiatric diagnosis as per
DSM IV. The results revealed that more number of respondents in the delinquent group
fall in the categories of mild mental retardation and border line intellectual functioning
(66.6%) compared to 0% and 46.6 per cent of the neglected group. The neglected
children were found to be affected more by feelings and were more emotional. The
same group was found to be more humble and conforming and relaxed than the
delinquents. The delinquents were found to be more expedient and have a tendency to
evade rules suggesting a weak super ego. Study suggested that there is a definite need to
give more importance to the entity called Neglected children and further it suggested
that the children in observation home should not be looked at with a bias and must be
screened at the earliest in order to separate the neglected children from the delinquents
as the former may become deviant through observation.

Sakha, B. (2002) studied district courts and remand homes of Bihar to analyze
and understand the rights of the child under the Bihar Children’s Act 1982, as it was
implemented in Bihar in jails and remand homes. Data was collected from the records
and documents of pending juvenile cases, and through open discussions with concerned
Juvenile Delinquent functionaries. It covered 41 judicial districts and 6,269 juvenile
cases. It was divided into 3 parts, i) Part One dealt with obligations and procedures of the police; ii) Part Two dealt with judicial approaches, and iii) Part Three dealt with the recommendations for effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 (JJA 1986). Male juvenile cases constituted 95% (5,896) of the cases, while female juvenile cases were 5% (373). Results showed that there were 4,759 cases named in FIRs, 521 (8.3%) cases were named in charge sheets, and 74 cases had no record in FIRs. Approximately 2,525 cases were pending for lack of evidence and witnesses. In 5,233 cases, strangers were the informants, in 535 cases policemen, in 431 cases relatives, and in 34 cases employers were the informants. There was no record in 36 cases about informants. In 3,940 cases, juveniles were produced before the Competent Authority within 24 hours of arrest. In 107 cases, this procedure was not followed and in 2,222 cases there was no such record. It was revealed that in 5,380 cases, the court did not determine the age, and in 20 cases, there was no record about the age mentioned. About 1367 cases were remanded to remand homes, 606 cases to prison, and there was no record in 234 cases. About 127 cases were never brought to the court on trial dates, 374 cases were brought irregularly, 1308 cases were brought regularly, and in 398 cases, there was no record about the trial dates. It was recommended that the Juvenile Justice Act 1986 and other directives of the court should be written in vernacular and simple and easy language for use at the police station. FIR of all juveniles should be marked ‘Juvenile’ and maintained in separate registers. It was suggested that the competent authorities should visit remand homes, and dispose off juvenile cases from the remand homes at least bi-monthly. All police personnel should get professional training, attend refresher courses and be exposed to other appropriate modes of instruction. Women and trained social workers should be fairly well represented in the team to execute juvenile
justice. Proper arrangements and efforts should be made to help the juveniles in rehabilitation and in returning to their homes, society, family life, education and employment after release.

Kanth, A. K. et al. (2004) on behalf of Prayas, a non-profit and non-political organisation studied in the state of Bihar and the NCT of Delhi covering 494 institutionalized children aged 6-20 years, out of which 38.3 per cent were from Delhi and the remaining were from Bihar. The main objective of the study was to critically evaluate the organization, functioning and effectiveness of juvenile justice system in India with a view to improving the situation of children and juveniles, and to help them get reintegrated into the social mainstream.

In the study it was observed that a majority of the children were Hindu (78.3%), followed by Muslim (19.2%), Sikh (1.2%) and Christian (1%). Nearly 25 per cent of the children were illiterate and 76.2 per cent were literate and had some schooling. The size of their family ranged from 3-10. Children were working in wayside hotels or dhabas as labourers or daily wage workers, doing rag picking, selling water or eatables, working as domestic servants, working as porters at bus or railway stations, etc. Their monthly income, according to them, was as low as Rs 30 and as high Rs 10,000. It was observed that family groups having step mother, step father, father dead, mother dead, both parent dead or mother who had deserted the family constituted high risk groups. Vulnerable children and juveniles come from low socio-economic strata of society, many of them have had indifferent role models and most of them had been a victim of push pull factors or adverse circumstances. It was found that 25 per cent of the police officers, both from Bihar and Delhi, have conducted enquires following directions from Juvenile
Justice Board (JJB). While 38 per cent of the children thought that most of the policemen performed their duty so that people could be safe, 7.7 per cent of them felt that none of them do so. In Bihar, JJBs or Juvenile Magistrates have the necessary infrastructure. It was observed that during the year 2001, in 37.5 per cent of the institutions run by voluntary organisations, escapes have taken place. It was observed that most voluntary run institutions pay more attention to vocational training of resident children, i.e. candle making, computer typing, cutting, tailoring, repair of electric gadgets, auto repair, etc., as compared to government run institutions. Coordination and networking are a pre condition for effective juvenile justice for many reasons. It was observed that a few police officers did interact with voluntary organisations, that too in Delhi. Similar was the case of the interaction or coordination with the members of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and JJB.

It was recommended that Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) should be constituted in all the districts, and appointment of a Juvenile or Child Welfare Officer (CWO) may be expedited on a priority basis. State governments and union territory administrations may constitute child welfare committees and Juvenile Justice Boards in adequate numbers to handle children and juveniles effectively and expeditiously. It was also suggested that Government of India may extend grants to state governments, municipal authorities and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) to augment or modernize children’s services in the country.

**Pal, R. (2007)**, in his study on ‘Some Psychological Dimensions of Juvenile Delinquency: A Comparison of Different Types of Delinquent and Normal Children’ found that involvement of Juveniles in the anti-social or delinquent behaviour leads to
the development of criminal behaviour during the adulthood. In his study, self-image, emotional competence, cognitive style and locus of control were systematically studied among different types of delinquent and normal children. For this purpose four groups of delinquents, namely (i) murderers who attempted to murder (ii) burglars and dacoits (iii) delinquent who hurt, grievously hurt, and (iv) truants were taken in the study. A fifth group of normal children was also included in the study, which served as a control group. Different types of delinquent children were taken from bostal jails or observation homes of National Capital of India, Delhi and Haryana State with due permission from authorities. Normal Children were randomly taken from the Senior Secondary and Secondary Schools of National Capital Delhi and Haryana State. The age of different groups of subjects ranged from fifteen to eighteen years. Offers Self-image Questionnaire’ by Sharma, ‘Emotional Competence Scale’ by Sharma and Bhardwaj, ‘Locus of Control Scale’ by Hasnain & Joshi and ‘Imbedded Figure Test’ prepared by the researcher on the basis of procedure suggested by Witkain were used to measure the psychological dimensions. F- ratio showed the significant differences among different groups of subjects. Duncan’s multiple comparison test showed that truants had significantly lesser self image score than normal children but greater than all other groups. Murderers who attempted to murder had significantly least mean self-image score. Significant differences among emotional competence of different groups were also obtained. Duncan’s multiple comparison test showed significantly highest mean emotional competence score for normal children and least mean emotional competence score for murderers and who attempted to murder. Burglars and dacoits had significantly lesser mean emotional competence score than delinquents who hurt or grievously hurt. F-ratio for cognitive style was also found significant at 0.05 level of
significance. Duncan’s test showed significantly lowest mean cognitive style score for normal children. Murderers and who attempted to murder had significantly highest mean cognitive style score. They differed significantly from burglars and dacoits and normal children. Locus of control had also significant differences among different groups of as shown by F-ratio. Duncan’s range test showed murderers and who attempted to murder had significantly highest mean locus of control score. All the groups other than delinquents who hurt or grievously hurt and burglars and dacoits have significantly higher mean score than normal children. The results of the regression analysis revealed that only 4 per cent of variance in self-image of normal children was explained by emotional competence, cognitive style and locus of control. 2 per cent of various in self-image of truants was explained by these factors, 16 per cent of various in self-image of delinquents who hurt or grievously hurt was explained by these factors, 27 per cent of various in self-image of burglars and dacoits was explained by these factors, 4 per cent of various in self-image of murderers and who attempted to murder was explained by these factors.

Kumar, A. et al. (2007) in their study conducted in 25 states and one union territory to assess the existing status of implementation of Juvenile Justice Act, they observed that special and after care homes were fewer in number and were more crowded in terms of lack of space in dormitories, classrooms, and recreation rooms. They argued improvement of facilities like medical care unit, formal school within the premises, vocational training, television and radio facilities, organizing cultural programmes inside, exposure visits, minimum standards of care in terms of infrastructure and in terms of clothing, bedding and diet should strictly be adhered to by each Home.
Khetwal, G. S. et al (2009) in their case study ‘Juvenile Delinquency in Uttarakhand, Part I: The Victim of Situational Crime’ found that miserable economic condition of the innocent girl forced her to leave school and work as a maid. After working continuously for six months when her land lady refused to pay her dues she momentarily lost control and blindly hit her which put the girl behind bars. Referring sociologists like Ragoli and Hewitt (2006), Sutherland and Cressy 1955 and Theodore 1966, they argued poverty as one of the dominant causes of juvenile delinquency.

2.3 STUDIES IN ASSAM

Assam is one of those regions of India where numbers of serious studies on crime is few. As the population of Assam has always been comprised of divergent ethno-cultural groups which have their historical heritage since the long past, Assam may be considered as another testing ground for the socio-cultural theories of crime and delinquency. Following are some of the related studies done on crime and delinquency in Assam:

Das, P.C. (1974) in his study on the ‘Causative factors of delinquency’ concluded that the problems of delinquency is mostly related to various current changes in economic, social, cultural and moral life that are brought about by migration of people from other states, neighbouring countries, rapid increase of population, depression of rural economic growth like agriculture, small industries and unemployment. Failure to socialize the delinquents by the existing socializing agents, lack of training on the development of moral as well as emotional health have also aggravated the problem more. He found that defective family relationship, moral, cultural and material breakdown in the family easily lead a child to behave in a deviant
manner. Further the present educational system as well found responsible to contribute to the development of delinquency in pupils. Schools are found to lack the provision of trained teachers, provision of special class for those who need individual guidance and care. Proper recreational facilities, playground, co-curricular activities are found rare in the schools where delinquents continued their study. He also found that majority of the delinquents show early symptoms of delinquency, academic backwardness and low intelligence.

Dutta et al (1998) carried a study on ‘Social adjustment of adolescents’ on a sample of 200 adolescents youth drawn from Assam Agricultural University and Kendriya Vidyalayas Districts of Assam and Jorhat with an age range of 16 to 18 and 19 to 21 years. Data were obtained using the adjustment inventory for college students (Sinha and Singh, 1980). Results revealed that the boys and the girls and 16 to 18 years and 19 to 21 years did not differ in the social adjustment.

Pathak, T. (2005) in his ‘Drug abuse and juvenile delinquency in North East region’ tries to find out a relationship between juvenile delinquency and drug abuse by the adolescents of North-East region of India. He concluded from his study that a majority of the adolescents of this part of our country use alcohol and other illegal drugs, particularly marijuana. A section of these youths use opiate narcotics such as heroin, brown sugar which are usually associated with the most severe problem of addiction. The study also reveals that a section of these youths use medicinal drugs such as proxyvon, relipan, phensidyl, correx, tossex and others. A minority of these youngsters are found to use volatile inhalants like dendrite, butyl nitrite, gasoline and toluene vapours found in correctional fluid, glub and marketing pens. Use of these
substances results in other type of criminal activities. Specifically, use of these substances stimulates people to be more violent and the need to purchase expensive drugs can result in revenue-producing crimes. He concluded that the basic reasons why teen-ages choose deviant method of adaptation to the environment by restoring to drugs are lack of opportunity, poor relationship with parents and peers, curiosity, peer-group pressure, uncertainty about future and inability to adjust satisfactorily in the community.

Swargiary, J. (2000) in his study on 76 female offenders as sample from 11 district jails and state home for women in Assam made an empirical study to elicit authentic data from criminals. His findings show that the female offenders experienced indifferent parental behaviour during their childhood. Due to indifferent attitudes of the parents and ill-treatment towards girl children contribute in the development of criminal tendency and in later life it incites them to commit crimes. Most of the offenders come from frustrating, tense and conflicted homes. It is also evident from the study that a majority of 82.89 percent of female offenders are not at all conscious about their self-esteem. Therefore, it can be concluded that the female offenders in the study posses low self-esteem. They tend to negatively evaluate themselves as well as reject others. Even their perception of future aim of life is affected by their self-hatred and expected rejection by others. It can be inferred from the study that low self-esteem is present in female offenders and it is one of the determining forces behind their criminality. It is also observed that maximum number of female offenders interviewed have suffered from the feeling of insecurity in their life. A majority of 57.89 percent offenders have been identified as insecure and 23.68 percent have been identified as very insecure persons. Only 1.32 percent and 3.95 percent female offenders have been found to belong to very secure and secure category respectively.
Snehalaya, a Guwahati based NGO (Singh, D. 2009) has undertaken a study on juvenile offences and the Juvenile Justice delivery system in the Kamrup district of Assam. The study covered 225 pending cases before Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) involving 319 juveniles from the month of September 1989 to September 2008. Out of this 319 pending cases before the Board, there were 8 girls and 311 boys accused of violating the law. The maximum numbers of pending cases were against the children in the age group of 14-17 years. There were sizeable numbers of children below the age of 14 years. The maximum numbers of charges were of petty offences of theft. Other offences include murder, attempt to murder, sexual offences like rape etc. Many offences were of serious nature and committed mostly with adults (29.2 per cent).

Most of the juveniles have become adults before their cases are settled by the Board. 11.91 percent of juvenile offenders were from the Noonmati police station followed by Dispur police station (9.72 per cent).

The study recommended to set up Juvenile Justice Board Office with adequate staff and infrastructure facilities outside the CJM court premises with a full-time magistrate on days of sitting and to establish two separate Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) for Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup district. It also suggested setup a Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) and empowering it adequately for better treatment of child offenders in coordination with JJB. Half yearly review of pendency of cases as prescribed in Section 14 of the JJ Act and serious reformative interventions with specialised psychological services also suggested in the study. Any adult exploiting a minor by involving him or her in criminal activities be meted with additional punishment. Regarding the procedure and documentation the study suggested that JJB
should strictly adhere to the provisions of juvenile justice which speaks about settling of non-serious cases at the first summary inquiry as some of these cases could have been settled without bringing these children into the juvenile justice system. The study found delay in settling the cases at every stage of the justice, delivery procedure, reasons for delay being late submission of charge sheets, juveniles becoming untraceable, non-serving of summons, absence of witnesses etc.

The study was limited to Kamrup district but it could throw light on functioning of the JJBs in the rest of the districts of Assam as well as in the entire country they claimed. The study called upon developing of a separate fast track, clearly articulated and child-friendly Juvenile Offence Procedure Code at national level.

Dutta, N.K. (2010) in his ‘Social control of Juvenile crime’ stated that the juvenile delinquent has become the demon of the 20th and 21st century. An effective control of juvenile delinquency is needed to reduce crime in the society at all levels as the delinquent child of today may become the formidable criminal of tomorrow. Like economy, crime is our major social problem and most potent source of fear and trouble. We spend a large sum of money and energy for the care and protection of juvenile delinquents without making much of a dent in its inexorable rise which accounts for a large element of our fear and frustration. The problems of children in recent years are of such an enormous magnitude that measures that have been taken by the government as well as by the concerned agencies become insufficient. If the problems continue to flourish without halting with proper care, protection and treatment of the delinquent children, the country will have to face serious consequences. Its dimension is evident from the cases reported by various agencies, researchers and juvenile workers. A child
or young person becomes delinquent who is growing idly or living in crime or associating with thieves, robbers or bad characters, vagrants, prostitutes, peddling and begging, disorderly conduct, malicious mischiefs, visits a gambling saloon or billiard room, wanders about streets at night, absents himself from home without the consent of parents or guardians and ungovernable behaviour itself. The investigation of cases of hard-core criminals reveal that a large number of criminals have roots in childhood.

The causes of juvenile delinquency are of many kinds and patterns which can be divided into two broad groups: environmental and personal i.e. physiological or psychological. The important environmental causes are undesirable family condition and environment at home, dissatisfaction of school environment, bad company, imitation, customs susceptible to delinquency, pornographic literature, early sex experience, adolescent instability and impulses, love of adventure, street life and physical conditions of all sorts. The physiological conditions causing delinquency are ailments of any type, overdevelopment in adolescence, hyper-sexuality etc. The physiological factors causing delinquency are of two types – organic mental diseases and functional mental diseases. Organic mental diseases are those in which definite brain pathology is present. In functional mental diseases or emotional problems no such pathology has yet been demonstrated. Some sociological conditions prone to delinquency in children are: improper parental control, exploitation by unscrupulous persons, religious rigidity, social attitude over-crowding, criminal association, caste system, lack of family discipline, unsatisfactory customs, parental encouragement to criminal activities and antisocial acts, endogamous restriction and pornographic literature. Social control of juvenile crime is a primary need to eradicate this evil from the society. The government in a democracy is centrally responsible to upgrade the
environmental conditions of juveniles including the culture under the roof by taking measures through social welfare schemes apart from strict implementation of the existing Act for dealing with juvenile delinquent.

**Bhattacharjee, J. (2011)** in his study described recent spate of juvenile crimes in Assam. He observed that the recent incidents were probably the outcome of imitating some villain in the movies. It is usual for boys to fight over little matters. They get some thrill out of these quarrels. But to kill somebody is not only unnatural, but abnormal as well. All these horrible incidents of shootings, stabbings, abductions, extortion, corruption, love to rape, witch-hunting, bride burning are reported in newspapers or shown them on TV screen regularly. The television has done great harm to small children by exhibiting programmes totally unsuitable for the impressionable young minds. In earlier times children played with soft toys and boys usually loved to play with toy cars or trains. But now they play with toy guns and love to ‘kill’ some child in their mock gun battle. But nobody perhaps dreamt that one day this kind of mock killing would turn into a grim reality. The children cannot distinguish between the make-believe world of glitz and glamour and the real world. Hence they dress, behave and talk like these filmy people. The television presents us with a surfeit of violence which may have a disastrous impact on the young minds. All the tricks of committing crimes are exhibited on the TV screen. It is time for all sociologists, psychologists, intellectuals and conscientious people to ponder over the problem of delinquency and find a solution to stop occurrences of juvenile crimes. It is time to take care of our children and teach them the moral values, not by precept, but by example. In the meantime the delinquent children should be shown the right direction, so that they can grow up to be responsible and worthy citizens of our great country, Bhattacharjee asserted.
The studies reviewed in this chapter are conducted in Assam, India and abroad. The researcher has gone through each of the studies mentioned here which provided a firm foothold to the researcher to work on the present problem. Some of the broad generalizations that emerged out of the findings of the studies are mentioned below:

i) Some of the studies confirm that family backgrounds of the delinquents in terms of defective family relationship, defective discipline, parental indifference, disagreement between parents about control of their children are responsible for the offending conduct of their children. Maternal deprivation during early years can also develop psychopathic personality.

ii) Some of the studies reveal that there is a close relationship between criminality of parents and delinquency rate. The character of parents plays a decisive role in delinquency.

iii) It is also found in some studies that the family structure characterised by father/mother vacuum, moral vacuum, financial vacuum and contracting space is a breeding ground for delinquency.

iv) Some of the studies tried to assess the influence of overall school environment on delinquency. Certain elements of the school social bond such as school commitment, attachment to school, school involvement and belief in school rules are found to be most important in explaining delinquency. Delinquents usually have a negative affiliation with school as an institution which results in low self-esteem and negative impact on academic achievement including development of social skills. As a result
delinquents tend to lack motivation to achieve, have poor attendance, and usually experience alienation from school in general.

v) It is revealed in some studies that religious involvement throughout adolescence significantly lessens the risk of later adult criminality.

vi) Repeated exposure to violent and pornographic videos is a significant factor in developing delinquent behaviour among children. Violent television programmes and films, video games and music increases the aggressive and violent behaviour among children. Ways in which screen violence can affect behaviour includes: imitation of violent roles and acts of aggression, triggering aggressive impulses in predisposed individuals, desensitizing feelings of sympathy towards victims, creating an indifference to the use of violence, and creating a frame of mind that sees violent acts as a socially acceptable response to stress and frustration.

Therefore these studies provided substantial help in formulating objectives and hypotheses and making the research problem like an extension of the work done by the earlier researchers.