The word delinquency like the word crime is used frequently in common man’s vocabulary. Yet there is no clarity of concept regarding the exact meaning of the term. The definition of crime as well as the definition of delinquency differs and it is very difficult to find out a precise definition of the concept. The term ‘juvenile delinquency’ has been differently interpreted but, generally speaking, it refers to a large variety of behavior of children and adolescents which the society does not approve and for which some kind of admonishment, punishment or preventive and corrective measures are justified in public interest. The word ‘juvenile’ has been derived from Latin term ‘Juvenis’, meaning thereby young. The term delinquency has also been derived from the terms ‘do’ (away from) and ‘liquere’ (to leave). It was apparently used in times to refer to the failure of an individual to perform a task or duty. The term ‘delinquent’ describes a person guilty of an offence against the customs.

However, delinquency can be considered from two aspects mainly, from legal point of view and from social point of view.

From the legal stand point, delinquency is called a pattern of behavior which is disapproved by the court of law. But from the social point of view, delinquency

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117 Sarkar Chandana (1987), Juvenile Delinquency in India, Delhi, Daya Publishing House, pg-21
means any type of behavior that is not socially accepted. The difficulty regarding the exact or precise meaning, once again, arises due to the fact that legal and moral standards differ in different countries. Professor Bela Dutta Gupta rightly observes "what appears to be delinquent behavior in USA might not be considered so in other society where there is an institutionalized indulgence in certain behavior patterns."\(^{118}\) According to Cyril Burt "when anti-social tendencies of a child appear so serious that he/she becomes or ought to become, the subject of official action" then the child is marked as delinquent child.\(^{119}\)

Paul W. Tappan, an eminent criminologist, has also given a definition of delinquency. To him "delinquency is an act, course of conduct or situation which might be brought before court adjudicated whether in fact it comes to be treated there or by other resources or indeed remains untreated......the juvenile delinquent is a person who has been adjudicated as such by a court of proper jurisdiction though he may be no different, until the time of court contract and adjudication, at any rate, from masses of children who are not delinquents"\(^{120}\) But Sophia M. Robinson does not depend on legal action. Because, by delinquency Sophia means "any behavior which a given community, at a given time, considers in conflict with its best interests, whether of not the offender has brought to court."\(^{121}\)

The second United Nations Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders held in 1960 declares, "By juvenile delinquency should be understood the commission of an act which, if committed by an adult would be considered a crime."\(^{122}\) Ruth Cavan describes the delinquency as "A delinquent child is one who, by habitually refusing to obey the reasonable and lawful commands of his parents or other persons of lawful authority, is deemed to be habitually

\(^{118}\) Gupta D Bela (1964), Contemporary Social Problems in India, Calcutta, Vidyodaya Library, pg-122
\(^{119}\) Burt Cyril (1915), The Young Delinquents, London, London University Press, pg- 15
\(^{120}\) Tappan W Paul (1949), Juvenile Delinquency, New York, Mcgraw- Hills, pg- 30
\(^{122}\) Bhattacharyya C. D (1972), Sociology, Calcutta, Vidyodaya Library, pp- 628
uncontrolled, habitually disobedient or habitually wayward or who habitually is a truant from home or school, or who habitually so deports himself as to injure or endanger the moral, health or welfare of himself or others\textsuperscript{123}.

The definition of juvenile delinquency from a sociological point of view, for the purpose of this study, can be defined in a simple manner of the term as non-normative or anti-social behavior pattern. But it cannot be denied that social norms differ from one country to another and so what is an offence for a notion may not be an offence for another. In spite of that there are some conducts of rules that are common in every society.

\textbf{Review of Literature on Factors of Delinquency}

According to Lawrence K Frank, "the fundamental needs of the child are the basic requirements for the desirable social life."\textsuperscript{124} These basic needs are biological needs, need of acceptance, need for affection and need for security. Biological needs means need for food, clothing etc and so it is closely related with economic status. It has been seen previously that a broken home is generally unable to provide economic care and protection. So in broken home children are deprived of their biological needs. Again, from the very beginning child wants love and affection. A healthy mental set-up can be developed in a child if his need for love and affection is satisfied. But a broken home cannot satisfy this need. The child is deprived of parental affection due to the absence of one parent or both.

John Bowlby states, "The more complete the deprivation in early years the more isolated and asocial the child."\textsuperscript{125} Moreover, need of acceptance is closely related to need for affection. The child must not feel that he is unwanted or rejected, i.e. he is a

\textsuperscript{124} Frank K Lawrence, (1937), The Fundamental Needs of the Child, Paper presented at the Conference of the National Association for Nursery Education, Nashville, Tenuessce, October 22
\textsuperscript{125} Bowlby John (1952), Maternal Care and Mental Health, Geneva, World Health Organization, pg- 47
neglected child. "Neglect is not merely failure to provide the physical needs, the
clothing, shelter and medical care needed. Failure to provide proper supervision
leadership and guidance within the home is more serious form of neglect."126 As a
matter of fact an unwanted child reveals "characteristics of instability and general
lack of self-control and being deprived of affection he may "resort to stealing,
exhibitionism, lying or other forms of behavior in an effort to adjust to such
conditions."127

According to Ponnaian (1992)128, home is the cradle of human personality, and
children are what home environment makes them. Kadushin and Martin (1988)129
have explored parent-child network which moulds children's behavioural patterns.
Should the parent-child interaction be uncongenial, children are bound to tilt towards
anti-social attitudes and behaviour. This is what has been emphasized by Lane and
others (1987)130. They report a positive relationship between child maltreatment and
juvenile delinquency.

Similar is the position taken by Snyder and others (1987)131 who, in relation to
delinquent behaviour, bring poor parenting into focus. There is a point of view that
child's needs are synonymous to the rights of the child. If children's needs remain
unfulfilled, they would tend to drift towards anti-social behaviour. In this regard,
Kanth132 (1993) highlights the problems of neglected children. In a study, by Geismar

Company, pp- 11-17
130 Lane W Theodore & Davis E Glen (1987), Child Maltreatment and Juvenile delinquency: Does a
Relationship Exist? In Burchard, D John & Burchard N. Sara, Prevention of Delinquent Behaviour,
Newbury Park, California, Sage Publication, pp- 122-138
131 Snyder, James & Patterson, Gerald (1987), Family Interaction and Delinquent Behaviour, in Quay C
Herbert, A Handbook of Juvenile Delinquency, Toronto, Canada, John Willey & Sons Inc., pp- 216-243
132 Kanth Amod (1993), Neglected Juvenile (or Neglected Children): Need for a Concept and Definition, in
Kanth, Amod & Varma, R. M.: Neglected Child: Changing Perspectives, Delhi, Prayas Juvenile Aid
and Wood (1986)\textsuperscript{133}, the researchers examined two types of family variables, structural and functional.

They divided the variables into several sub-categories, with structural factors including the number of people in the family, family arrangements, and the employment status of the mother; functional categories included the nature of family interactions and relationships, familial problems, parental monitoring of children, and consistency of discipline. These researchers concluded that there is a slight positive correlation between juvenile delinquency and both structural and functional variables. These researchers also suggested that residing in a positive atmosphere is likely to have positive effects on the child which, in turn, reduces the likelihood of juvenile delinquent behavior (Geismar & Wood, 1986).\textsuperscript{134}

Other researchers have found that many family characteristics and family environments influence juvenile delinquent behavior, for example, the number of people in a family, inconsistent parenting, familial problems, child neglect, and the children's attachment to parents (Derzon & Lipsey, 2000\textsuperscript{135}, Wasserman & Seracini, 2001\textsuperscript{136}, West & Farrington, 1973).

Thornberry (1987)\textsuperscript{137} suggests that children's attachment to their parents influences youths more when they are younger primarily because children, as opposed to teenagers, are monitored more closely.


\textsuperscript{134} Geismar L.L & Wood K.M. (1986), Family and delinquency: Re-socializing the young offender, New York, Human Sciences Press, pg. 134


According to social reaction theory, society is primarily responsible for juveniles exhibiting delinquent behaviors. Rules are set up by the members of a society, and those individuals establish what is considered the norm. Violators of the norm are labeled deviant or abnormal. The ways in which society chooses to deal with violators of the norms influence whether or not juveniles exposed to the Juvenile Justice System will be more prone to being chronic offenders (Mahoney, 1974).  

Edwin H. Sutherland discovers certain characteristics prevalent in the homes "from which delinquent children come most frequently". These are a) criminality, immorality or intoxication etc among the members of the family; b) separation, divorce or any desertion in the family; c) over-crowding home conditions; d) defective discipline due to ignorance, blindness, etc on the part of the parents or substitute parents; e) negligence of parents; f) unsympathetic conditions at home; g) anger, excitement at home; h) rigorous treatment of parents; i) poverty.

Next to family, companionship and peer group relationship exert a decisive influence on the anti-social behaviour of children. This is what has been looked into by Ponnaian (1992) and Thilagaraj (2000). Taking an incisive look and raising some basic issues is the work of Wilson and Herrenstein (1985). According to them, peer groups supply their members with attitudes conducive to crime. In modern times, yet another dimension is the process of urbanization. Bose (1992) highlights

139 Sutherland H Edwin (1939), Principles of Criminology, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, pg- 157
the problems of disadvantaged children in urban India. Khan and Dassi (1997) look into the situation of children in urban slums.

Harjit S. Sandhu points out some behavior pattern as delinquent behavior and suggests to make juvenile law in order to prohibit delinquency. These are “running away from home, absenting oneself from school, wandering about railroad yards, visiting places where liquor is used, indulging in sexual promiscuity, associating with criminals or other deviants and smoking cigarettes.” Thus Harjit S. Sandhu wants to make the concept too wide by incorporating all sorts of juvenile misbehavior.

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<th>Review of Literature on Female Juvenile Delinquency</th>
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Crime and delinquency statistics are assumed by most observers to be relatively accurate indicators of real and substantial differences in criminality between sexes. Most sociologists would argue that girls and women are markedly less deviant than males, owing to such things as social restrictions imposed upon females which curtail their involvement in criminality. Women are less inclined to lawbreaking due to the sex-role socialization they undergo from birth onwards. They also have relatively few opportunities to engage in criminal or delinquent acts. When the public talks about delinquency or youth crime, they generally mean male behavior. This situation should come as no surprise. Even within academia, the study of “delinquency” has, until recent years, has focused mostly on male delinquency. “The delinquent is a rogue male,” wrote Albert Cohen in his influential book on gang delinquency in 1955.

The most interesting differentials between the sexes showed in the survey relate to home situations. For girls we have the picture of closer ties to parents, but the

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closeness gives rise to bitter in-fighting. Also, broken homes and parental fighting seem to be more significant for girls than for boys—another major factor is the relative weight of the peer group for the two sexes. For boys, gang membership is not only more frequent but also involves more contact with delinquent conduct. In all their relationships with people, the girls appear to be more emotionally disturbed than boys.

William Wattenberg and Frank Saunders have provided a detailed portrait of female offenders based on Detroit police department youth bureau cases for 1952\textsuperscript{147}. They observed that of 4553 juvenile complaints in that year, 3451 were boys and 1082 were girls. About one-fourth of the boys and one-fifth of the girls were subsequently referred to the juvenile court, so that most of these police cases were relatively minor instances of delinquency.

Albert Reiss has provided some insights into female delinquency\textsuperscript{148} and is of the view that sexual favors are frequently employed by girls who lack peer group status as a means for acquiring the attention of boys. He pointed out that adolescent girls at all social class levels derive much of their social standing among peers of both sexes in terms of their ability to attract boys. Those girls who are disadvantaged in this competitive struggle, due to physical unattractiveness, social clumsiness, or other liabilities, may have to offer more to boys in order to be able to depend upon their attention.

However, once a girl becomes identified as ‘easy’, she comes under even greater pressure from boys to interact sexually with them. Reiss identified a vicious cycle of status loss, promiscuity, further status loss, aggravated promiscuity and so forth, in which adolescent girls become entangled. Lower class parents may be inclined to bring charges of rape against the boys they find dallying with their daughters in order

\textsuperscript{147} Wattenberg W & Saunders F (1954), Sex Differences Among Juvenile Offenders, Sociology and Social Research, Vol. XXXIX (Sep-Oct), pp. 24-31

to try salvage the public reputation of the girls. Middle class parents more commonly endeavor to cover up the misbehavior of their daughters in one way or the other.

Some of the questions left unanswered by feminist analysts of crime revolve around the precise ways in which patriarchy might contribute to women's crime. The problem here is that as a concept 'patriarchy' is difficult to measure so that its explanatory value cannot be determined in different settings; nor is it realized how patriarchy is made manifest by powerless men. Feminist contributors have reminded us that even the question as to what is an 'offence' and who is a 'victim' are often intertwined with gender stereotypes and biases which reflect a general inequality between the sexes (that is, male dominance) in society\textsuperscript{149}. The other side of this equation is that if girls engage in even minor forms of violence, they are somehow more vicious than their male counterparts. In this fashion, the construction of an artificial, passive femininity lays the foundation for the demonization of young girls of color, as has been the case in the media treatment of girl gang members.

We know from what little research exists on daughters' relationships with parents at this age that, compared with sons, daughters have been allowed less freedom to play away from home, have not been assigned chores that take them out of the home, have been required to return home earlier, and have not been encouraged to choose their own activities\textsuperscript{150}. This means that as girls approach puberty, parents begin to exhibit an interest in monitoring them more closely--this precisely when they are becoming less adult oriented. Clashes between daughters and parents may be more likely during late adolescence. Much of the family disharmony is an outgrowth of the long-standing sexual double standard that tacitly encourages male sexual exploration and punishes female sexuality.

Female offenders, female crime victims, and female criminal justice professionals remain substantially neglected populations in the criminal and juvenile justice

\textsuperscript{149} McIvor Gill (2004), Women Who Offend, London, Jessica Kinsley Publishers, pg-24
\textsuperscript{150} Komorosky, M (1953), Women in the Modern World, San Francisco, Jossey-Bass Publishers, pp- 67-76
systems. According to *The Report of the LEAA Task Force on Women* Law\textsuperscript{151} despite the gains made by women since 1975, current evidence shows that:

- Although the nature and composition of female offenders have changed, the special needs of the burgeoning adult and juvenile offender populations often remain overlooked.

- Although assistance to crime victims has improved, the need remains for a firm commitment from the criminal justice and Juvenile Justice Systems to change the way these systems respond to women and girls who have been, or potentially could be, victims of crime.

- Although opportunities for female criminal justice professionals have improved, gender bias and inequality still exist within the criminal justice field and women's progress through the ranks continues to be slow.

An article by Hoyt S and Scherer\textsuperscript{152}, offers a critical review of the existing theories and research on female delinquency and the Juvenile Justice System's response to female delinquency. The inadequacies and persistence of historical theories and the conceptual and methodological strengths and weaknesses of contemporary perspectives in female delinquency are reviewed. Understanding and treatment of female and male delinquency could be enhanced through the adoption of a gender-integrated theory of delinquency that is informed by the comprehensive study of developmental, psychological, and social-ecological determinants.

During the early 1900s, more male theorists emerged trying to explain why young women committed crimes. These women were said to be tomboys who were trying to assume a male role (Beirne, 2004)\textsuperscript{153}, suffered from penis envy (Freud, 1924)\textsuperscript{154}, and even that they were deceitful to overcome such things as their lack of a penis,


menstruating, and their wanting to be stronger. These theories and many more were some of the main paradigms of this time.

Sociologist William Thomas was among the first to relate female criminality to the social environment. In 1907, Thomas criticized anthropologists for their "assumption of the inferiority of women and their subsequent failure to distinguish between congenital and acquired characteristics." He postulated that gender differences in intellectual functioning were not a reflection of biological differences but social influences.

W.I. Thomas argues in 'The Unadjusted Girl' (1923) that as women have greater capacity to love than men they suffer more when they do not receive social approval and affection. The unadjusted girls are those who use their sexuality in a socially unacceptable way to get what they want from life. He saw female criminals as a product of innate instincts in conjunction with influences within the social environment. Thomas developed a dynamic goals-means conflict theory in which he proposed that every human (particularly prostitutes) had four basic desires: security, recognition, new experience, and response. It was the desire for new experience and response that Thomas believed most influenced female criminality. "A women entered prostitution to satisfy a desire for excitement and response; as a women, prostitution in one form or another was the most likely avenue to satisfy those needs."

Thomas's work was criticized for their liberal paternalism and unproven assumption. "He believed in manipulating people's life for their own good to conform to social

155 Mann Coramae Richey (1984), Female Crime and Delinquency, Alabama, University of Alabama Press, pg. 57
156 W.I. Thomas (1923), The Unadjusted Girl with Cases and Standpoint for Behavior Analysis, Boston, Little Brown and Company, pp. 37-38
norms that were not necessarily universal. His theories were sexist in that females were identified as offenders through sexual behavior." 158

Otto Pollak's 1950 book, the Criminality of Women, was considered a definitive work on female crime during the postwar years. Pollak, a sociology professor, analyzed data from a comprehensive survey of American, British, German, and French literature. He posited that female crime was primarily sexually motivated with the exception of crimes of passion. Pollak further postulated that the incidence of crime among women was probably equal to that of men were it not for the "masked" and "hidden" female criminality 159. He contended that as a result, women's criminality was inadequately reflected in official statistics, giving such examples as shoplifting, illegal abortions, domestic thefts, and prostitute-perpetrated thefts of customers.

According to Pollak, who was influenced by Lombroso and Freud's theories "women are particularly addicted to crimes that are easily concealed and rarely reported. The traditional social roles assigned to women (for instance, homemakers, caretakers of children, or the sick) are ideal for hiding crimes such as sexual offences against children, which leaves no physical evidence and even less suspicion. Women are more deceitful than men in their commission of crimes and teach deceit through physiological tactics. Women disguise sexual response, fake orgasms, conceal their menstruation thus women are trained in deception" 160

Pollak argued that women were given preferential treatment at every stage of the criminal justice system, arising in part from men's "chivalrous and paternalistic

159 Flowers Barri Ronald (1995), Female Crime, Criminals, and Cellmates: An Exploration of Female Criminality and Delinquency, Jefferson, McFarland , pg- 69
regard for women" allowing for fewer arrests, less prosecution, shorter sentences, and a lower rate of incarceration than male offenders.

Recent studies have supported Pollak’s views with regard to more lenient treatment of women in the criminal justice system. However, other findings reject the argument, in some instances contending that females are treated more harshly than males in the criminal and Juvenile Justice System.

According to Ghosh (1984) if a woman behaves towards a man in such a manner that she goads him on to the commission of a crime, of which either she herself or somebody else is the victim, she is morally and indirectly answerable for the crime. And if she uses the natural influence of her sex to compel a man to the commission of a crime she is also morally answerable. And it is in this manner that women enter far more extensively into crime than is shown by statistics. She is answerable for much crime by men.

The perception that women may be mad because they ‘dared to go against their natural biological givens such as ‘passivity’ and a ‘weakness of compliance’ appears to originate from the view that women who conform as pure, obedient daughters, wives and mothers benefit society and men (Feinman, 1994:16). Women became ‘doubly damned’ that is, they are seen as weak and in need of protection while being judged as having ‘uncontrollable sexuality’ (prostitutes and delinquent girls) (Bottoms, 1996:1). Results from studies conducted by Gelsthorpe showed how sexual promiscuity amongst girls resulted in them being institutionalised and treated for ‘abnormal’ behaviour. A report from the Central Bureau of Correctional Services

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show that even when the economy of the country is improved, equality of men and women is achieved and a well advanced programme of social services is provided, there might still continue the problem of prostitution taking different clandestine forms, such as, street-walking and call-girls' services. This is reported to be the situation in most of the metropolitan cities it has been argued that these girls take to prostitution mainly to obtain the luxuries and pleasures that they crave for. It is also stated that alcoholism and prostitution prevail together. The problem of venereal diseases, although resulting out of promiscuous sex relationships, becomes a social factor influencing not only the clients but also their families.

Girls get into trouble more quietly. In most cases, they were victims themselves before they became offenders (Prescott, 1998). When girls are angry, frightened, or unloved, they are more likely to strike inward. They may hurt themselves by abusing drugs, prostituting their bodies, starving, or even mutilating themselves (Belknap, 1996). Because girls in crisis are more likely to threaten their own well-being, they may not seem dangerous to society. As a result, their needs have been overlooked and under treated (Chesney-Lind, 1988). Girls in trouble have been the afterthought of a Juvenile Justice System designed to deal with boys. Girls who break the law may not be perceived as a danger to society because, traditionally, they have come into contact with the courts for non-violent status offences such as curfew violations, running away, or unruly behavior (Chesney-Lind, 1988).

Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck's work in the field of female criminality was based on a detailed study published in 1934, of 500 Massachusetts delinquent girls. The Gluecks followed the girls from childhood through parole, tracing their backgrounds and

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social histories as well as comparing their physical and psychological traits. The researchers concluded that female delinquency was a result of biological and economic factors. They found that an extremely high percentage of delinquent girls came from abnormally large families where criminal behavior was intergenerational. Many of these girls were believed to be mentally defective and had been arrested primarily for illicit sexual behavior\(^{171}\). The Gluecks' findings were attacked as being methodologically sexist and influenced by biases. For example, they routinely examined the sexual histories of their subjects.

Many believe that female criminality is by and large a reflection of economic need or necessity rather than such factors as sexual motivation. In a review of literature on etiology of female criminality, Dorie Klein found that poor and Third World women "negate the notions of sexually motivated crime," instead engage "in illegal activities as a viable economic alternative"\(^{172}\). Indeed studies show that most female offenders tend to be economically disadvantaged and undereducated.

Professionals in the juvenile justice field now report that in many instances of offence, young women may be acting out as a means of self-protection in response to life-threatening conditions. The underlying cause of female juvenile delinquency has been reported to be family problems, including sexual and/or physical abuse in the home. It is not surprising, therefore, that most female juvenile offenders report that their first arrest was for running away from home to avoid physical and sexual abuse.

Abuse is a primary cause for running away from home, a status offence that is often a girl's first involvement with the Juvenile Justice System. Studies indicate that sexually abused female runaways are more likely to engage in delinquent activities (for example, substance abuse, theft, and prostitution) than non-abused female or male

\(^{171}\) Flowers Barri Ronald (1995), Female Crime, Criminals, and Cellmates: An Exploration of Female Criminality and Delinquency, Jefferson, McFarland, pg-68
\(^{172}\) Klein Dorie (1973), The etiology of Female Crime: A review of Literature, Issues in Criminology, Vol 8, pg-6
runaways. According to Chesney-Lind, when seeking help, most girls seek help for the consequences rather than the causes of the abuse. 

It is also researched that except in the area of prostitution, India's female crime rate is low and under reported. B.K Nagla in Women, Crime, and Law has tried to come up with reasons for the low female juvenile crime rates which are as follows:

- Female roles are more clearly defined.
- Female are more closely supervised
- Females receive greater protection
- Females have more opportunity for household employment.

Young women in India are concerned with different social things than boys. While boys struggle with power and status, girls struggle to keep their relationships with others from going bad. When relationships do go wrong; these girls could act delinquently. "Masking" is a term Nagla had to deal with when studying female crime in India. Indian officials believe that the female criminals are hard to detect because they always "mask" themselves "behind the roles they enact in society".

A number of theories tied to social and economic forces have been proposed in explaining female criminality. Role or opportunity theorists posit that females are most likely to engage in criminal behavior when the legitimate avenues for reaching social goals are closed but illegitimate avenues are open. The criminality and delinquency of females is, therefore, directly related to female socialization and opportunities, and conversely, the lack of either of these elements. In a study of delinquent girls and differential opportunities, Susan Datesman and associates found

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175 Flowers Barri Ronald (1993), Female Crime, Criminals, and Cellmates: An Exploration of Female Criminality and Delinquency, Jefferson, McFarland, pg.: 70
that perception of blocked opportunity was more closely related to female
delinquency than that perception was to male delinquency\textsuperscript{176}.

Although girl offenders have been called "the forgotten few" (Bergsmann, 1989)\textsuperscript{177},
they are fast becoming too numerous and their problems too serious to ignore. Myriad
social and emotional issues and risk factors are involved with female juvenile
offenders in the juvenile justice system. Despite the multiplicity of their problems,
however, female juvenile offenders and at-risk girls respond positively when placed
in a caring environment. To address the needs of this population, it is necessary to
develop and implement innovative community-based programs that provide
comprehensive, gender-specific prevention, treatment, and rehabilitative care that
includes case management and follow-up for at-risk and delinquent girls\textsuperscript{178}.

\textbf{Gaps in Existing Literature}

Review of Literature thus indicates that further research on the role of families of
delinquent girls is necessary in order to determine whether future measures should
include penalization of the parent of a delinquent or provisions of income generation
program for the parents would be more suitable. The difference in the ratio of the
male to female child delinquency focuses attention primarily on the boys but the
gradual increase in the female child delinquent is a contemporary cause for concern.

This detailed review of Female Juvenile Delinquency literature also brought to light
that most of the researches on Female Delinquency such as the Feminist Theory
reflect that females are less prone to delinquency because they are less inclined to

\textsuperscript{176} Datesman K Susan, Scarpitti R Frank & Stephenson M R, (1975), Female Delinquency: An
Application of Self and Opportunity Theories, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Vol 12,
p5-120
pp-73-78.
\textsuperscript{178} Schwartz Ira M, Barton William & Orlando Frank (1991), Keeping Kids Out of Secure Detention: The
pp- 20–26
lawbreaking due to the sex-role socialization they undergo from birth onwards. As a result female juvenile delinquency is not a very extensively researched topic. Literature on Female Delinquency remains a substantially neglected area.

The limited studies that are there are mostly of Western countries whose socio-cultural conditions are vastly different from the Indian situations.

The studies and theories of criminology amongst females in India often limit itself to women above the age of 18 years. Mostly all the studies on crime amongst women in Indian concentrate on 'prostitution'. Others issues which may be associated with delinquency amongst a girl child below the age of 18 years gets neglected. This study was thus attempts to fill up the exiting gaps in the literature by throwing light on the determinants of female juvenile delinquency in India. This study also highlights the aspirations of a female delinquent from the society which in turn may help policy makers in carving out a girl child-friendly interventions keeping in mind the abusive circumstances and constant neglect that surround them.

**Methodology**

This study was conducted in Delhi and the respondents consisted of girls below the age of 18 years staying in the homes under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. These institutions included the Observation Home for Girls (Nirmal Chhaya), and Shelter Homes for Girls (Prayas Tughlakabad Institutional Area). A total of 200 girls were interviewed. 50 respondents were identified from Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice and remaining 150 respondents were identified from Observation Home for Girls, Nirmal Chhaya Complex, Jail road.

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- The **first objective** of the research proposal is to identify the factors that might prompt females to adopt delinquent behavior. An exploratory study like this holds the promise of highlighting various issues that are hitherto unknown.
• Secondly, this research will attempt to study parental attitudes towards the girl who has committed the offence, existence of gender discrimination in family and the specific acts responsible for the inmate to be labeled as delinquent. The socio-economic background of these inmates, nature of their socialization and parental expectations will also be looked into.

• Thirdly, attempt will also be made to find out the aspirations of the respondents

• Lastly, the study aims to highlight the coping mechanisms adopted by the society and the initiatives taken at the International and National levels towards preventing Girl Child Delinquency.

**Tools and Techniques**

In a study of this nature, a vast amount of information is required. This may include both official/secondary data, and first-hand/primary data for entry into these Homes is the biggest task in order to elicit first hand information from the respondents.

Nirmal Chayya Observation home for girls is a Government home for Juveniles in conflict with law (in other words delinquent girls) and has been established as per provisions of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. Being a government home it comes under the direct control of the Department of Social Welfare. Appointment was thus sought with the Secretary cum Director of Social welfare, Dr. G Narender Kumar. He extended his support and directed me to Mr. Ram Chander who was the concerned authority to grant permission. On informing him about my topic of research he was very keen and showed interest to help me. He felt that there was a dearth of such research work and the information collected will be very useful even for the Government. Within three weeks I received the permission letter from the Department of Social Welfare (*See Annexure for permission letter*).
Similarly, Prayas Shelter home for girls, a place also identified under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, is the institution for girls in need of care and protection as envisaged under the Act. Here too permission was taken from the Mr. Rajib K Haldar, Executive Director to conduct the Study and one could obtain access to official records.

Due to the sensitivity of the subject eliciting their response and ascertaining their opinion was an uphill task. In this connection, the choice of data collection has been through the interview method. Based on the objectives of the study an interview schedule was prepared that encompassed questions related to all information required for the research.

It addition the data was supplemented by non-participant observation and in-depth case studies were also conducted through one to one interaction. The purpose of one-to-one interaction with children was to elicit actual information from children regarding the subject of study.

Care was taken to adhere strictly to the ethical guidelines in order to ensure that children do not fall into a situation of psychological trauma while they share their past experiences (See Annexure for Ethical Guidelines).

The official records and files of 10 girls from Prayas and 25 from Nirmal Chhaya were studied for the purpose of getting an idea as to the nature of respondents and also to derive a pattern in which these respondents should be handled in order to get the desired information. By reading the files a general profile of the children was understood, an idea of their family background and the brief reasons for their being in the home was revealed.

On going through the files we realized that the prepared schedule had some overlapping questions while some very important questions were missing. The schedule was thus revised (See Annexure for Interview Schedule). With this the formal process of data collection started.
The study has generated a large body of information. Handling of all the first-hand information or primary data has been a difficult task. Interview schedules were edited and checked for accuracy and consistency. Likewise, codes were developed and open-ended questions coded. All data was entered into the computer and subsequently, one-way tables were prepared. Further, quite a lot of tables have been converted into diagrams to highlight trends. Quantitative and qualitative material, including 'observations of the interviewer', has been utilized to prepare select 'case studies'. The names of the respondent / subjects remain confidential.