Chapter 5

CASE STUDIES
This chapter is devoted mainly on some case studies. It is well known that the case study method is one of the most comprehensive methods of data collection. It not only facilitates the gathering of data in detail, but also provides intensive observation and collection of facts related to the problem undertaken for study. Though this method is quite tiring and time consuming for the researcher, it goes without saying that it is one of the most fruitful methods by which valid generalizations may be reached.

The cases selected for intensive investigation in this study are 14 out of the total number of 110 girl delinquents and this gives us an understanding of the nature of delinquency. Delinquents' educational attainments, their family background, cause of the delinquency and different crimes committed by them while examining them were all taken into consideration. Their identity has however not been disclosed here, their anonymity therefore remains. The data were collected from the delinquent girls in the juvenile home in privacy. The interview was held at the individual level.
CASE - 1:

Ammaji is twelve years old Muslim girl. She belongs to Kalahasthi of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. She has father and step mother. Her father works in a small petty shop. She has two brothers and one sister. Her elder brother makes cement moulds, and younger brother beedies. She studied upto first standard only. Later her father diverted her to household jobs. She is the youngest in the family. One day her step mother scolded her due to which she ran away from home with Rs.1,000/- to Tirupati where his sister and brother-in-law lived. She did not disclose the reality to her sister. One day she met a thirteen years old girl named Mumtaj while roaming in the streets. Soon they became friends and on Mumtaj’s insistence they went to Tirumala to see Lord Venkateswara Swamy. After darshan of the deity she could not find Mumtaj. Ammaji went for searching her friend up to Pushkarini. There she found a bag a camera. She took out the camera from the bag of sheer excitement. A security guard mistook her and took her to the Police Station, there she was beaten severely by the police. She pleaded guilty of not stealing the camera. The police did not believe her and they informed her sister. Her sister also scolded her, she was placed in the juvenile court. All her family members asked her to accept the theft, so that she could be released early. So Ammaji accepted the guilt and was sent to the juvenile home. She is full of hope of getting back home after she is released from the juvenile home, though her father still threatens her. She feels sorry many a time for the punishment. She is being given for her undoing. She has a ray of hope for her better future.
CASE - 2:

Kumari Padmaja is a thirteen year old girl from Devarakonda, Nalgonda district. She is the youngest among the four sisters. Her mother died in her childhood. Her father married again. He earns Rs.60/- per day by working in a construction firm. Her father spends all his earnings in drinking alcohol and her step mother does not treat them well. Padmaja and her sisters are starved of good food and clothings. Their father was not fulfilling even their little demands and was not at all interested in their studies. Their neighbourhood children used to steal simple things and get caught by the police. They were then sent to the jail. Padmaja and her sisters came to know from them that the food served in jail was much better than what they were getting in their house. So they also decided to steal and get caught by the police. They identified a steel utensil shop nearby which there was a traffic police. The police found them stealing utensils and later they were remanded to a juvenile home. Now Padmaja is studying in class X and still believes that stealing is the only job left for them unless the society gives them some suitable job. For the past two years they have been in the juvenile home.

CASE - 3:

Kumari Munjulakshmi is of sixteen years old. Her parents are bangle sellers. They belong to Bellampalli, a small village. She has five brothers of them three are married. Manju wasn't at all interested in studies and she was
not sent to school. She used to help her parents in the shop. One day in her childhood she was beaten and scolded by her mother. So she left the house and entered a running train. She got down at Vijayawada, the last stop. There she worked as a servantmaid in a house. She did not like the job and she was again in another train to an unknown destination. The ticket collector found her ticketless and handed over her to the police. She was then severely beaten by the police and was sent to Madras juvenile home. Then she was eight years old. She wrote a letter to her parents with the help of juvenile home authorities informing her whereabouts and could receive no reply. Now she feels that she may get acceptance from her parents. Also she is worried that even if she gets married somehow, once her husband and in laws know her history. She will be rejected outrightly. Now she is learning stitching and other crafts in the juvenile home so that she can become independent after coming out from juvenile home.

CASE - 4:

Miss. Varalakshmi is aged twelve years. Her father works in the Viskhapatnam dockyards. She has two sisters and one brother. her brother is an autorickshaw driver. She belongs to the Backward caste. She used to play always and was not at all interested in studies. Also she used to quarrel with the children in the neighbourhood. Being a mischievous girl she became a nuisance to her parents. She used to go to the Kanakamahalakshmi temple daily for the prasadam and sweets.
One day she met a girl about her age at the temple. This girl had a bad habit of stealing petty things. She could impress upon Varalakshmi also of the immediate and quick earnings by selling the stolen things. They both planned to steal the “Mangalasuthra” of the deity the other day. They selected early hours of the day to avoid large number of visitors. But alas! they were caught by the Poojari while they were stealing and were presented in the court at Rajahmundry. Later they were sent to juvenile home for a period of two years.

CASE - 5:

Miss Latha is a fourteen years old girl. Her family resides in an urban area. Her father was a retired clerk who earned money by doing tailoring work. One of her brothers is a carpenter and the other one is an auto-driver. Her mother looked after a vegetable shop. Latha assisted her mother in maintaining the vegetable shop. Once one of her neighbours was visiting her sister’s town. Latha accompanied the former with a view to visiting her sister and bringing her back to their town if possible. Her sister agreed to go back to her parents but wanted to take some new saris as a gift to her mother. For this purpose, she had to shoplift the saree. She also persuaded the other two girls ran away from the shop. She was caught red handed and convicted.
CASE - 6:

Sredevi is an eighteen years old girl. She is a native of Doddanakeri of Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh. Her father Thippanna works as a farmer. Her mother works in a field. She has three younger sisters, one elder sister and four brothers. She got married 3 years ago. After five months of her marriage her husband was murdered. Her own mother-in-law and father-in-law reported to the police that she had murdered her husband. According to them their son was a good person and she got illegal contact with some other person. They declared that it was her act only. But according to her, on one new moon day night, while she was sleeping with her husband, some people came and hit her husband on the head hard with a stone many times. On hearing the noise she woke up. But by the time she woke up they ran away. Due to this, she has no evidence about the murder. She became suspicious of Mr. Reddy (Sarpanch) who was living in their village. She was threatened by Mr. Reddy, if she revealed his name in the court. So she failed to tell his name. Though, she tried to convince her mother-in-law and father-law, they didn’t believe her words and always used to throw the blame on her. At that time her husband was murdered, he was forcibly made to drink by some other people. So she was not conscious about what was happening under these circumstances, she was given an imprisonment of 2 years.
CASE - 7:

The seventh case of Miss Durga is a fourteen years old Backward caste girl. She belongs to Thatichetla near Vizag. She lost her parents during childhood. Her mother died of jaundice and was brought up by her brother and sister. Her brother works as a carpenter and sister sells flowers. She is an illiterate. She assisted her brother and sister in and outside the house. When she committed the first offence, at that time she did not know even her age. She was brought to a juvenile home on some false case. She committed the theft along with two girls, but they eloped. She alone was punished and kept in this juvenile home for six months. Her sister took her to her house after six months of jail punishment. After release from the juvenile home she and her sister’s daughter have stolen a gold chain. But the other girl escaped and reported to police that they had lost some money and proved that Durga had stolen the gold chain and some money. The police took her into custody and threatened her. They have charged lati on her. It was proved in the police records after investigation that Durga was a culprit. But Durga said that she had not stolen the gold chain but her close friends had stolen and she was false implicated. According to Durga the money was with the police only. Her brother and sister were also arrested and were kept in jail and punished severely. Durga told that the police people bridged Rs.50/- to a tea stall person and asked him to give false witness that she had stolen the chain. His name is Ali. After receiving the case, the court gave the judgement that she had to be kept in this home upto 5 years. She felt that staying in the juvenile home was an unhappy thing. She remembers her brother and sisters. She tells that theft is not a good act. But circumstances made her to commit theft. After releasing from the juvenile home she decided not to do indulge thefts in future and also determined to work hard and earn money.
CASE - 8:

Kanakamahalakshmi is a thirteen years old girl. Her father works as a gardener. She came from Vizag. She has two sisters and one brother. Her brother works as a carpenter. Her father earns Rs.900/- per month. Her brother was married. One day she along with her friends stole a purse in which some gold and money were found. Police came to their house and took them to jail by blowing with sticks. Her brother and parents also received some blows. She was kept in the juvenile home for one year and was released. After her release from the juvenile home, she started living happily along with her parents. After some days, somebody gave false witness and they were given Rs.10,000/- for admitting that they had stolen a purse in a bus. The purse contained gold. For that reason, she kept in the juvenile home. Again her parents and brother were tortured by the police. She has been imprisoned up to 3 years. After her release she wants to go home and lead a peaceful life without committing thefts.

CASE - 9:

Miss Meri Kalyani is seventeen years. Her native place is Guntur. Her parents are alive. She is the only daughter. Her father works as a Road Roller driver. He draws an income of Rs.3,000/- per month. Kalyani studied up to Eighth class. Because of some reasons her studies were stopped. Her father used to spend all the money earned on liquor. Her father used to beat Kalyani
and her mother when they asked him to give up the habit of drinking. Unable to withstand her atrocities, she and her mother fled to her Grandma's place. He used to go there also and harass them. Kalyani and her mother reported the matter to the police. But he did not care them. Because of harassment her mother went with him. Kalyani did not have a will to go with her father. Whenever he did not have the money he forced Kalyani to sleep with unknown persons and asked her to get money from them. She did not know whether he forced her mother too. Not able to withstand this exploitation, she fled from the home and got caught by police. A case has been booked stating that she fled from the home. His father somehow managed to know about her whereabouts and came to see her. He made promise that he would not touch liquor and asked her to return home. Kalyani claims that all these are false promises. She says that he will do the same thing which he used to do before she had fled away. She says that she reason for her agony is the irresponsible behaviour of her father. She feels that she has no parents. She thinks that after returning from juvenile home, she will be made fun of as a juvenile home returned girl, by the people in the society. But she feels that the juvenile home is far more better than her own home.

**CASE - 10:**

Miss Venkata Lakshmi is fourteen years old girl. She belongs to Vizag. Her parents are alive. Her father works as a gardener. He draws an amount...
of Rs.900/- per month. Lakshmi has two sisters and one brother. Her brother is a carpenter and is married. He lives happily with his wife. Lakshmi was not interested to going to school. She made a friend who lives in her locality. They used to move very closely and do any work together. Her friend used to steal some small things. But she was never caught by the police. One day Lakshmi and her friend stole a purse. Lakshmi found some ornaments and money in that purse. She kept the purse in the house in a secret place. Her friend betrayed her and brought the police to Lakshmi's house for a search. The police beat Lakshmi and her members of family severely till she accepted the theft. Then she was arrested and kept in the jail for a few days. After release, her parents shifted their residence to a new house. A year later the police came to her house and again blamed Venkata Lakshmi in another theft case in which some jewellery and money were stolen from a bag in a bus. Venkata Lakshmi pleaded guilty and told the police that she was innocent. Even the police tried to bribe her with Rs. 8,000/- and asked her to return the stolen material. The police insisted that Lakshmi was the thief as she was caught once before in the same type of case. The police beat her severely till she accepted the theft and produced her in the court. She was sentenced to four years imprisonment. Even now the police are beating her parents to give park with the gold and cash. But Venkata Lakshmi feels that the police must have involved in the theft and distributed the booty among themselves.
CASE - 11:

Zarina is a fourteen years Muslim girl. She lost her father in her childhood. Her mother works in the telecom Department. Zarina studied up to fifth class in Urdu medium. Her mother, due to financial problems asked her to work as a maidservant in the evenings in an Advocate's house. Zarina used to go to school regularly and to her work in the evenings at the advocate's house. One day her master tried to rape her. Somehow she got escaped, and the police mistook her to be a street girl and kept her in juvenile home. The other day the advocate came to see her in the juvenile home. Zarina requested him to tell whereabouts to the mother but of no use. Zarina's mother has also requested the advocate to tell Zarina's whereabouts. The advocate fears that Zarina may tell the truth to her mother. Thus the advocate has avoided both of them and Zarina had become nobody's girl in the juvenile home.

CASE - 12:

Kumari Lakshmi is fourteen year uneducated girl. Her father died recently and her mother was always sick with some disease or the other. She was the only child to her parents and could not attend school due to her household jobs. She could manage her mother's illness only for a few months till her father's earnings lasted. One day her mother fell down and was hospitalised. In five days all the money she had got exhausted. Even her friends and relatives did not come for her rescue. She bore her hunger for two
days and at last she resorted to begging. The police caught as begging is a crime. Her mother also hated her. Later she was taken to the juvenile home.

CASE - 13:

Miss Rajakumari is a seventeen years old girl. She lost her father in her childhood. It was a jointly family so her uncle used to look after her and her mother. Her uncle works as broker in arranging bank loans. She studied up to VI class. One day her mother died suddenly and in that grief she could not continue her studies. Her brother-in-law fell in love with her with the intention of getting hold of the property left by her mother. One day when she was alone in the house, her, brother-in-law raped her. As she was not mature enough she got shocked in the accident and was admitted to the hospital. She was very much ashamed of the incident. After a little recovery she tried to escape from the hospital. But hospital staff caught her. Her brother-in-law used to come to the hospital and asked her not to report the misdeed done by him to any one. She tried to escape from the hospital once again and this time her brother-in-law reported it to the police that she was not fit mentally and that she was a brothel. She was produced in the court and was remanded to juvenile home till she attained eighteen years.
CASE - 14:

Kumari Vijaya Lakshmi is a fourteen years old girl, belonging to Palvancha, Khammam district. She belongs to a Lambadi family - a Scheduled Tribe. She has one sister and one younger sister. She lost her parents in the childhood, and her aunt rescued her. Her brother is staying in a hostel. Her sister is in Madras doing a petty job. She studied up to fifth class. She always used to dream about huge wealth, nice clothes etc. Her aunt is a maidservant and notable for earning more money. Vijaya Lakshmi could hardly get money from her aunt to fulfill her dreams. So she thought of the idea of stealing her neighbour's tape recorder. While doing so, she was caught and handed over her to the police. She accepted the theft in the court and was sentenced for three years in a juvenile home.