



A Study on the Social Perception on Juvenile Offenders and Offences in India

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ABSTRACT

Rehabilitation will bring a Positive change in our society .The main objective of this study is to find causes of juvenile offences,and methods to eradicate them and link between the lack of education and juvenile offence and government initiatives . Around 235 samples collected through a convenient sampling method. Sample frame - INDIA. Through this research it can be said that the government is taking various effective policies but those lacks proper implementation , then it was found that family problems, poverty and peer pressure and parents - teacher neglect major causes of poverty and higher percentage of people believe that rehabilitation should be encouraged- for the overall development of our society. Suggestion - children should be given basic care ,and they shouldn't be neglected from the side of the parents and if a child commits any offence is the the best possible way he should be given a chance to change. This study aims to explore the social perception surrounding juvenile offenders and offences in India. Juvenile delinquency is a complex issue influenced by various factors, including socioeconomic conditions, family environment, peer influence, educational factors, substance abuse, exposure to violence and trauma, and the lack of rehabilitation and reintegration programs. However, social perception plays a significant role in shaping attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours towards juvenile offenders.The study will employ a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and focus groups, to gather data from the general population in different regions of India.

Keywords: Juvenile, delinquency, poverty, illiteracy ,broken families

1. Introduction

Juvenile - According to Section 2(k) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 defines “Juvenile” or “Child” as a person who has not completed 18th year of age and juvenile Delinquency Is when a person irrespective of gender below the age of 18 commits an act which he is prohibited to do or does any act which is against law/ society .Causes of juvenile offences -family problems -domestic violence, parental indifference and their bad habits, etc, lack of education,poverty ,economic problems , peer groups -informal network among the individual among similar age groups groups of these children are formed spontaneously in those areas where these children usually meet habits of the Children here involves smoking,stealing,gambling,consuming alcohol are generally found in these peer groups ,unemployment - increases poverty and resentment against society , neighbourhood-Psychological issues- such as lack of attention of parents on their children/or when child is neglected- medical,neglect,physical,emotional,mental- which has negative on children - depression, fears, and complexes, excessive aggression, etc. This can provoke the minor to commit a crime,Violence breeds violence-Children who have experienced violence are most likely to have infringed relationships with adults, cannot communicate with their peers, and become “bullies” to prove themselves, sometimes they link their fate to a criminal environment.Ways to prevent juvenile offences - education - all students should be properly educated in schools about social behaviour , parent child interaction,prevent bullying, recreation .steps to be taken to reduce juvenile delinquency- Education should be provided to each and every child - as it is a basic right under article 21A of the constitution and duty of the parents should be provide education under article 51a And duty of the state to provide free and compulsory education to all the children between 0-6 years ,If a juvenile commits a crime he should be given right treatment so that we can prevent habitual offender,Instead of punishments use the concept of welfare ,development of juvenile should be used.Juvenile delinquency can be prevented through counselling,psychotherapy ,proper education to the juvenile and his family.Punishments for the prevention of juvenile delinquency-Juvenile justice act 2015,Indian penal code 1860,Information and technology act 2000 and many more.In India Madhya Pradesh arrested the highest number of juveniles (5,607) under IPC crimes followed by Maharashtra (4133,and rajasthan (2883).but in case of absolute number of cases Uttar Pradesh reported the highest incidence of violent crimes accounting for 15.2%of total violent crimes in India.

Objectives

* To analyse the causes of juvenile offences in India

* To understand the challenges and eradicate juvenile offences in India

* To examine the preventive measures taken by the government to eradicate juvenile offences

1.1 Review of Literature

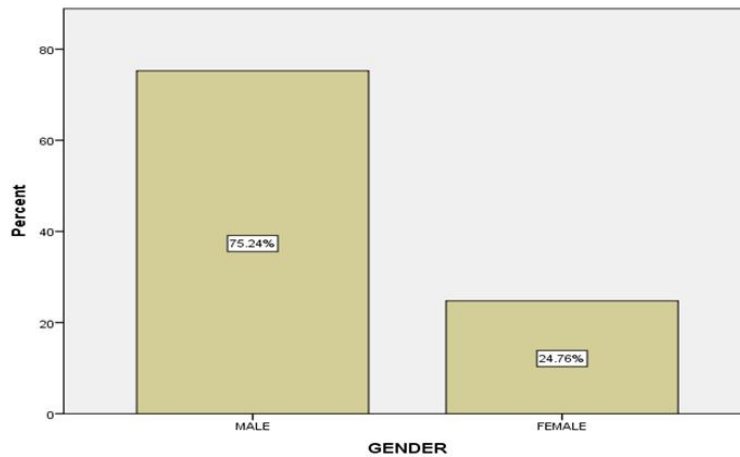
On December 22, 2015, the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 received parliamentary approval, bringing forth an entirely new regime with respect to juveniles above the age of sixteen, accused of committing heinous offences. They instead suggest that efforts be expended in ensuring more effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000.(Bajpai 2006).Overall, our findings suggest that homicides involving juvenile suspects receive more salient coverage. The hypotheses testing whether juvenile homicides that fit the superpredator script receive more media attention than those that do not yield moderate support. Additionally, incidents involving heinous modes and motives are more likely to receive media attention.(Kurlychek and Johnson 2004).The law considered them incapable of forming the necessary criminal intent. Children between the ages of 7 and 14 were generally thought to be incapable of committing a criminal act, but this belief could be disproved by showing that the youth knew the act was a crime or would cause harm to another and committed it anyway.(“Juvenile Delinquency: The Influence of Family, Peer and Economic Factors on Juvenile Delinquents” 2015).Crime committed by juveniles in India and the law pertaining to it has been the subject of debate and concern, primarily because of a perceived rise of violent crime and the proposal of treating juvenile offenders involved in heinous crimes as adults.(Harvey 1993) .The central question which this article looks at is whether the article is comprehensive enough to eliminate the possibilities of crime by juveniles as it is based on the principle of reformation and rehabilitation of children who are otherwise presumed to be innocent not to commit a crime. (S. Agarwal and Kumar 2016).There is increasing clamour to lower the age for juvenile-accused and demands to try them as adults in the court of law. (Bajpai 2018).Juvenile delinquency is a serious offence and it is detrimental for the social order in any country. There is a trend of increase in juvenile crimes world-over, with more and more involvement of the youth in violent crimes. Chennai shows similar trends of increasing rate of violent crimes committed by the juveniles. This paper aims at looking at the causes of juvenile delinquency and explanations in Chennai for the year 2016.The analysis of statistical data available at the CBCID office crime branch indicates increasing involvement of the juveniles in heinous crimes. (Vigneswari and Thanappan, n.d.).Juvenile delinquency is a serious offence. There is an increase in juvenile crimes all over the world and India is one of the countries which has a higher involvement of the youth/juveniles in the crimes. To resolve the problem of juvenile delinquency in India, the Act pertaining to Juvenile Delinquency has been amended.(D. Agarwal et al. 2018).The laws that are there at present are very inadequate. There is no provision for proper rehabilitation and proper trauma treatment in most laws. In fact, most laws turn blind eyes to the accused, while society treats the victim with disrespect. This paper examines the inadequacies of laws relating to rape of the minors from selected countries and enjoined review of these laws so as to ensure maximum punishment to child rapist. (Gopalan et al., 2024).The recent spate of rapes, especially those of girl child is not only shocking, but it reveals a viciousness also. (D. Agarwal et al. 2018; Lane 2015; Kakar 2015).It is said that sexual abuse is the most common and threatening behavior calculated to induce fear in all women, it means men have chosen to maintain control over women. Rape is the fastest growing crime in the country.(“Juvenile Delinquency Trends and Juvenile Justice System Responses” 1997).This paper discusses human trafficking, especially women and children trafficking in Asia. Human trafficking is not only a local problem but also a global concern. Recently trafficking of human beings increased alarmingly due to globalisation and liberalization. The governments and various NGOs of the world have taken various steps to stop human trafficking.(“Juvenile Delinquency Trends and Juvenile Justice System Responses” 1997; Dong 2015).Children must be nurtured adequately throughout their formative years to grow up to become valuable members of society. Because children are the most vulnerable group in society, they are more susceptible to various abuses, especially sexual assault. It is a blatant violation of human rights to use children for sexual pleasure, which is the definition of child sexual abuse. (Cooper 2015).Children must be adequately fostered during their formative years to mature into contributing members of society. Because children are society's most vulnerable group, they are more prone to different forms of abuse, particularly sexual assault. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, was the first law approved by the Indian government to address child sexual abuse and exploitation, and it included harsh punishments.(Shteynberg and Redlich 2015).Recent policy initiatives threaten to reduce the rehabilitative mission of the juvenile court or eliminate the court entirely. On the assumption that the continued existence of a rehabilitation-oriented juvenile court can be justified, it then provides suggestions as to how existing intervention strategies for juveniles could benefit from research attention to several substantive and methodological issues.(Fagan and Lindsey 2015).Historically, juvenile justice policy has oscillated between rehabilitative and punitive approaches to managing young offenders. An increase in violent youth crime during the past decade has renewed interest in punishing delinquent youths. Our analysis suggests that overall crime rates have remained relatively stable over the past three decades and are independent of prevailing juvenile justice policies.(Fagan and Lindsey 2015; Gibson and Davis 2015).Juvenile court has elicited the interest and criticism of lawyers, social workers,and criminologists, but less attention from sociologists. This book adds to growing sociological literature on the operations of legal institutions. It describes some critical aspects of the functioning of the juvenile court, an institution charged with judging and treating delinquents. (Fagan and Lindsey 2015; Gibson and Davis 2015; Kumari 2010).The conception of juvenile justice has its ontological root in the internationalisation of childhood and construction of children as a distinct social class. (Kumar 2019).Crimes against children still happen far too often, but by proposing a new framework for thinking about the issue, Childhood Victimization opens a promising door to reducing its frequency and improving the response. Professionals, policymakers, and child advocates will find this paradigm-shifting book to be a valuable addition to their shelves.(Kumar 2019; “Childhood Victimization: Violence, Crime, and Abuse in the Lives of Young People” 2009).Using prospective data from a cohort design study involving documented cases of child abuse and neglect and a matched control group, we examine two potential pathways between childhood victimization and violent criminal behavior: early aggressive behavior and problematic drinking. For men, child maltreatment has direct and indirect paths to violence. Interventions for victims of childhood maltreatment need to recognize the role of early aggressive behaviour and alcohol problems as risk factors for subsequent violence(Widom, Schuck, and White 2006) .

1.2 Methodology

The Research method which has been followed by the researcher is empirical research. Total of 235 samples have been collected through convenience sampling method. Data collection has been done by mailing questionnaires. Independent variables taken in this research are gender, age, educational qualifications, occupation, location. Dependent variables are whether government is taking effective measure to reduce juvenile offences in our society, causes of juvenile offences, whether lack of education and juvenile delinquency interconnected. The statistical tool used for the research work are graphical representation (pie chart, bar chart, and clustered bar chart) and ANOVA, chi square test, and correlation.

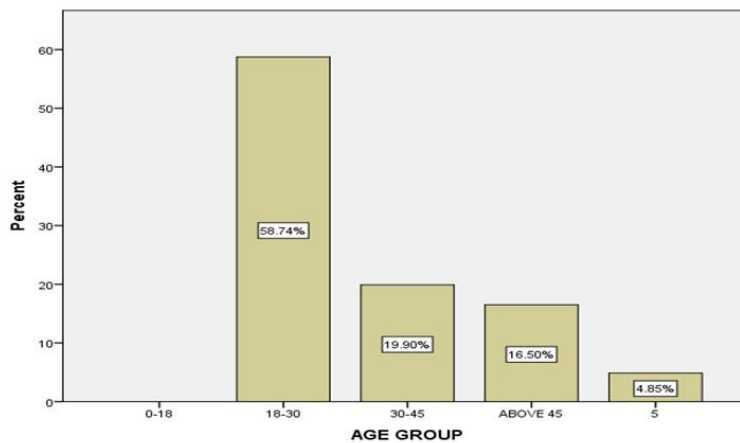
1.3 Analysis

FIGURE 1:



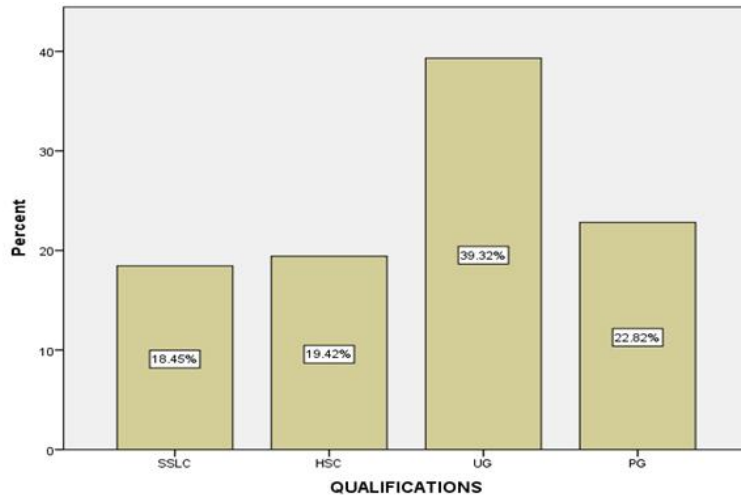
LEGEND: Represents the percentage analysis of gender of the sample population .

FIGURE 2:



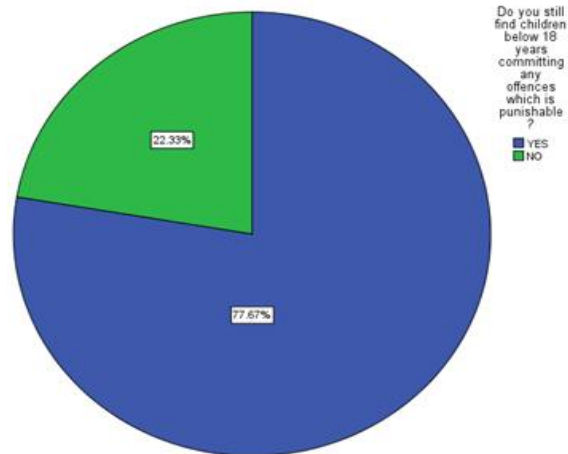
LEGEND: Represents the percentage analysis on the basis of the age group of the sample population .

FIGURE 3:



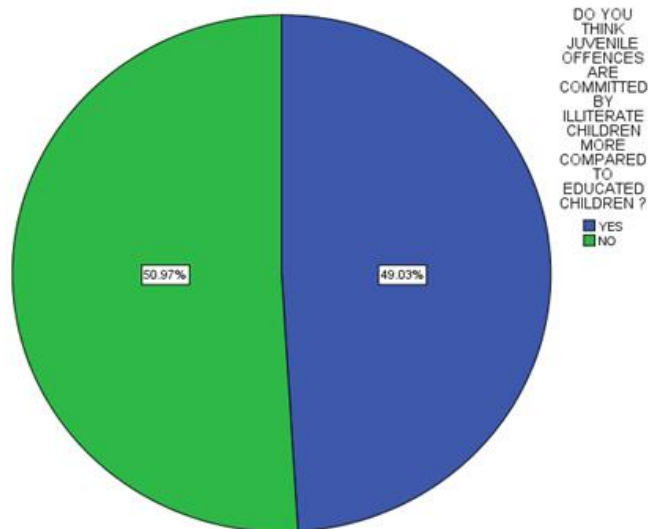
LEGEND: The above bar graph represents the percentage analysis of the qualifications of the sample population.

FIGURE 4:



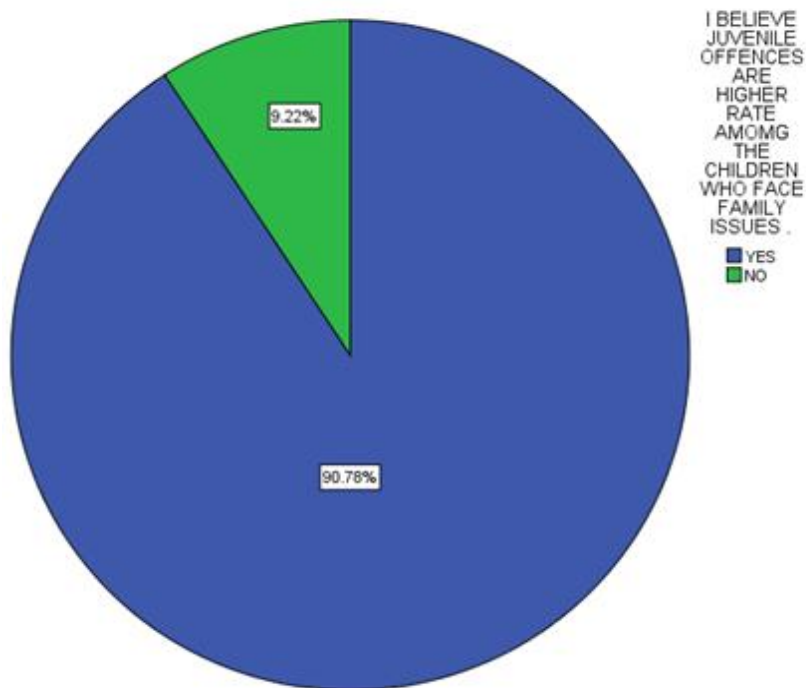
LEGEND: Represents the percentage analysis on the views of the sample population on whether still children below 18 years are committing any offence which is punishable .

FIGURE 5:



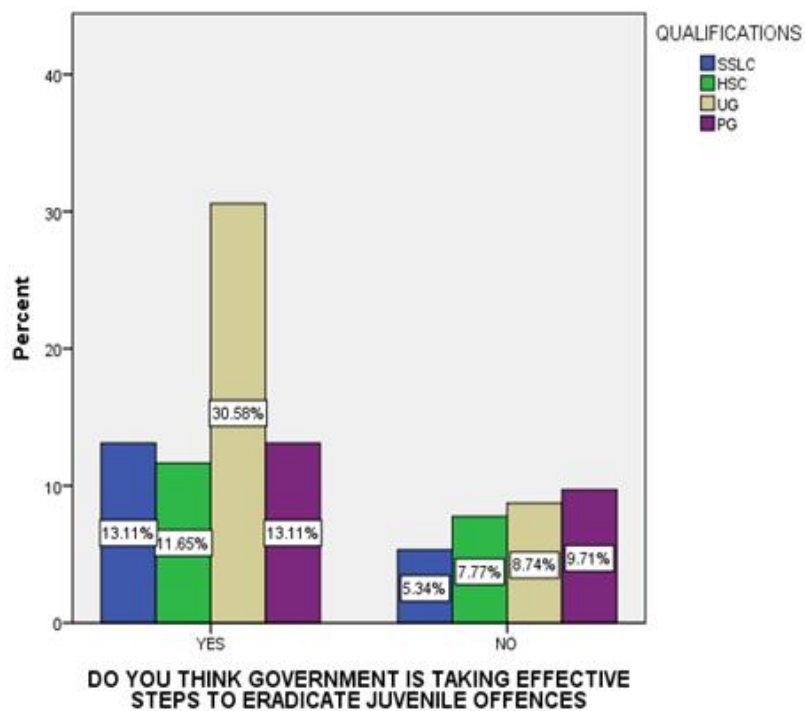
LEGEND: Represents the percentage analysis on the views of the sample population on whether juvenile offences are committed by illiterate children more compared to educated children .

FIGURE 6:



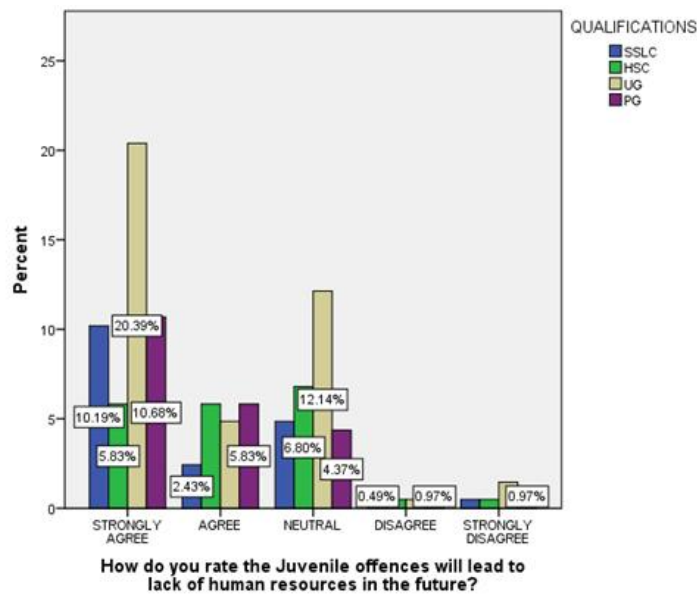
LEGEND: Represents the percentage analysis on the views of the sample population on whether juvenile offences are higher rate among the children who face family issues

FIGURE 7:



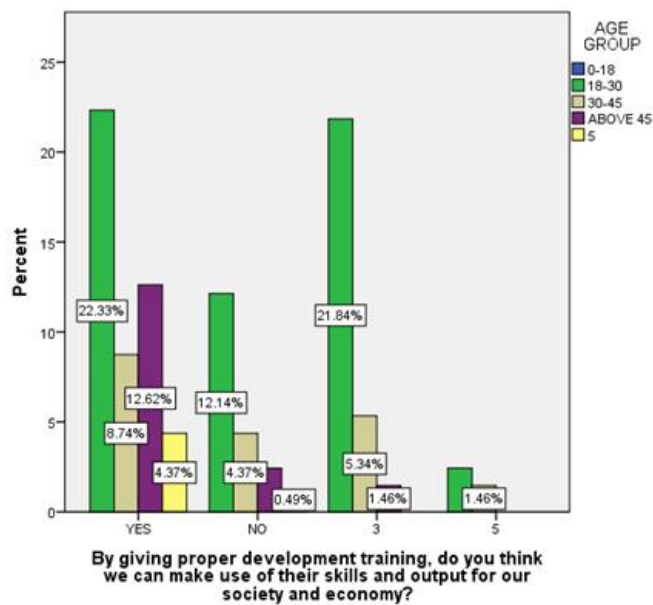
LEGEND: Represents the percentage analysis on the views of the sample population on the basis of educational qualifications on whether the government is taking effective measures to eradicate Juvenile offences.

FIGURE 8:



LEGEND: Represents the percentage analysis on the views of the sample population on the basis of educational qualifications on whether the rate of juvenile offences will lead to lack of human resources in the future .

FIGURE 9:



LEGEND: Represents the percentage analysis on the views of the sample population on the basis of age group on whether by proper development training can we make use of their skills and output for our society and economy.

TABLE 1:

ANOVA

Child neglect cannot also be a cause of juvenile delinquency

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3.524	3	1.175	1.414	.240
Within Groups	167.777	202	.831		
Total	171.301	205			

LEGEND: TABLE-1 Represents the results of ANOVA on the opinion of the sample population on whether child neglect cannot also be a cause of juvenile delinquency.

TABLE 2:

Correlations

		OCCUPATION	
I BELIEVE POLICIES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT LACKS PROPER IMPLEMENTATION.	Pearson Correlation	1	-.159*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.022
	N	206	206
OCCUPATION	Pearson Correlation	-.159*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.022	
	N	206	206

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

LEGEND: TABLE-2 Represents the results of correlation between the opinion of the sample population on the basis of occupation on whether policies taken by the government lack proper implementation.

2. Results

FIGURE 1 represents that higher percentage of males have responded compared to females around -75.25%. FIGURE 2 represents that a higher percentage of people from age group 18 -30 have responded compared to the people belonging to the other age. FIGURE 3 represents that a higher percentage of undergraduates have responded compared to the people who belong to other educational backgrounds. FIGURE 4 represents that higher percentage of the population around - 77.67% believe that still they find children below 18 years committing offences which are punishable. FIGURE 5 represents that a higher percentage of people believe that juvenile offences are committed by illiterate children more compared to educated children. FIGURE 6 represents that a higher percentage of people from the sample population believe that juvenile offences are higher among the children who face family issues around 90%. FIGURE 7 represents that a higher percentage of people from the sample population on the bases of qualifications believe that the government is taking effective steps to eradicate Juvenile offences. FIGURE 8 represents that a higher percentage of people from the sample population on the basis of educational qualifications believe that juvenile offences will lead to lack of human resources in the future. FIGURE 9 represents that higher percentage of people from the sample population on the basis of age group believe that by giving proper development training we can make use of their skills and output for our society and economy. TABLE 1 represents that there is a significant difference in the opinion of the sample population on whether child neglect cannot always be the cause of juvenile offence in our country. TABLE 2 represents that there is positive correlation among the views of the sample population on the basis that occupation believes that policies taken by the government lack proper implementation.

3. Discussion

FIGURE 1 represents that a higher percentage of males have responded compared to females around -75.25%. FIGURE 2 represents that a higher percentage of people from age group 18 -30 have responded compared to the people belonging to the other age. FIGURE 3 represents that a higher percentage of undergraduates have responded compared to the people who belong to other educational backgrounds. FIGURE 4 represents that higher percentage of the population around - 77.67% believe that still they find children below 18 years committing offences which are punishable it might be because poverty, bad company, social factors- broken homes, mental instability, emotional problems, family issues, violence breeds violence, lack of moral guidance, poor educational standards, substance abuse. FIGURE 5 represents that a of people believe that juvenile offences are committed by both illiterate and educated children in our society because in most of the cases juvenile offences are committed because of Adolescence Instability, Disintegration of Family System, Economic condition and Poverty, Migration, Sex Indulgence, Modern Life Style, peer pressure, violence in the home, lack of social guidance. FIGURE 6 represents that a higher percentage of people from the sample population believe that juvenile offences are higher among the children who face family issues around 90% - every Tulsa juvenile criminal defence attorney will tell you that when a child is

subjected to violence, they are in turn violent people teens subjected to violence actions or those who witness it to others are more likely to act at their fears and frustration or children who lost their parental love and control will become more vulnerable to anti societal influence . FIGURE 7 Represents that higher percentage of people from the sample population on the basis of qualifications believe that the government is taking effective steps to eradicate Juvenile offences .It might be because we have various laws which make juvenile offences punishable - Indian penal code -1860, Information and Technology act 2000 and juvenile justice act 2015- which has been amended time to time .Even in our constitution we have various provisions for the welfare of the children ,UN Convention on the Rights of Child, 1989. FIGURE 8 represents that higher percentage of people from the sample population on the basis of educational qualifications believe that juvenile offences will lead to lack of human resources in the future It is because the number of population participating in the social and economic activities will reduce due to lack of motivation and encouragement from the initial growth. This will lead to the child to distract away from their goal and end up in small output. The skills and overall performance will not be balanced with the country's economic activities is a threat for the country.This leads to believe that the country will lose the manpower to an extent. FIGURE 9 represents that higher percentage of people from the sample population on the basis of age group believe that by giving proper development training we can make use of their skills and output for our society and economy.As the situation is changing now a days, that the children are getting necessary skill enrichment based on their skills and desire. This seems to be a positive uptrend because the human capital can be made use from the initial age itself. This results in new discoveries in our country. Therefore, it is true that by giving proper skill training we can tune the human capital for the betterment of the nation. TABLE 1 There is a significant difference between the opinion of the sample population on whether child neglect cannot be a cause of juvenile offence in our country. TABLE 2 There is positive correlation in the opinion of the sample population on the basis of occupation that there is no proper implementation of policies .It might be because the juvenile crime rate is increasing day by day. We have various policies but those lack strict enforcement which is necessary.

4. Conclusion

Through this research it can be said that the government is taking various effective policies such as various conventions for the rights of the child ,then time to time amendments of the policies but those lacks proper implementation , then it was found that family problems, poverty and peer pressure and parents - teacher neglect major causes of poverty and higher percentage of people believe that rehabilitation should be encouraged- for the overall development of our society .Based on the factors discussed, it is evident that social perception plays a crucial role in shaping attitudes towards juvenile offenders and offences in India.Understanding the social perception of juvenile offenders and offenses is essential for developing effective strategies and policies to address the issue. It can help identify areas where public education and awareness campaigns are needed to challenge misconceptions and promote empathy and support for juvenile offenders. Furthermore, the findings of the study can contribute to the design and implementation of evidence-based interventions that aim to reduce recidivism, provide rehabilitation opportunities, and create inclusive communities for juvenile offenders in India.Negative social perceptions can perpetuate stigma, discrimination, and exclusion, hindering the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders into society. A study focusing on the social perception of juvenile offenders and offences in India would provide valuable insights into public attitudes, beliefs, and stereotypes associated with juvenile delinquency. Suggestion - children should be given basic care ,and they shouldn't be neglected from the side of the parents and if a child commits any offence is the best possible way he should be given a chance to change.

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