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## THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDIA

~*Shruti Tiwari*

Children are the most valuable resources a nation could have. How their mind is shaped depends on their family members, neighbors, society and the system in which they are brought up. The environment around them impacts deeply on their mind. They are the founding principle of the country's future. The welfare of the children is a crucial significant since the growth and prosperity of the nation depends on them. To make a nation stronger it is very important to make the children stronger by giving them safe place to grow, meaningful and skillful education and healthcare. As the large population of the country is exposed to the activities where they cause severe offences, which is a serious problem.

Juvenile delinquency, a problem which is seemed to be increasing and can be seen everywhere around the world. Juvenile is defined as a person under the age of 18 who has committed an offence just like an adult. Whereas Juvenile delinquency is defined as 'an activity by a juvenile is marked by antisocial that is not under parental supervision and is punishable by laws.'

No body is born as a criminal. There are things or circumstances which make juvenile to take that step. Growing up isn't same for everyone, people are struggling out there for a one-time meal. The child how didn't receive any affection or supervision from their parents because they were busy in making money to support their family. These takes severe turn when someone in family is alcoholic and being assaulted by that person can break their limit of tolerance and they commit crime. It is also said that if one of the parents or both had been arrested previously in any crime can make the juvenile commit offence.

Hormonal changes, teenage instabilities and impulses, early sexual experience, a sudden urge, etc all indicates a delinquent conduct in juveniles. Whereas, maltreatment, bullying at school, inferiority, substance misuse, mental disease, or mental conflicts all contribute to children's delinquent conduct against society.

## **JUVENILE LAWS**

In 1920, Britishers established the first juvenile court in Bombay under the ambit of the Children Act of 1920. It marked recognition that individuals below 16 required distinct safeguarding and nurturing while addressing the juvenile transgressions.

The Juvenile Justice Act replaced the Children Act 1920 in 1986. It acknowledged that juveniles in 'conflict with law' (a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offense and who has not completed 18 years of age, and is above 10 years, on the date of commission of such an offense) weren't conventional criminal but rather individuals in need of care and protection.

With the principle of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, amendment was done in 2000, in the 1986 Juvenile Justice Act. It raised the age from 16 to 18 of the delinquents, emphasizing rehabilitation and the seamless reintegration of them into the society.

The Juvenile Justice Act of 2002 was replaced with the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) act, 2015. This amendment took place as a high-profile case involving a juvenile perpetrator implicated in the brutal rape and murder of a young woman in Delhi 2012 (Nirbhaya case). Now the juveniles aged 16 to 18 could be tried as adults for heinous crimes like rape and murder. The act also focuses on rehabilitation of the juvenile offenders through various child care houses and institutions.

According to the studies, the juveniles commit offence before the age of 18 because they are aware that they are considered juveniles and would not be prosecuted as adult and violent offenders. The state should be responsible to socially reintegrate any child who becomes juvenile offender, so that he can live his/her life peacefully and don't return to the world of crime again. Providing proper education to the juvenile in the jail and teaching them skills will help their upcoming life bright and they can see a hope in themselves. Taking them to do voluntary work in old age homes, orphanage, and animal centers, which helps them understand others and help others to understand them, this help them to understand sympathy and making them social.

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