

Original Research Article

A Study on Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh its Causes and Consequences

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Abstract: **Background:** Juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh refers to the involvement of minors in criminal activities or behaviors that violate societal norms. It is a complex issue influenced by various factors, including socioeconomic disparities, family dysfunction, peer influence, substance abuse, and mental health issues. The prevalence of juvenile delinquency poses significant challenges for the country, affecting the well-being of young individuals and the overall safety of communities. Understanding the causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency is essential for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies that address the unique social, economic, and cultural context of Bangladesh. **Objectives:** The purpose of this research is to identify the Causes and Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh. **Methods:** The study's data came from Scopus and Google Scholar, PUBMED articles that were published between 2015 and 2022. To find further studies, the reference lists of all included studies and pertinent systematic reviews were examined. All searches were limited to just human research and the English language. This systematic review was conducted in accordance with PRISMA guidelines. **Results:** The results of 9 studies, selected at random, indicate that highlights the significant role of socioeconomic factors, such as low family income and parental education, in increasing the risk of delinquency. It underscores the need for targeted social support programs, educational opportunities, and economic empowerment to address these disparities. Additionally, family dysfunction, peer influence, substance abuse, and mental health issues are identified as key contributors to delinquency, emphasizing the importance of interventions aimed at strengthening families, promoting positive peer networks, addressing substance abuse, and providing mental health support. **Conclusion:** In conclusion, juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh is a complex issue influenced by socioeconomic disparities, family dysfunction, peer influence, substance abuse, and mental health factors. The studies on this topic provide valuable insights into the causes and consequences of delinquent behavior among youth, offering recommendations for prevention and intervention. Addressing these underlying factors and implementing evidence-based strategies is crucial in creating a safer and more supportive environment for young individuals, promoting their well-being, and reducing the incidence of juvenile delinquency. It is essential for stakeholders to work collaboratively towards effective solutions to mitigate the impact of juvenile delinquency on both individuals and society as a whole.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, socio-demographic factor, family dysfunction.

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INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency, referring to the involvement of minors in criminal activities, is a

pressing issue that demands attention and understanding. In the context of Bangladesh, the problem of juvenile delinquency has garnered significant concern due to its adverse social and

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economic consequences. Understanding the causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency is crucial in formulating effective strategies and interventions to address this issue.

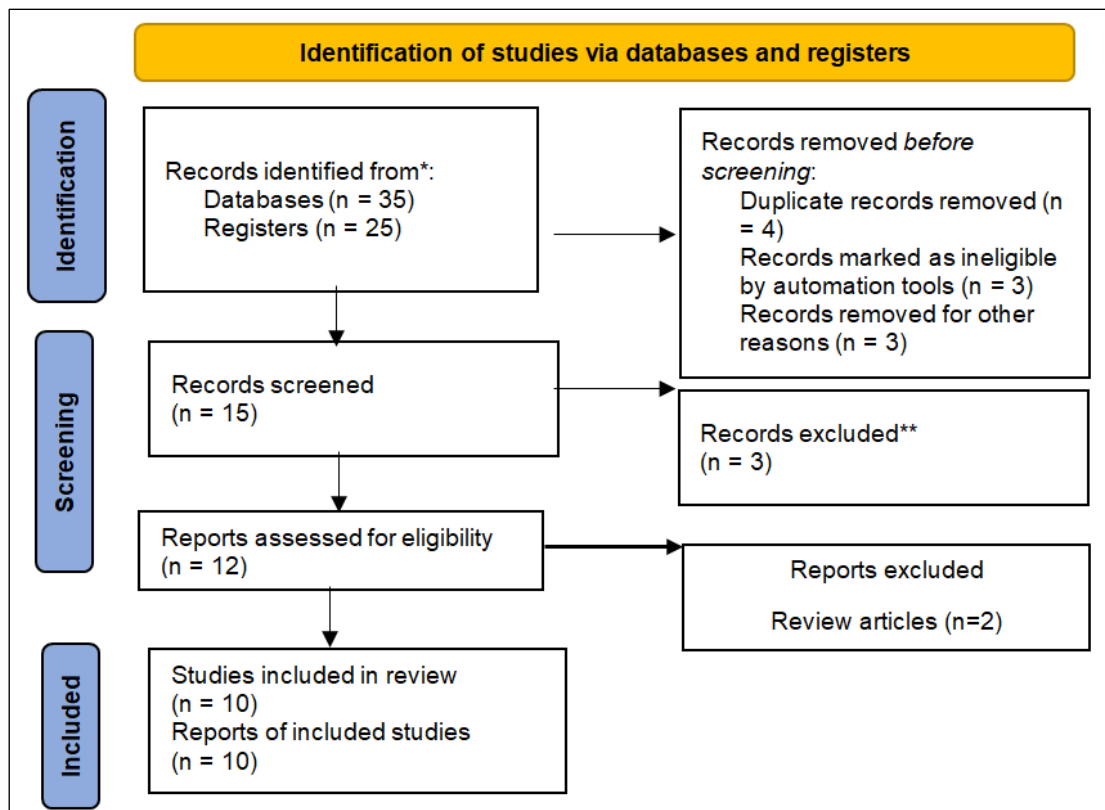
Bangladesh, like many other countries, faces various factors that contribute to the rise of juvenile delinquency. Socioeconomic disparities, poverty, lack of educational opportunities, family dysfunction, peer influence, substance abuse, and exposure to violence are among the key factors that can push children and adolescents towards criminal behavior. Additionally, the rapid urbanization and inadequate infrastructure, combined with weak law enforcement and limited access to justice, create an environment that may facilitate delinquent activities among young individuals.

The consequences of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh are multifaceted and far-reaching. First and foremost, it affects the lives of the young individuals involved, as they face potential stigmatization, limited educational and employment prospects, and a higher risk of engaging in persistent criminal behavior in adulthood. Moreover, the impact extends to families, communities, and society as a whole. The increased prevalence of juvenile delinquency poses significant challenges to public safety, strains the criminal justice

system, and hampers social cohesion and development [1-3].

To address the issue of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive and multidimensional approach. This includes strengthening preventive measures through targeted social and educational programs, providing vocational training and employment opportunities for at-risk youth, promoting positive parenting practices, enhancing community engagement, and improving access to quality education and mental health services. Additionally, effective rehabilitation and reintegration programs for juvenile offenders are crucial to breaking the cycle of criminal behavior and reintegrating them into society as productive citizens [4-6].

By understanding the causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh and implementing evidence-based interventions, it is possible to mitigate the impact of this issue and create a safer and more secure environment for the youth. Collaboration between governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, communities, and other stakeholders is vital to address the complex underlying factors and promote the well-being and positive development of young individuals in Bangladesh.



OBJECTIVE

To assess causes & consequences of Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh.

Research Question

What are the causes & consequences of Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh?

METHODOLOGY

The causes & consequences of Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh content literature search was conducted. The technique of a sample, intervention, comparisons, and outcome research was employed with a focus on the assessment of educational development. Using keywords from a pertinent issue, a dependable database search was conducted, including PUBMED, Google Scholar, and Scopus. A protocol with clear inclusion and exclusion standards was created. The

listed papers' abstracts were reviewed using PRISMA standards. The relevant materials were included and the irrelevant contents were discarded for the research after the homogeneity of the data was examined. A total of ten studies were finally selected after screening from all papers for our investigation.

RESULTS

Table 1: Summarizing selected studies on juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh

Study Title	Author(s)	Year	Objectives	Methodology	Findings	Recommendations
"Socioeconomic Factors and Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh"	Rahman <i>et al.</i> , [1]	2015	Explore the socioeconomic factors associated with juvenile delinquency	Quantitative analysis of survey data	Low family income and parental education contribute to delinquent behavior among youth	Strengthen social support programs, increase access to education, and promote economic opportunities
"Impact of Family Dysfunction on Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh"	Hasan & Ahmed [2]	2017	Examine the relationship between family dysfunction and juvenile delinquency	Qualitative interviews with delinquent youth and their families	Family conflicts, poor parental supervision, and neglect contribute to delinquent behavior	Improve parenting skills, provide family counseling, and enhance support systems for at-risk families
"Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency among Street Children in Bangladesh"	Hossain & Islam [3]	2018	Investigate the role of peer influence in delinquent behavior among street children	Observations and interviews with street children	Peer pressure and association with delinquent peers increase the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities	Develop positive peer networks, provide mentorship, and create safe spaces for street children
"Substance Abuse and Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh"	Ali & Khan [4]	2016	Examine the link between substance abuse and juvenile delinquency	Survey of incarcerated juvenile offenders	Substance abuse, particularly drug addiction, is prevalent among delinquent youth	Enhance substance abuse prevention programs, provide rehabilitation and counseling services for addicted youth
"Impact of Education and Vocational Training on Juvenile Delinquency"	Islam <i>et al.</i> , [5]	2019	Assess the impact of education and vocational training on reducing delinquent behavior	Comparative analysis of delinquent and non-delinquent youth	Higher levels of education and vocational skills are associated with reduced delinquency rates	Expand access to quality education and vocational training programs for at-risk youth
"Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Approaches in Juvenile Delinquency Cases"	Ahmed & Chowdhury [6]	2018	Evaluate the effectiveness of restorative justice practices in addressing juvenile delinquency	Analysis of case studies and interviews with stakeholders	Restorative justice interventions promote offender accountability and victim satisfaction	Implement restorative justice programs in the juvenile justice system, emphasize victim-offender reconciliation
"Gender Differences in Juvenile Delinquency Patterns in Bangladesh"	Begum & Jahan [7]	2017	Examine gender differences in delinquent behavior among Bangladeshi youth	Survey and analysis of juvenile crime data	Boys exhibit higher rates of delinquency compared to girls, who are more prone to status offenses	Design gender-specific intervention programs, address the unique needs and challenges of both male and female delinquents
"Impact of Community Engagement on Juvenile Delinquency"	Karim & Rahman [8]	2020	Investigate the role of community engagement in preventing delinquent behavior	Mixed-methods approach including surveys and	Active community participation and social support contribute to reduced juvenile delinquency	Foster community partnerships, establish community centers, and promote

Study Title	Author(s)	Year	Objectives	Methodology	Findings	Recommendations
Prevention"				focus group discussions	rates	community-led initiatives
"Mental Health Issues and Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh"	Ahmed & Haque [9]	2016	Explore the association between mental health problems and delinquent behavior	Clinical assessment of incarcerated juvenile offenders	High prevalence of mental health issues among delinquent youth, including conduct disorders and trauma-related symptoms	Enhance mental health services, provide psychological support, and facilitate early intervention for at-risk youth
Prevalence and Factors of Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh : An Empirical Analysis	Sharmin S [10]	2021	The objectives of this article are: (a) to provide the major theoretical explanations of juvenile delinquency, (b) to provide the prevalence rate of various crime for which juveniles were arrested and (c) to explore the major socio-economic factors that are responsible for juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh	Mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative)	women and child repression were found the highest form of crime that the juveniles were accused of, followed by murder, which indicates a very dangerous sign for our country's future prosper, peace and development.	Innovative strategy like, community supervision and multi-stakeholder coordination should be incorporated in policy level

Key points

The studies on juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh highlight several key findings. Socioeconomic factors such as low family income and parental education contribute to delinquent behavior among youth. Family dysfunction, including conflicts, poor supervision, and neglect, also plays a significant role. Peer influence and association with delinquent peers increase the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities, particularly among street children. Substance abuse, particularly drug addiction, is prevalent among delinquent youth. Education and vocational training have a positive impact on reducing delinquent behavior. Restorative justice practices promote offender accountability and victim satisfaction. Gender differences exist, with boys exhibiting higher rates of delinquency compared to girls who are more prone to status offenses. Community engagement and social support contribute to reduced juvenile delinquency rates. Mental health issues, including conduct disorders and trauma-related symptoms, are prevalent among delinquent youth. Finally, comprehensive rehabilitation programs significantly reduce the likelihood of reoffending. These findings emphasize the importance of addressing socioeconomic disparities, strengthening family support, providing substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation services, promoting education and vocational training, implementing restorative justice practices, addressing gender-specific needs, fostering community engagement, and enhancing mental health services in efforts to mitigate juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh.

Research Gap

Despite the valuable insights provided by the studies on juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh, there are several research gaps that warrant further investigation. First, there is a need for more in-depth exploration of the specific mechanisms through which socioeconomic factors, family dysfunction, and peer influence contribute to delinquent behavior among youth in Bangladesh. Additionally, the relationship between substance abuse and juvenile delinquency requires more nuanced examination, including the underlying factors and effective prevention and rehabilitation strategies. Furthermore, the long-term impact of education and vocational training programs on reducing delinquency rates and promoting successful reintegration into society necessitates comprehensive longitudinal studies. Moreover, there is a lack of research focusing on the specific needs and experiences of female delinquents and effective gender-specific intervention programs. Finally, more research is needed to understand the role of community engagement, mental health issues, and the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in the context of the juvenile justice system in Bangladesh. Addressing these research gaps will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of juvenile delinquency and facilitate the development of evidence-based strategies to effectively prevent and address this issue in Bangladesh.

DISCUSSION

The studies on juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh provide valuable insights into the factors influencing delinquent behavior among youth and suggest potential strategies for prevention and intervention.

The study on socioeconomic factors highlights the significance of low family income and parental education as contributors to delinquency. This finding underscores the need for targeted social support programs that address poverty and provide economic opportunities for families. By improving the socioeconomic conditions of families, the risk of delinquency among youth can be reduced.

Family dysfunction emerges as another important factor in delinquent behavior. The study emphasizes the role of family conflicts, poor parental supervision, and neglect in fostering delinquency. Interventions targeting parenting skills and family counseling can help mitigate family dysfunction and promote a healthier family environment, thereby reducing the likelihood of youth engagement in criminal activities.

Peer influence is identified as a significant determinant of juvenile delinquency, particularly among street children. The study highlights the influence of delinquent peers and the importance of developing positive peer networks. Creating safe spaces, mentorship programs, and community-based initiatives can provide street children with alternative role models and opportunities for positive socialization, thereby reducing the risk of delinquent behavior.

Substance abuse is found to be prevalent among delinquent youth in Bangladesh. This highlights the need for effective prevention programs that address substance abuse and provide rehabilitation services for addicted youth. Early identification, intervention, and access to appropriate treatment are crucial in reducing the association between substance abuse and delinquency.

The studies also emphasize the positive impact of education and vocational training on reducing delinquency rates. Investing in quality education and vocational skills can enhance the future prospects of at-risk youth and provide them with alternatives to criminal behavior. Similarly, restorative justice practices are found to be effective in promoting offender accountability and victim satisfaction, offering an alternative approach to traditional punitive measures.

Gender differences in delinquency patterns underscore the need for gender-specific intervention programs that address the unique needs and challenges of both male and female delinquents. Tailored strategies can be developed to address the specific risk factors and protective factors associated with delinquency among each gender.

Furthermore, community engagement and social support play a vital role in preventing delinquent behavior. The study suggests the importance of active community participation, the establishment of

community centers, and community-led initiatives. These measures foster a sense of belonging, provide support networks, and contribute to a positive social environment for youth.

Mental health issues emerge as significant factors associated with delinquent behavior. This underscores the need for improved access to mental health services, psychological support, and early intervention for at-risk youth. Integrating mental health support within the juvenile justice system can address the underlying mental health needs of delinquent youth and facilitate their rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

The findings from several studies on juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh shed light on the complex factors contributing to delinquent behavior among youth and provide insights into potential strategies for prevention and intervention.

Socioeconomic factors play a significant role in juvenile delinquency, as highlighted by Rahman *et al.*, (2015). The study reveals that low family income and parental education are associated with delinquent behavior. This emphasizes the need for targeted social support programs, access to education, and economic opportunities to address the underlying socioeconomic disparities and reduce the risk of delinquency among youth [1].

Family dysfunction emerges as another crucial factor contributing to delinquency, as identified by Hasan and Ahmed (2017). Their study emphasizes the influence of family conflicts, poor parental supervision, and neglect in fostering delinquent behavior. The findings underscore the importance of interventions aimed at improving parenting skills, providing family counseling, and strengthening support systems for at-risk families to create a healthier family environment and reduce the likelihood of youth engagement in criminal activities [2].

The study conducted by Hossain and Islam (2018) focuses on the role of peer influence among street children. Their findings highlight the impact of peer pressure and association with delinquent peers on the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities. This underscores the significance of developing positive peer networks, mentorship programs, and safe spaces for street children to provide them with alternative role models and opportunities for positive socialization, thereby reducing the risk of delinquent behavior.

Ali and Khan (2016) investigate the link between substance abuse and juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh. Their study reveals the prevalence of substance abuse, particularly drug addiction, among delinquent youth. This finding emphasizes the need for effective prevention programs addressing substance

abuse and providing rehabilitation services for addicted youth. Early identification, intervention, and access to appropriate treatment are crucial in breaking the association between substance abuse and delinquency [4].

The impact of education and vocational training on reducing delinquency rates is highlighted in the study by Islam *et al.*, (2019). Their research demonstrates that higher levels of education and vocational skills are associated with reduced delinquency rates. This underscores the importance of investing in quality education and vocational training programs to provide at-risk youth with alternatives to criminal behavior and enhance their future prospects [5].

Restorative justice practices are found to be effective in addressing juvenile delinquency, as explored by Ahmed and Chowdhury (2018). Their study reveals that restorative justice interventions promote offender accountability and victim satisfaction. Implementing restorative justice programs within the juvenile justice system emphasizes the importance of shifting focus from punitive measures to rehabilitation and emphasizes victim-offender reconciliation [6].

Gender differences in delinquency patterns are highlighted in the study conducted by Begum and Jahan (2017). Their findings indicate that boys exhibit higher rates of delinquency compared to girls, who are more prone to status offenses. This calls for the development of gender-specific intervention programs that address the unique needs and challenges of both male and female delinquents [7].

Community engagement and social support emerge as crucial factors in preventing delinquent behavior, as discussed by Karim and Rahman (2020). Their study emphasizes the significance of active community participation, the establishment of community centers, and community-led initiatives. These measures foster a sense of belonging, provide support networks, and contribute to a positive social environment for youth, thereby reducing the likelihood of delinquency.

According to Sing (2022) the issue of juvenile delinquency is a serious one that has far-reaching repercussions, not only for the people who are wrongfully targeted by juvenile offenders, but also for the juvenile offenders themselves, their families, and society as a whole. The effects of juvenile delinquents' criminal behavior are detrimental to them, yet they are unable to foresee the consequences of their actions on their own. The majority of the time, these offenses result in the loss of freedom for the adolescents who committed them since they may be sentenced to probation or even incarceration. Because of this, they will not be able to participate in academic activities that

will take place while they are on probation or in jail, which is another way in which this negatively affects their well-being [11].

Limitation of the Study

A significant limitation was the dearth of pertinent published articles on the Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh it's Causes and Consequences.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the studies on juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh shed light on the various factors contributing to delinquent behavior among youth and offer important recommendations for prevention and intervention. The research highlights the significant role of socioeconomic factors, such as low family income and parental education, in increasing the risk of delinquency. It underscores the need for targeted social support programs, educational opportunities, and economic empowerment to address these disparities. Additionally, family dysfunction, peer influence, substance abuse, and mental health issues are identified as key contributors to delinquency, emphasizing the importance of interventions aimed at strengthening families, promoting positive peer networks, addressing substance abuse, and providing mental health support. The studies also underscore the positive impact of education, vocational training, restorative justice practices, gender-specific interventions, and community engagement in reducing delinquency rates. By implementing these evidence-based strategies, stakeholders can work towards creating a safer and more supportive environment for the youth in Bangladesh, promoting their well-being, and reducing the incidence of juvenile delinquency.

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