

ASSESSING THE PARTICIPANTS' OPINIONS ABOUT JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR JUVENILES ENGAGING IN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

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ABSTRACT

Juvenile offenders commit crimes when under 18. Children may commit vandalism, theft, drug offenses, violence, and even killing. Rehabilitation rather than punishment is common for young offenders in the legal system. The gravity of the crime and the jurisdiction's legislation may result in probation, community service, juvenile imprisonment, or transfer to adult court for prosecution. Interventions to address family dysfunction, substance abuse, mental health issues, and lack of educational or employment opportunities are often used to prevent juvenile offending and promote positive youth development. The main aim of this study is to discuss the participants' opinions about juvenile offenders and factors responsible for juveniles engaging in criminal behaviour. For the purpose of making the study more productive, the research work that has been conducted in the current study is doctrinal research. The data have been collected through the primary and secondary sources using questionnaire. A sample has been collected from the 100 social work professionals in Tamil Nadu about their perceptions of juvenile' justice and its related concepts using Convenience sampling. It is concluded that the participants' opinions on the effectiveness of the current juvenile justice system, the impact of social and economic factors on juvenile delinquency, and the efficacy of rehabilitation versus punitive measures indicate a complex array of viewpoints.

Keywords - Juvenile offenders, factors, criminal, juvenile justice system etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The Juvenile Equity (Care and Security of Youngsters) Act, 2000 is one of the unique Demonstrations sanctioned by the governing body in India that safeguards kids' privileges.

This Act's essential objectives are to defend, forestall, and restore kids who are in legitimate difficulty as well as youngsters who are needing care and security. Be that as it may, there are various deterrents to the proper execution of this Demonstration in India since there is an absence of productive execution device.

This legitimizes the need of shielding juveniles from carrying out violations, keeping them from turning into a likely danger to the law, and keeping them out of contention with the law. Thus, this legitimizes the need to examine and explore the hindrances looked by juveniles who are in struggle with the law as well as to lead a basic examination of the youngster in struggle with the law. Because of their gigantic number, youngsters in India ought to have been the essential focal point of advancement arranging, examination, and care, yet this has not been the situation. Regardless of the Public Strategy for Kids and the constitution's evenhanded of a cheerful, sound kid safeguarded from double-dealing and misuse, most youngsters in India actually come up short on childhood. The authoritatively characterized juvenile equity system (JJS) looks to give care, security, treatment improvement, and recovery for disregarded and delinquent youth. Nonetheless, the consideration and administrations that were given to them have experienced harsh criticism for being lacking and of bad quality.

It is worth revisiting that the JJS is one of the few initiatives undertaken by the government to comprehend the objectives of the Indian Constitution with regard to children's childhood and prosperity. The Constitution recognises children's unique status under Articles 15(3), 24, 39(e) and (f), and 45. India's Public Strategy for Children, which was implemented in 1974, attests to the fact that children are a very important public resource. Many laws covering a broad range of child-related topics, such as adoption, maintenance, guardianship, veracity, work training, opposition to smoking, delinquency, disregard, tissue selling, etc., have been passed in accordance with the directives. Since the Indian Regulation Organization's 1979 study—which included more than 250 state and government establishments related to children—more resolutions have been passed. With the exception of the province of Jammu &

Kashmir, the last choice has evolved into the primary repository for juvenile equity in all of India since it was implemented on April 1, 2001. A child discovered in circumstances of financial and social hardship is placed under its protective custody under the JJ (C&P) Act. Additionally, the demonstration offers numerous opportunities for local area support in JJS responsibilities.

1.2 Juvenile And Juvenile Delinquency

A juvenile or youngster is somebody who lacks the development to comprehend the consequences of their actions or who has not achieved adulthood as far as conduct that is considered youthful or youthfulness. A juvenile, at times known as a young person, is a person who, according to the laws of the country, isn't mature enough to be prosecuted for his illicit activities as a grown-up. Anybody younger than eighteen is considered a juvenile or young person in Indian culture. A child younger than seven, nonetheless, isn't prosecutable for any offense under the IPC.

Delinquency is characterized by juvenile way of behaving that isn't acceptable in any community. It is the undesired act, oversight, or moral way of behaving of a youngster. Children are for the most part expected to satisfy specific social standards by grown-ups, and when they don't, the child is marked as delinquent. The way of behaving that the young person is participating in may appear like energetic stupidity, however it can actually create a lot of stress and uneasiness. young delinquency is characterized as "a child attempting or pretending to act like an adult or grown-up." When a grown-up commits a criminal act that is punishable by the law, it is viewed as a crime. Be that as it may, when a child under a certain age commits a similar act, it isn't viewed as a crime and is called juvenile delinquency, despite the fact that the child is completely mindful of the consequences and has committed

an intense, grave, troubling, and horrifying crime.

1.3 Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000

A person who really has charge or control over a juvenile is punishable under Section 23 of the Act for cruelty to a juvenile or child. A violation of Section 26 is hiring a minor or kid for a risky job, keeping them in servitude, and either withholding their wages or using them for personal gain. These are all cognizable offenses in nature. The Act also calls for the hiring of a juvenile or child welfare officer with the skills and training necessary to work with young people in conjunction with police, as well as the establishment of a Special Juvenile Police Unit to improve how officers interact with young people. Does the equipment create by this Act function properly? Can the minors get justice under this Act? How appropriate and sufficient are the reforms this Act has brought about?

- Dividing youngsters in legal trouble from those in need of care and protection
- The creation of Child Welfare Committees to handle juvenile justice issues and children in need of care and protection
- Same age for boys and girls: any child under the age of eighteen is covered by the Act in accordance with the CRC's definition of a child.
- More legal protection is guaranteed for children in legal trouble; incarceration will only be used as a last resort, prior convictions will not count, and privacy will be upheld.
- The fundamental innovation made by the law regarding children in need of care and protection is the idea of restoration of the child, with restoration being defined as restoration to parents,

adoptive parents, or foster parents. Section 39.

- Foster care, adoption, sponsorship, and after-care are the four options for restoration for children in foster families and special homes that are outlined in the Juvenile Justice Amendment Act of 2006.
- There have been 26 changes made by the Amendment Act of 2006, all of which are now in force. The legal framework for the rearing, caring for, treating, and rehabilitating children in both categories is established by this Act.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Rishav kumar Singh, et al. (2023) "Critical examination of juvenile justice system in India - With special focus on its set of experiences and pretended by it in our general set of laws" is the title of an article that looks at the juvenile justice system in India. It focuses on the increase in cases reported by the NCRB in 2014 by and large, as well as later administrative changes that have been enacted to resolve this issue.

Seema Rani and Mohd Wazid Khan (2023) The motivation behind this exploration paper is to investigate the advancement of the juvenile equity system in India and its impact on the criminal approach to acting of adolescents. The issue of juvenile misconduct is a significant one that could disturb the social design of any local area. How juvenile crooks are dealt with in India has seen extensive shifts generally through the course of the nation's arrangement of encounters. This article offers a record of the verifiable advancement of the juvenile equity system in India, beginning with its underlying relaxed rehearses and forging ahead toward the development of formal legal designs. The concentrate also examines the ongoing state of the juvenile equity system in India. The motivation behind the examination is to

investigate the variables that add to juvenile wrongdoing and to study the adequacy of the ongoing authentic and rehabilitative interventions in cutting down the levels of wrongdoing among adolescents. In conclusion, the review makes various ideas for the change of policies and the implementation of mediations to combat the issues encompassing juvenile delinquency in India.

Bhat and Mir's (2016) case research present a remarkable and localized viewpoint on juvenile delinquency inside the difficult circumstance of Kashmir and was published in the Asian Diary of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities in 2016. An in-depth examination of the sociocultural, political, and economic components that influence adolescent delinquency in the space is anticipated from the project, which will provide a sophisticated comprehension of the particular dynamics at work. The essayists doubtlessly give light on the circumstances and experiences of youthful wrongdoers in a conflict-affected region by concentrating on the Perception Home in Harwan, Srinagar. This helps to feature the interplay between social, economic, and political components in influencing delinquent way of behaving. This case study becomes a priceless apparatus for anyone hoping to figure out the localized types of juvenile delinquency and has important ramifications for mediation tactics, especially in regions affected by conflict. Bhat and Mir's work adds to a more exhaustive comprehension of juvenile delinquency by focusing on the remarkable difficulties and dynamics of Kashmir. This information is helpful for practitioners, researchers, and policymakers who manage youth crime in such delicate and complex contexts.

Burfeind and Bartusch, (2015) appears to adopt a coordinated approach to comprehending juvenile delinquency, recommending an examination of different

factors including social, economic, psychological, and lawful aspects that contribute to delinquent way of behaving among youthful people. This incorporated perspective is probably going to provide a comprehensive comprehension of the multifaceted idea of juvenile delinquency, emphasizing the interconnectedness of different influences on delinquent ways of behaving. By exploring these different factors, the work is expected to offer important experiences for researchers and practitioners looking for a holistic comprehension of the causes and consequences of juvenile delinquency. This coordinated approach is particularly pertinent for those keen on developing effective methodologies for intercession and prevention, as it acknowledges the complex interplay of factors that shape juvenile delinquency. The work's significance lies in its potential to contribute to a more nuanced and comprehensive comprehension of juvenile delinquency, facilitating informed endeavors in tending to and preventing youth inclusion in delinquent way of behaving.

Chaudhary's (2015) work fills in as a careful and up-to-date examination of the legitimate issues connected with India's juvenile justice system. Published in 2015, the fourth release confirms the dynamic idea of juvenile justice regulations, encompassing the latest advancements in this imperative sector. The historical development of the regulation overseeing juvenile justice is reasonable covered in-depth by Chaudhary's examination, offering a contextual comprehension of the lawful environment. The focus on juvenile privileges and the juvenile justice system's procedural elements is a sign of a thorough examination that includes both theoretical foundations and certified application. As it approaches its fourth edition, it is expected to include new judicial rulings and regulatory initiatives, giving readers a current resource for

delving into the intricate, legal complexities of juvenile justice in India. The writings of Chaudhary can be of great use to academics, solicitors, and politicians. They can involve it as a valuable reference to grasp the lawful freedoms, procedural nuances, and historical development that underpin the country's juvenile justice system.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

For the purpose of making the study more productive, the research work that has been conducted in the current study is doctrinal research. It is planned to try to make use of the facts and information that are currently accessible.

3.2 Research Method

We have used analytical approaches to investigate the legal provisions and social statutes that pertain to juveniles. The research has been carried out so that a better understanding of the historical context of India's juvenile justice system and its implementation in the current circumstances has been achieved.

3.3 Sources of Data Collection

The pertinent information that has been divulged and relied upon in the content of the study has been collected from a questionnaire, a variety of official websites, reports, and study material that have been published by the various legal services authorities, as well as from the official websites of various governmental and non-governmental offices and agencies.

- **Primary Source** - The primary data have been collected through the

questionnaire, various books, articles, research papers, and theses.

- **Secondary Source** - The articles, reports, magazines, internet, theses, books, dissertations, etc. by different writers have been given a ton of data and were of incredible help and utilization.

3.4 Tools Used for Data Collection

We used the questionnaire to collect the data for the study. The questionnaire inquiries about a variety of aspects pertaining to the research. The following topics have been discussed: Demographic information, the participants' opinions about juvenile offenders, the factors that lead to juveniles engaging in criminal behavior.

3.5 Sampling

3.5.1 Sample Size

A sample has been collected from the 100 social work professionals in Tamil Nadu about their perceptions of juvenile' justice and its related concepts.

3.5.2 Sampling Techniques

Convenience sampling has been used for this research project, which utilizes a non-probability sample approach. The researcher utilized convenience sampling as a research technique.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

A vital stage in any research project is data analysis, which opens the door to deriving significant insights from the material gathered. The gathered information, which is reflective of many viewpoints and demographics, presents a complex picture that necessitates close

inspection. In order to identify significant patterns, correlations, and trends, this stage of the research entails a methodical examination, interpretation, and synthesis of the data.

4.1 Demographic Profile

A thorough summary of the study participants' characteristics is provided by the demographic data, which is broken down by gender, age group, educational background, years of experience, and place of employment.

Table 1: Participants' Gender Distribution

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Male	70	70%
Female	30	30%
Total	100	100%

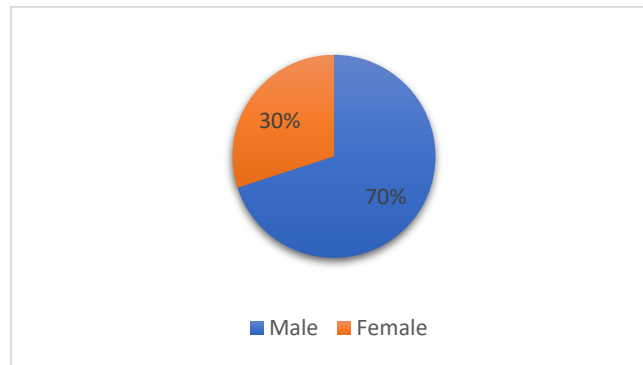


Figure 1: Participants' Gender Distribution

The gender distribution of research participants is shown in Table 1. Thirty percent of the one hundred respondents identified as female, and seventy percent as male. This gender

distribution offers balanced representation, enabling a wide variety of viewpoints to be included in the research.

Table 2: Participants' Age Group Distribution

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
25-30	50	50%
31-40	30	30%
41-50	15	15%
51 and above	5	5%
Total	100	100%

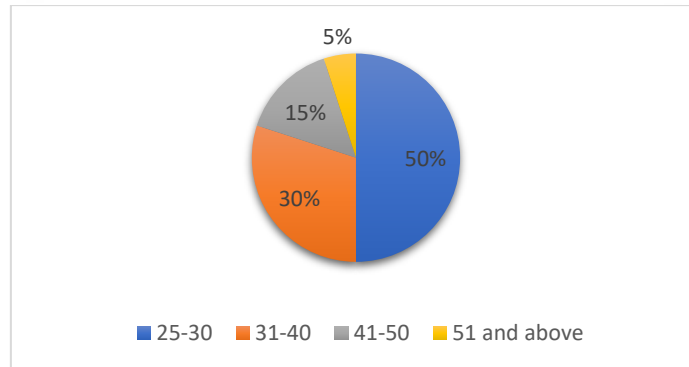


Figure 2: Participants' Age Group Distribution

The age distribution of the respondents is shown in Table 2. The age group of 25–30 years old accounts for 50% of the sample, where the majority of participants are located. Furthermore, 30% of the population is between

the ages of 31 and 40, 15% is between the ages of 41 and 50, and 5% is older than 51. This distribution guarantees a heterogeneous population, augmenting the inclusivity of the investigation.

Table 3: Educational Qualifications

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Bachelor's	45	45%
Master's	35	35%
PhD or equivalent	20	20%
Total	100	100%

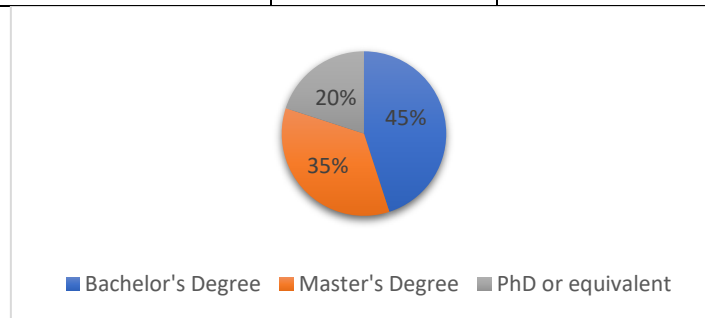


Figure 3: Educational Qualifications

Table 3 displays the respondents' educational backgrounds. The study is enhanced by the inclusion of diverse academic perspectives

resulting from the educational diversity among the participants.

Table 4: Participants' Years of Experience

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
1-5 years	55	55%
6-10 years	35	35%
11-15 years	8	8%
16 years and above	2	2%
Total	100	100%

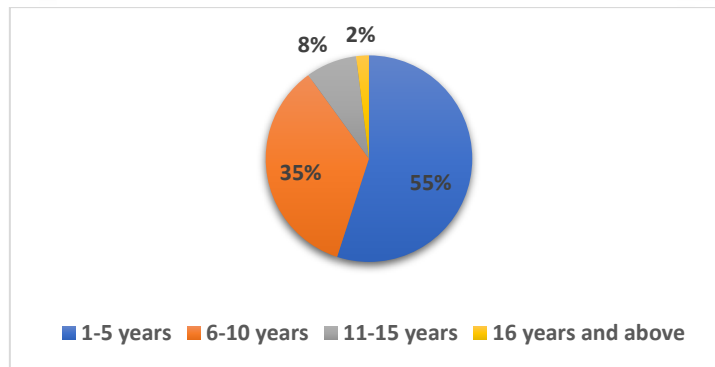


Figure 4: Participants' Years of Experience

According to table 4 a major portion, 55%, has 1-5 years of experience, while 35% have 6-10 years. Participants with 11-15 years of experience compose 8%, and those with 16

years and above account for 2%. This broad experience level ensures a full comprehension of the subject matter.

Table 5: Participants' Distribution in the Work Environment

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Government Organization	25	25%
Non-Governmental Organization	15	15%
Private Sector	40	40%
Academic/Research Institution	20	20%
Total	100	100%

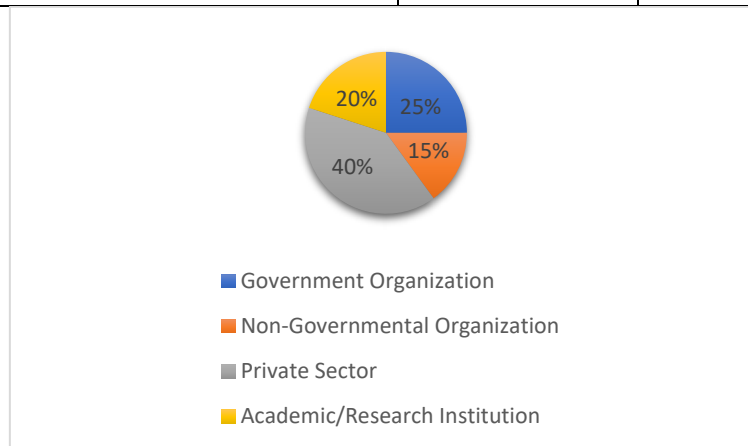


Figure 5: Participants' Distribution in the Work Environment

The distribution of participants among various work contexts is presented in Table 5. 25% come from governmental organisations, 15% are from non-governmental organisations, 40% are from the commercial sector, and 20% are from educational or research institutes, according to the data. This distribution

guarantees a varied representation of viewpoints from different professional contexts.

4.2 Participants' Opinions About Juvenile Offenders

Table 6: The current juvenile justice system adequately addresses the needs of juvenile offenders

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Disagree	15	15%
Neutral	35	35%
Agree	25	25%
Strongly Agree	20	20%
Total	100	100%

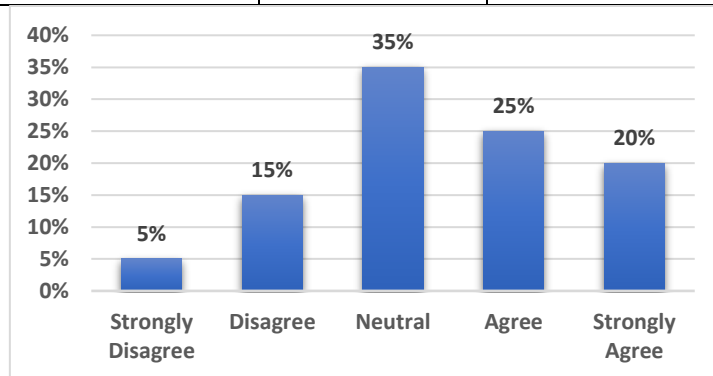


Figure 6: The current juvenile justice system adequately addresses the needs of juvenile offenders

Table 6 offers an exhaustive synopsis of the respondents' perspectives on how well the adolescent equity framework at present set up meets the prerequisites of youthful guilty parties. The information presents different viewpoints in light of the recurrence and related rates. Remarkably, 35% of members are impartial on the adequacy of the ongoing

framework, while 25% and 20% profoundly concur with it. Then again, 15% differ and 5% emphatically differ that the ongoing framework is sufficient. The multifaceted design of deciding the adolescent equity framework's viability is shown by the assortment of perspectives.

Table 7: Social and economic factors significantly contribute to juvenile delinquency

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	3	3%
Disagree	7	7%
Neutral	40	40%
Agree	35	35%
Strongly Agree	15	15%
Total	100	100%

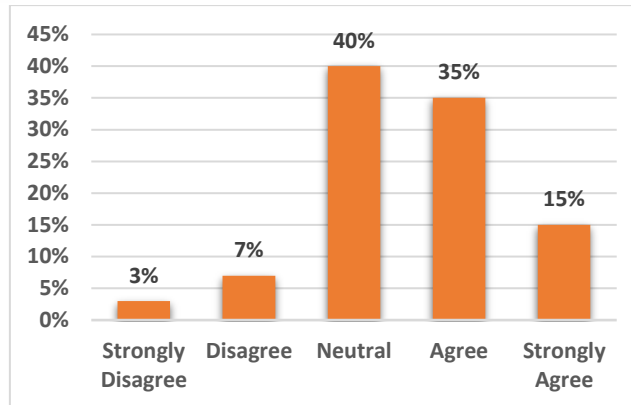


Figure 7: Social and economic factors significantly contribute to juvenile delinquency

The views of the participants about how social and economic factors affect adolescent criminality are explored in Table 7. Remarkably, 40% take a neutral position, while 35% and 15% strongly believe that these factors have a major role in the rise in juvenile

criminality. As opposed to this, 3% strongly disagree and 7% disagree. This varied and nuanced spectrum of viewpoints emphasises how complex the causes of adolescent criminality are.

Table 8: Comparative Efficiency of Rehabilitation versus Punitive Measures

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	5	5%
Disagree	12	12%
Neutral	50	50%
Agree	18	18%
Strongly Agree	15	15%
Total	100	100%

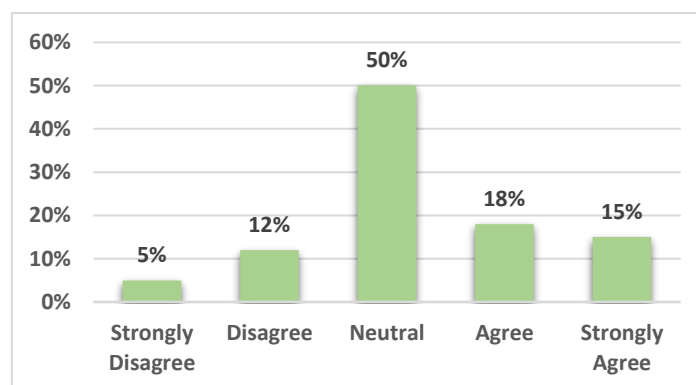


Figure 8: Comparative Efficiency of Rehabilitation versus Punitive Measures

The assessments of respondents in regards to the general viability of recovery as opposed to rebuffing techniques for youthful guilty parties are summed up in Table 8. Fundamentally, half

stand firm on an unbiased situation, though 18% and 15% unequivocally believe that restoration is compelling. Interestingly, 5% firmly differ and 12% conflict. The dispersion

shows a scope of perspectives with respect to the best procedure for restoring adolescent wrongdoers.

Table 9: Overall Participants' opinions about juvenile offenders

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	2	2%
Disagree	8	8%
Neutral	25	25%
Agree	35	35%
Strongly Agree	30	30%
Total	100	100%

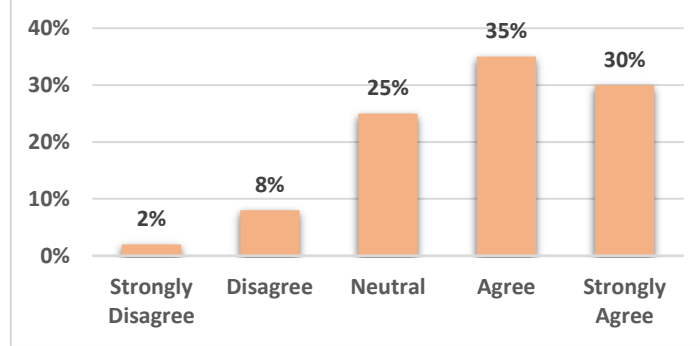


Figure 9: Overall Participants' opinions about juvenile offenders

Taking into account the information presented in Tables, the attitudes of the participants on juvenile offenders as a whole show a range of well-rounded viewpoints. Significantly, 35% agree, 25% take a neutral position, and 30% strongly agree. On the other hand, 2% strongly

disagree and 8% disagree with the current state of affairs. This synthesis of opinions highlights the necessity of taking complex factors into account while assessing and modifying the juvenile justice system.

4.3 Factors Leading to Juveniles Engaging in Criminal Behaviour

Table 10: Poverty is a significant factor contributing to juvenile delinquency

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	8	8%
Disagree	16	16%
Neutral	40	40%
Agree	23	23%
Strongly Agree	13	13%
Total	100	100%

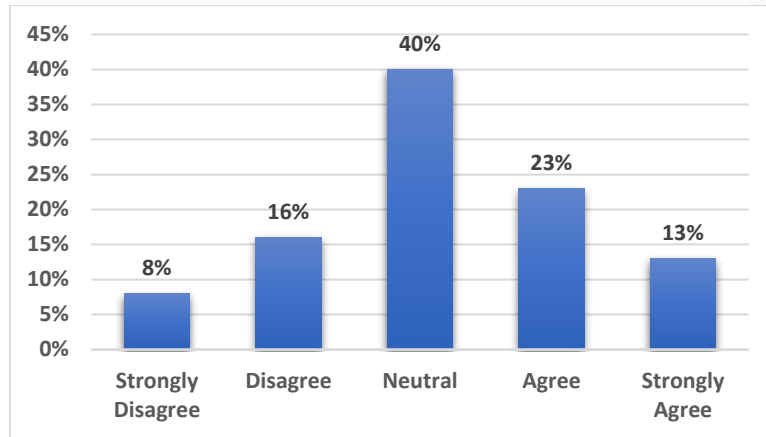


Figure 10: Poverty is a significant factor contributing to juvenile delinquency

The opinions of the participants regarding the state of juvenile homes and the authorities in charge of them are summarised in Table 10. It offers a complex picture of perspectives on the security and distribution of resources in these establishments. Regarding the positive, 23% agreed and 13% strongly agreed that a major contributing element to juvenile delinquency is poverty. However, 16% of respondents disagreed and 8% strongly disagreed with this

statement, indicating that certain members of the public do not believe that poverty plays a significant role in the rise in juvenile delinquency. This table illustrates the complexity of public perceptions regarding the contribution of poverty to juvenile delinquency, emphasising the need for careful considerations and all-encompassing strategies in tackling this social issue.

Table 11: Family conflicts play a crucial role in the development of juvenile delinquent behaviour

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	12	12%
Disagree	11	11%
Neutral	35	35%
Agree	28	28%
Strongly Agree	14	14%
Total	100	100%

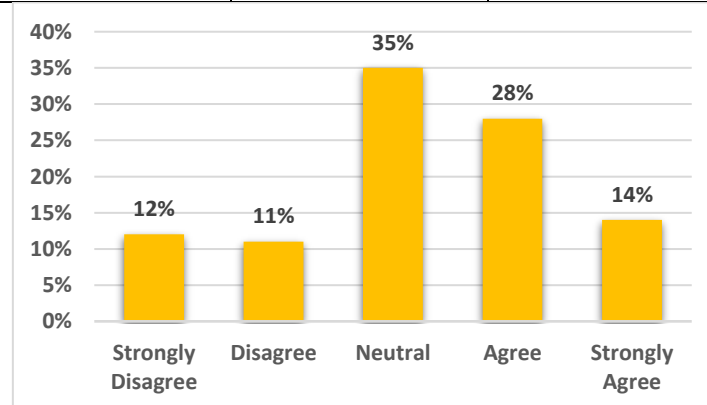


Figure 11: Family conflicts play a crucial role in the development of juvenile delinquent behaviour

Table 11, "Family Conflicts and Juvenile Delinquency," provides an overview of public opinion regarding the contribution of family conflicts to the emergence of juvenile delinquent practises. Remarkably, 35 percent of participants took a neutral position, suggesting some ambiguity or disagreement about the critical role played by family conflicts. According to the affirmative, 28% of respondents agreed and 14% strongly agreed that family conflicts are a major factor in adolescent delinquency, highlighting the

importance that families are thought to have. On the other hand, 11% disagreed and 12% strongly disagreed with this statement, indicating that certain members of the public do not believe that family conflicts play a significant part in the emergence of juvenile delinquent behaviour. The complexity of public opinions on this matter is highlighted by the table, which also highlights the necessity for customised treatments and a sophisticated knowledge to address the various causes that contribute to juvenile delinquency.

Table 12: Media influence has a substantial impact on shaping juvenile behaviour

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	12	12%
Disagree	21	21%
Neutral	35	35%
Agree	23	23%
Strongly Agree	9	9%
Total	100	100%

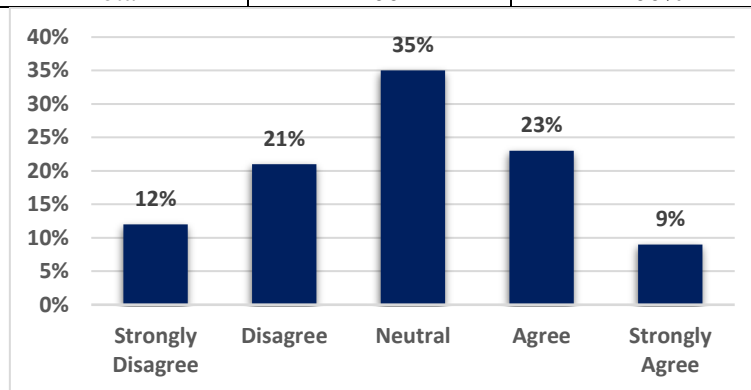


Figure 12: Media influence has a substantial impact on shaping juvenile behaviour

Public opinions on the significant influence of media on influencing juvenile behaviour are summarised in Table 12, "Media Influence on Juvenile Behaviour." The frequency (n) and matching percentage (%) of responses at various levels of agreement are shown in the table. Regarding the positive, 23% and 9% of respondents strongly agreed that the media has a significant impact, indicating an

acknowledgment of the media's influence on the behaviour of young people.

On the other hand, 21% disagreed and 12% strongly disagreed with this idea, indicating that certain members of the public do not think media influence is a big deal. This table highlights the public's diverse and nuanced views on how the media shapes young people's behaviour, highlighting the need for thoughtful

debates and all-encompassing approaches to address the possible effects of media on children.

5. CONCLUSION

Within the legal system, juvenile delinquency is a complicated problem involving the interplay of many social, economic, and psychological elements. Understanding that young people who participate in delinquent conduct often do so as a consequence of various variables, such as family dynamics, peer pressure, socioeconomic position, education, mental health difficulties, and community surroundings, is crucial for treating juvenile delinquency.

The demographic profile of participants in the study reveals a diverse and representative sample, with balanced gender distribution, varied age groups, educational backgrounds, years of experience, and employment sectors. This diversity ensures a comprehensive range of perspectives on the topic of juvenile offenders within the justice system. Participants' opinions on the effectiveness of the current juvenile justice system, the impact of social and economic factors on juvenile delinquency, and the efficacy of rehabilitation versus punitive measures indicate a complex array of viewpoints. Furthermore, the factors contributing to juvenile criminal behavior, such as poverty, family conflicts, and media influence, elicit varied responses, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of juvenile delinquency.

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