

# Indian Journal of Modern Research and Reviews

This Journal is a member of the '*Committee on Publication Ethics*'

Online ISSN:2584-184X



## Research Paper

## Juvenile Delinquency and Rehabilitation Facilities in the Observation Homes for Positive Development with Special Reference to Assam

Nazbin Salma Hussain<sup>1\*</sup>, Dr. Tribeni Saikia<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Education, MSSV, Nagaon, Assam, India

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor & Head, Department of Education, MSSV, Nagaon, Assam, India

Corresponding Author: \*Nazbin Salma Hussain

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14866138>

### ABSTRACT

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, evils like delinquency increase day by day which hinders social progress. As well as all the stakeholders must take the initiative to provide constructive guidance to the youth for positive development. The present study aimed to know the causes and the rehabilitation facilities for the positive development of Juveniles in the observation homes, in Assam. The investigators collected data from 42 juveniles in observation homes, Jorhat and Silchar, Assam. A semi-structured interview schedule for the juvenile and a self-structured interview schedule for the staff/counselor of the observation home were employed as tools for the study. The findings of the study highlighted that weak discipline in the family environment, financial compulsion, and parental occupations are related to the background of delinquent behaviors. Also, a lack of proper rehabilitation facilities exists in the observation homes.

### Manuscript Info.

- ✓ ISSN No: 2584-184X
- ✓ Received: 21-12-2024
- ✓ Accepted: 22-01-2024
- ✓ Published: 13-02-2025
- ✓ MRR:3(2):2025;25-29
- ✓ ©2025, All Rights Reserved.
- ✓ Peer Review Process: Yes
- ✓ Plagiarism Checked: Yes

### How To Cite

Hussain NS, Saikia T. Juvenile Delinquency and Rehabilitation Facilities in the Observation Homes for Positive Development with Special Reference to Assam. Indian J Mod Res Rev. 2025;3(2):25-29.

**KEYWORDS:** Juvenile, Delinquent, Observation Home, Positive Development.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the Study

In the recent societal changes and rapid development of science and technology children express their maturity at an early stage. They tend to possess likes and dislikes according to their needs and situations and behave as vulnerable to fulfil desires. Cognitive psychologists mentioned that well-nurturing children always grow positively with the due care and attention of their parents. It helps the children to realise

their potential in various aspects such as social, moral, physical, mental, etc. Lack of attention, emotional bonding with parents, and bad company sometimes may lead a child to a delinquent<sup>(1)</sup>. The Indian constitution holds people liable for breaking laws they don't know. The criminal justice system treats minors differently due to their presumed ignorance of the law. A crime is an act or omission against the public that the state wants to prevent and that can result in

a fine, jail, or death. Nothing is a crime unless it's illegal in the country. The victim of theft or criminal harm may sue for civil wrongs. As they transition from infancy to adulthood in a complicated world, youth may engage in delinquent and criminal activity.<sup>[2]</sup> It is difficult to define delinquency universally because the act of anti-social behaviour varies from time to time, from place to place, and from culture to culture, as well as with social and political conditions. Delinquent as a child who transgresses social norms and values. The public, media, and polity severely criticize juvenile delinquents, also known as juveniles in conflict with the law, for their increasing involvement in antisocial behaviour, criminal activities, and even heinous crimes.<sup>[3]</sup> Juvenile delinquency differs from criminal behaviour primarily due to the age of the offender. In both instances, the individual exhibits deviant behaviour that has been classified as criminal. All deviant acts contravene social norms; however, only specific acts are classified as criminal. Delinquent acts include specific status offences that are deemed illegal solely based on the age of the offender. Although the majority of delinquent behaviours are minor and nonviolent, certain actions may be severe enough to justify adult charges for individuals under eighteen.<sup>[4]</sup> According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of 2022, 30,555 documented crimes across the country committed by delinquents. Comparable patterns have been noted in Assam, where increasing delinquency rates have elicited apprehensions over the efficacy of preventive strategies. The primary reasons contributing to the issue in the region include inadequate educational infrastructure, poverty, and social marginalisation.<sup>[3]</sup>

In India, the Juvenile Justice Act (2000), effective April 1, 2001, established a framework for the care and justice of juveniles in conflict with the law, as well as children requiring care and protection. It adopted a child-friendly approach aimed at serving the best interests of children and facilitating their rehabilitation through consideration of their developmental needs. The Supreme Court of India advises referring to the preamble when an act is ambiguous regarding certain aspects. The preamble of the JJ Act underscores the necessity of ensuring appropriate care, protection, and treatment for children, focussing on their developmental needs and employing a child-centric approach for the adjudication and resolution of issues in their best interests and rehabilitation.<sup>[5]</sup>

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 states in Section 8 that adolescents awaiting investigation or trial who need temporary custody are to be housed in an observation home. Observation houses serve to house young people in confrontation with the law temporarily during the waiting time. Legal authorities of law enforcement accept minors to these institutions. An observation home's primary goal is to provide the child's best interests—which comprise their rights to life, safety, and education top priority.<sup>[6]</sup>

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i. To Know the Causes of Juvenile Delinquents Residing in the Observation Homes
- ii. To Investigate the Rehabilitation Facilities for the Positive Development of Juveniles in the Observation Homes.

## 3. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Several elements contribute to deviant behaviour, including familial dysfunction, substance addiction, low self-esteem, peer influence, and socioeconomic conditions.<sup>[7]</sup> Juvenile justice programmes for positive development are very important and possible means for positive outcomes for juveniles.<sup>[8]</sup> Education creates morality, and value-based activity and also realises their ability, interests, and talents and motivates them to face the obstacles of life. To change the minor delinquents to show real-life situations through theatre shows or drama clubs, the minor delinquents realized their guilt and tried to come back for a better future.<sup>[9]</sup> Positive and negative influences affect a person's future offending. One can be shaped or reduced by the offenders through positive influence.<sup>[10]</sup> Timely diagnosis of the root cause of every individual is to protect a child from juvenile offenders and prevent their misbehaviour, which is called a negative impact.<sup>[11]</sup> The support system of every individual with their values by family and a school with a healthy environment can bring an adolescent with less risk towards juvenile delinquency. Education should provide vocational education or training for employment opportunities that also play a vital role in a high-quality support system.<sup>[12]</sup> Crimes committed by the delinquents were firstly due to a mix of many reasons like parenting, poverty, peer pressure and family pressure.<sup>[2]</sup> Family environments with strict discipline are positively correlated with the delinquent behaviour of adolescents. Furthermore, relationships with parents, peer pressure, family environment, and aggression appear as predictors of juvenile delinquency.<sup>[5]</sup> Education is essential for shaping the behaviour of adolescents, and the community can significantly contribute by fostering awareness through socio-developmental activities.<sup>[13]</sup> In observation homes there is no distinction between delinquents from serious offenders, which may impact the minds of others, proving harmful to society.<sup>[14]</sup> Rehabilitation centres develop corrective strategies for delinquency that include parents and guardians. An environment more conducive to girls, with enhanced access to secondary education, permanent counsellors, and recreational facilities at the Centres.<sup>[15]</sup>

## 4. METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on the descriptive survey method only in the Jorhat Observation Home of Brahmaputra Valley and Silchar Observation Home of Barak Valley of Assam. The present study focuses on institutionalised juvenile delinquents aged 8 to 18 years. Given the regular influx and discharge of juvenile delinquents following each trial, the investigator selected a sample of 42 juveniles, 28 from

Observation Homes, Jorhat, and 14 from Observation Homes, Silchar, Assam. The sample of the study does not encompass new arrivals or those delinquents who are about to be released. To gather the required data, the investigator has adapted the self-made tool after validation of the expert's judgements i.e. Semi-structured interview schedule for the Juvenile, and a self-structured interview schedule for the Staff/Counsellor of the Observation Home. The study is delimited to the year 2022-2023.

## 5. DISCUSSION

In the present study, the investigator analysed the data qualitatively and quantitatively through simple percentages.

**Table 1:** Nature of Offences Committed by the Juveniles

| Nature of offences                         | Observation Home, Jorhat | Observation Home, Silchar |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Murder                                     | 3                        | 1                         |
| Theft                                      | 6                        | 4                         |
| Sexual harassment                          | 4                        | 3                         |
| Rape                                       | 5                        | 1                         |
| Attempt to murder                          | 2                        | -                         |
| Smoking / Drinking Alcohol/ Drug Addiction | 8                        | 5                         |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 1 it was found that in the Observation Home, Jorhat and Silchar, 3 and 1 committed murders, 6 and involved in theft, 4 and 3 were involved in sexual harassment, 5 and 1 committed rape, 2 in an attempt to murder, and 8 and 2 were involved in Smoking / Drinking Alcohol/ Drug Addiction.

**Table 2:** Reasons for Committing Offence

| Reasons of Offences  | Respondent (N=42) |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Deliberate           | 11                |
| Unwitting            | 6                 |
| Financial Compulsion | 25                |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 2 it was found that 11 were deliberate, 6 were unwitting, and 25 were of financial compulsion juveniles committed crimes.

**Table 3:** Occupations Status of Delinquent Parents

| Occupations                      | No of Parents |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Shopkeeper                       | 5             |
| Daily Labourer / Driver          | 12            |
| Service (Govt/ Private)          | 8             |
| Farmer                           | 6             |
| Domestic Servant                 | 6             |
| Rickshaw Puller /Sweeper/ Others | 5             |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 3, it was found that 5 parents are shopkeepers, 12 are daily labourers/drivers, 8 are govt & private service, 6 are farmers, 6 are domestic servants, and 5 are rickshaw

pullers/sweepers/others. It was also found that most of the parents are daily labourers and drivers.

**Table 4:** Discipline of Parents to Delinquents

| Types of discipline | Respondents |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Strict              | 3           |
| Weak                | 9           |
| Indifferent         | 18          |
| Unwanted            | 12          |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 4, it was found that only 3 nos of juveniles have strict parental discipline, 9 nos juveniles have weak, 18 nos of juveniles have indifferent and 12 nos of discipline have unwanted.

**Table 5:** Facilities of Living Rooms for the Juveniles

| Name of the Observation Homes | Single | Double | Dormitory |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Observation Home, Jorhat      | No     | Yes    | Yes       |
| Observation Home, Silchar     | No     | No     | Yes       |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table no 5, it was also found that cleanliness and room facilities were not sufficient based on delinquents. Due to shared beds delinquents suffered from skin diseases.

**Table 6:** Facilities of Enough Clothes for Juveniles

| Name of the Observation Homes | Responses |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Observation Home, Jorhat      | No        |
| Observation Home, Silchar     | No        |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 6, it was found that the Observation Home, Jorhat always crowded than the capacity. There were 73 delinquents but the capacity was only for 50 delinquents. Similarly, in the Observation Home, Silchar, the capacity for the juveniles was only 10, but 14 juveniles resided. The observation homes only provided one or two pairs of dresses. Delinquents bring their dresses from their homes and use some clothes provided by the NGO. The investigator also observed that most of the dresses don't fit according to their age or size. Delinquents stated that they sometimes find clothes from the delinquents who are released from the observation home.

**Table 7:** Educational Facilities Provide by the Observation Homes

| Name of the Observation Homes | Primary | Secondary | Vocational |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Observation Home, Jorhat      | Yes     | No        | No         |
| Observation Home, Silchar     | Yes     | No        | No         |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 7, it was found that lack or shortage of teachers is a major issue in providing educational facilities. In Jorhat Observation Home, educational facilities are provided by hiring 2 number of teachers (hired) from Sarva Siksha

Abhiyan rather than permanent teachers. Additionally, it was also found that irrespective of age educational facilities were provided. Therefore, delinquents were not interested in taking part in the educational facilities.

**Table 8:** Frequency of Classes/Training in the Observation Homes

| Name of the Observation Home | Daily | Weekly | Rarely |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Observation Home, Jorhat     | Yes   | --     | --     |
| Observation Home, Silchar    | No    | No     | Yes    |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 8, it was found that in the observation homes, Jorhat arranged regular classes for the juveniles by hiring teachers from SSA. In the observation home, Silchar, class facilities were provided rarely by the art teachers.

**Table 9:** Facilities for Recreational Activities in the Observation Homes

| Name of the Observation Home | Library | Sports | TV/Radio | Indoor games |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|----------|--------------|
| Observation Home, Jorhat     | No      | Yes    | Yes      | Yes          |
| Observation Home, Silchar    | No      | Yes    | Yes      | Yes          |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 9, it was found that there were no library facilities in the observation homes so that the delinquents could access the books. As well as indoor game facilities such as carom, chess, ludo, etc. Due to lack of enough resources, all the delinquents cannot participate in the same. Likely, in the observation homes, there were televisions, but most of the time it doesn't in working conditions.

**Table 10:** Medical Facilities or Regular Medical Checkups

| Name of the Observation Homes | Responses |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Observation Home, Jorhat      | Yes       |
| Observation Home, Silchar     | No        |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 10, it was found that the Observation Home, Jorhat provided regular medical check-up facilities. The Observation home, Silchar did not provide regular medical check-up facilities for the juveniles. It was also observed that, due to a lack of regular medical check-up facilities, delinquents suffered from skin diseases and a chance to spread HIV/AIDS among inmates.

**Table 11:** Availability of Counsellors for Mental and Psychological Development

| Name of the Observation Homes | Available |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Observation Home, Jorhat      | Yes       |
| Observation Home, Silchar     | No        |

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In Table 11 it was found that the Observation Home, Jorhat have counsellors to give positive directions in their lives. But in the observation home, Silchar, there were no counsellors. It was also found that, due to irregularities of counsellors, it was not able to counsel all the delinquents at a time. The counsellor stated that it was difficult to visit regularly for all the delinquents.

### Findings of the Study

- Delinquents residing in the observation homes, Jorhat and Silchar committed murders, theft, sexual harassment, rape, attempt to murder and smoking, drinking alcohol, and drug addiction. Most of the juveniles committed crimes due to financial compulsion.
- Most of the parents of delinquents are daily labourers and drivers and belong to weak parental disciplines.
- Cleanliness and room facilities in the observation homes were not sufficient on the basis of delinquents. Due to shared beds and clothes delinquents suffered from skin diseases.
- Observation homes, Jorhat organised regular classes for juveniles by employing teachers from the SSA. In the observation home, Silchar, class facilities were rarely provided by the hiring of other teachers.
- The observation homes have no library facilities. Indoor games such as carom, chess, and ludo, are available but insufficient for all delinquents. The televisions in observation homes are malfunctioning.
- The Observation Home, Jorhat offered consistent medical check-up services. On the other hand, the Observation Home, Silchar failed to offer consistent medical check-up services for the youngsters. It was noted that owing to insufficient access to routine medical check-up facilities, delinquents had skin disorders and HIV/AIDS.
- The Observation Home, Jorhat employs counsellors who provide constructive guidance. However, in the observation home, Silchar lacked the presence of counsellors. The analysis revealed that irregularities among counsellors hindered the ability to counsel all delinquents simultaneously. The counsellor indicated that regular visits posed a challenge for the delinquent.

### 6. CONCLUSION

From the study, it may be concluded that there are various causes which lead to committing crimes and unsocial activities such as. murders, theft, sexual harassment, rape, attempt to murder and smoking, drinking alcohol, and drug addiction due to financial compulsion. Parental care and family discipline are of utmost importance to prevent these types of immoral activities. For positive development, proper educational, recreational facilities and moral training for healthy living should be provided. The government should take the initiative to inspect whether the observation homes run as per the norms of the Juvenile Justice Act or not.

Similarly, permanent teachers and counsellors should be appointed for constructive guidance to the juveniles.

## REFERENCES

- Agarwal D. Juvenile Delinquency in India- Latest Trends and Entailing Amendments In Juvenile Justice Act. People Int J Soc Sci [Internet]. 2017;3(3):1365–83. Available from: <https://grdspublishing.org/index.php/people/article/view/1231>
- Sahmey K. A Study on Factors Underlying Juvenile Delinquency and Positive Youth Development Programs [Internet] [MA thesis]. 2013. Available from: <http://ethesis.nitrkl.ac.in/4634/>
- Konch K. Life Skills Education and Youth Crime: A Sociological Study. MSSV J Humanit Soc Sci. 2016;1(1).
- Lahon N, Konch K. Causative Factors Of Juvenile Delinquency- A Study. MSSV J Humanit Soc Sci. 2020;4(1).
- Manjeet. Psychosocial predictors of juvenile delinquency [Internet]. Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology; 2022. Available from: <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/490217>
- Family environment, emotional intelligence, and aggression among juvenile delinquents [Internet]. [Guwahati, Assam]: Gauhati University; 2018. Available from: <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/235536>
- Martin. Juvenile Delinquency. Theories of Causation. 03-Martin (juvenile).qxd 1/19/2005 2:48 PM p.61; 2005.
- Barton W, Butts J. Building on Strength: Positive Youth Development in Juvenile Justice Programs. Chicago: Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago; 2008.
- Macanović N. Drama-Club as Innovation in Educational Work With Minor Delinquents. Kriminalističke Teme [Internet]. 2012 Dec 16;(5–6):141–9. Available from: <https://krimteme.fkn.unsa.ba/index.php/kt/article/view/61>
- Walters GD. Positive and negative social influences and crime acceleration during the transition from childhood to adolescence: The interplay of risk and protective factors. Crim Behav Ment Health [Internet]. 2018 Oct;28(5):414–23. Available from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cbm.2088>
- Grinenko AV, Potapov VJ, Syktyvkar State University named after Pitirim Sorokin, Tsvetkova EV, Vladimir State University named after Alexander and Nikolai Stoletovs. The impact of dysfunctional families on the formation of personality of juvenile offenders. Vestn St Petersburg Univ Law [Internet]. 2023;14(1):266–79. Available from: <https://lawjournal.spbu.ru/article/view/9904>
- Zhang S. The Influence of Child and Adolescent Education on Juvenile Delinquency. Lect Notes Educ Psychol Public Media [Internet]. 2023 May 17;7(1):362–70. Available from: <https://www.ewadirect.com/proceedings/lnep/article/view/1838>
- Surong R, Lyngdoh A. A study on the causes of juvenile delinquency and its prevention by the community. Int J Indian Psychol [Internet]. 2020 Dec 31;8(4). Available from: <https://ijip.in/articles/a-study-on-the-causes-of-juvenile-delinquency-and-its-prevention-by-the-community/>
- Rote K. Prison Reform and Social Change in India. 2014.
- Tiampati EM. Psycho-social Factors Influencing Juvenile Delinquency Among Girls at Kirigiti and Dagoretti Rehabilitation Centres [Internet] [Thesis]. University of Nairobi; 2017. Available from: <http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/handle/11295/102303>.

### Creative Commons (CC) License

This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. This license permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.