



Juvenile Delinquency in A Selective Village of Rural Bangladesh

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Abstract: This study was a qualitative scrutiny in the field of sociology to explore the present scenario of juvenile delinquency in rural Bangladesh. This exploration was done in the selected place of Rajshahi districts to identify the patterns of juvenile delinquency and the influencers of the juvenile delinquents. A methodological triangulation was employed to pick up information that was analyzed mainly qualitatively. Purposive and random both sampling procedures were adopted in picking up information from the sample units. The study has tried to identify different patterns of juvenile delinquency and some influential elements of deviant acts. The study explored the fact that different kinds of crime and delinquency are rising day by day with the increase in population and causes of losing family bonds as well as community bonds, lack of ethical standards and emotional ties, poverty, peer pressure, misuse of technological devices, lack of entertainment, over freedom, child labor, youth tendency, condition of residential area and so on. The study also shows some correlation with influential elements and various types of deviant acts through some theory of juvenile delinquency. The result of this study will be helpful for the policy making of the country.

Keywords: *Juvenile; Delinquent; Deviant behavior; Socio-economic condition; Socialization*

Introduction: Today's modern world with many technologies, juvenile delinquencies is a sidedness problem throughout the world. But the scenario of the juvenile delinquency varies from place to place. Moreover, the maximum age limit and also the meaning of delinquency vary from country to country [1]. Generally, the offence committed by children under a particular age limitation is called juvenile delinquency. Again, 'Juvenile delinquency' refers to antisocial or illegal actions by children [2]. According to the Children Act, 1974, the age limit of children is 16 years in Bangladesh [3]. Most of time, it is always below 18 years of age which is the statutory age for delinquency [4]. Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world with 40% of the population living below the poverty-standard. The demography of Bangladesh consists of 13% of the population under 5 years, 38% under 15 years and 47% under 18 years of age [5]. About 80% people cannot fulfill their basic human-needs due to their poverty associated with sensitive problem of unemployment, over-population, illiteracy, malnutrition and natural calamities etc [6].

As many other countries in the world, juvenile delinquency is a main issue of concern in Bangladesh [7]. At present, the traditional offences of juveniles are not only limit within- telling lies, running away from schools, stealing and teasing girls; they are also involved in unlawful, anti-social and suspicious activities which greatly influence the law and order situation of the society and the country at large [8]. Male delinquents are involved in different types of offences such as murder, theft, hijacking, acid-throwing, arms and drug peddling, killing, eve teasing etc [9]. The rising number of children involved in unlawful activities such as killing, trafficking, smuggling, fraudulent activities, theft, hijacking, carrying illegal arms and drugs [10]. A study among underage

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prison inmates in Bangladesh revealed that the commonest charges were theft 22.9%, murder 18.1%, drug related offences 13.2% and possession of illegal arms were 10.1% [11].

Dies-satisfied students become regular absentees in schools and start wandering in streets. They may even form gangs of their own and become gamblers, eve-teasers, pickpockets, drunkards, smokers and drug addicts. Films and Pornographic literature have also added to the magnitude of delinquency. Cinema, television and obscene literature may often provoke sexual and other impulses in adolescents [12]. Rahman (2010) mentioned some types of juvenile delinquency in both urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. These are disobedient of parents and teachers and run away from home and/or school, disrespect to adults, teasing school college going girls, shown indiscipline in school, college or street, journey without ticket, fighting, smuggling, harassment on the street, copy in exam, making noise, illegal sexual offence, gambling, taking drug, stealing fruits from others' field and garden, unlawful behavior on the road by grouping, fighting in the playground, unsocial speak and display indisciplined behavior, involved in crime influenced by political party, participate as a smuggler bearer, cybercrime, etc [13].

Don C. Gibbons divided the juvenile in eight groups such as i) Predatory gang delinquent, ii) Conflict gang delinquent, iii) Causal gang delinquent, iv) Non-gang member, v) Automobile thief/joy rider, vi) Drug user, vii) Overly aggressive delinquent, and viii) Female delinquent and behavioral problem delinquent [14]. Criminologist Eaton and Polk indicate five types of juvenile delinquent: i) Minor violations like fighting with friend, train journey without ticket, ii) Major violations like pickpocket, acid-throwing, iii) Addiction like ganja, drug, iv) Bodily harm like killing, and v) Property violations like destroy crops [15]. Criminologist Hirsh said six types of juvenile delinquency: i) Incurability, ii) Truancy, iii) Larceny, iv) Destruction, v) Violence, and vi) Sex offences [16].

Bangladeshi juvenile are involved in diverse types of crime such as snatching, copy in exam, theft, pickpocket, watching pornographies, throw spittle, bombard, whistle to see girl, running away from home, journey without ticket, run away from school, impertinence with adult, sexual offences, gambling, hijacking, drug addiction, cheat with other, murder, disobedient with parents and teachers, carrying illegal arms and drugs, showing indiscipline, subversions, acid-throwing, brickbat throwing, unlawful behavior, mastani, come back home at mid-night, crowd in vehicles, destroy crops of field, joked with invalids persons, fighting in the playground, stealing things from home, force, stealing fruits from others' garden [17].

The report of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bangladesh identified that around 44% of the street children in the country are involved in drug peddling, 35% in picketing, 12% in mugging, 11% in human trafficking and 21% in other criminal activities [18]. Bangladesh Human Rights conducted a survey on 30 students of class nine among them 25 students watch porno graphs in their classroom, 100 students of class eight among them 86 use mobile phone and 76 students watch porno graphs [19]. This study tried to explore the real scenario of the selected study area.

Objective of the Study

- To explore the types of juvenile delinquency prevailing in rural Bangladesh;
- To identify the influence of surrounding people on juvenile to commit delinquency;
- To identify the other elements those derive juveniles to be involved with delinquent acts.

Methods of the Study: A 'methodological mixes' was apply to collect data for this study. Data have been collected through survey method while informal meeting, spot observation, and non-participant observation were used to gain critical overview of overall aspects of juvenile delinquency and its consequences in the study area.

Sampling and Sample Size: Study locale for the present research is taken purposively. After preliminary baseline survey of the juvenile delinquent of the study area, a total of 55 juvenile delinquents (10 to 19 years) as the respondents of this research were selected purposively.

- **Research Instruments**

In-depth interview schedule, a check list, intuition of researcher, jot book, camera, recorder and mobile phone were used as research instruments during data collection.

- **Techniques of Data Collection**

Keeping the objectives of the study in view, an interview schedule was prepared to collect relevant information from the juvenile. Besides this, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and In-depth Interview (II) were used as data collection techniques to explore the authentic result of this research.

Theoretical Framework: The study has taken some theoretical perspectives which are related with the research, such as-

- The social learning theory (Albert Bandura);
- Labeling Theory (Edwin Lemart) and
- Differential Association Theory (Edwin H. Sutherland).

The Social Learning Theory: The Social Learning Theory propounded by Albert Bandura explains that children first observe how people around them behave, and then imitate them. For instance, if the child's parents show delinquent behavior like taking drugs, or exhibiting violent behavior, the child is likely to observe this, and imitate the same behavior, without realizing that it is incorrect [20].

Labeling Theory: Labeling Theory coined by Edwin Lemart aims to explain deviant behavior from the social context rather than looking at the individual themselves. It is part of interaction criminology which states that once young people have been labeled as criminal they are more likely to offend. The idea is that once labeled as deviant a young person may accept that role, and be more likely to associate with others who have been similarly labeled [21]. Labeling theorists say that male children from poor families are more likely to be labeled deviant, and that this may partially explain why there are more working class young male are offenders [22].

Differential Association Theory: Differential Association Theory by Edwin H. Sutherland mentioned that people learn values, attitudes, motives, and techniques for criminal behavior through their interactions with others. Differential association takes a social psychological approach to explain how an individual becomes a criminal [23]. Prior, criminal behavior is determined by a variety of concrete conditions, such as mental disorders, broken homes, minority status, age, social class, alcoholic parents and inadequate socialization [24]. The overall scenario of the juvenile delinquency in rural Bangladesh is presented in the following flow diagram.

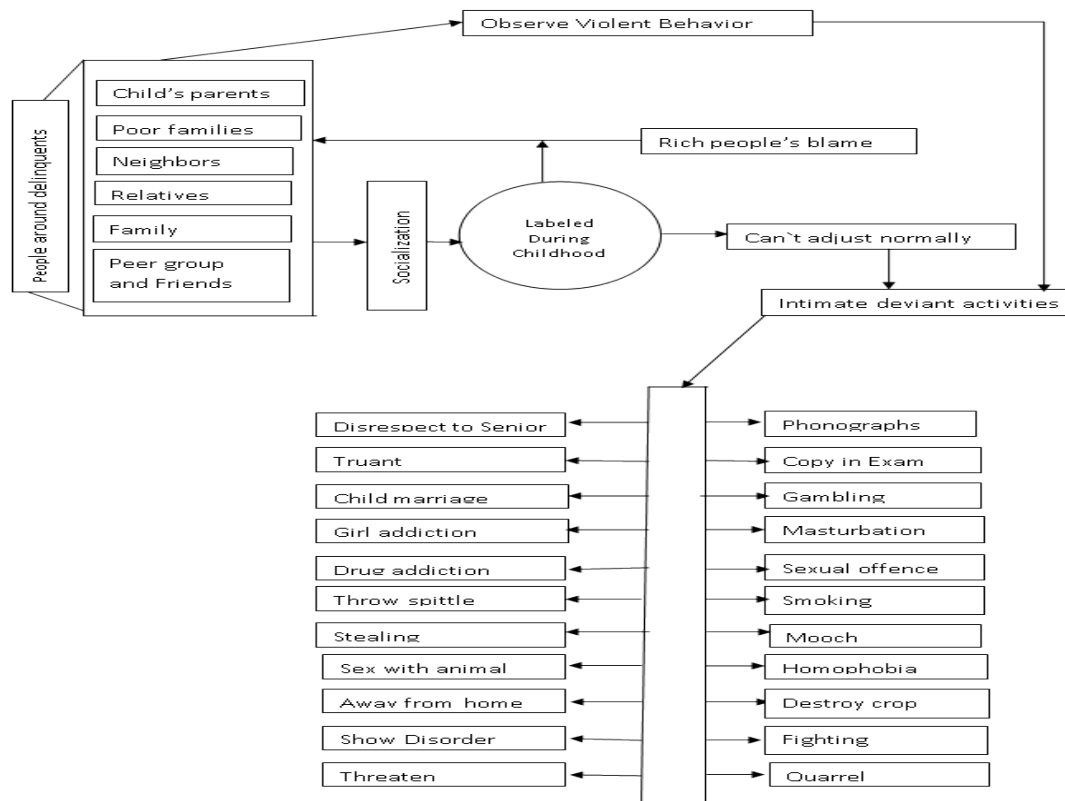


Fig.1. Flow diagram of the overall scenario of the juvenile delinquency in rural Bangladesh.

Result and Discussion:

Socio-economic background of the respondents: Age is a very important part to do any activities. Adolescent age that called juvenile is very sensitive stage and many activities during this age occurred that may blame the age. The table 1.1 shows that the greater portion of respondents (54.55%) are in the age group of 16-18years, while another major portion of respondents (40%) are in the age group of 13-15 years and the lowest but mentionable figure of respondents (5.45%) belong to the age group of 10-12 years.

Table 1.1: Age of the Respondents

Age	Number of respondent	Percentage (%)
10-12	3	5.45
13-15	22	40
16-18	30	54.55
Total	55	100

Education is one of the important elements in the life of a person. An educated person can easily capture many things and know the bad impact of many things. Table 1.2 show that one of the big part of the juvenile delinquents (14.54%) are illiterate, around 32.73% delinquents completed primary education, 34.55% completed up to eight, 10.91% completed S.S.C and 7.27% completed H.S.C. It has been noticed that the involvement of criminal activities are increasing among both illiterate and literate delinquents.

Table 1.2: Level of Education of the Respondents

Serial No.	Level of Education	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Illiterate	8	14.54
2	Up to primary	18	32.73
3	Up to Eight	19	34.55
4	S.S.C	6	10.91
5	H.S.C	4	7.27
	Total	55	100

Occupation is a great portion for thinking and doing as well as contributing in many sectors. In this research although the delinquents are minor by the age, they are involved in many criminal activities. Table 1.3 shows that a greater portion of respondents (72.73%) are student, a mentionable portion (3.64%) are engine labor, 5.45% are shop labor, 9.09% are goldsmith and 9.09% are day labor. It has been noticed that the involvement of criminal activities is increasing among the student as they are engaged in many up to dated information, they have much more freedom, and they can hide their crime easily and so on.

Table 1.3: Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Student	40	72.73
Engine labor	2	3.64
Shop labor	3	5.45
Gold smith	5	9.09
Day labor	5	9.09
Total	55	100

One's position in a society and the income of a family can be measured by the position of one's household head. The below Table 1.4 shows that the maximum percentage (27.27%) of the head of the respondents' family is farmer, 25.45% are goldsmith, 20.0% day labor, 3.65% are shop labor, 5.45% are businessman, 12.73% are service holder and 5.45% are van driver. The result shows that most of the families are agriculture based and the second largest category is goldsmith.

Table 1.4: Occupation of the head of the Respondents' Household

Occupation	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Farmer	15	27.27
Goldsmith	14	25.45
Day labor	11	20.0
Shop labor	2	3.65
Businessman	3	5.45
Service holder	7	12.73
Van driver	3	5.45
Total	55	100

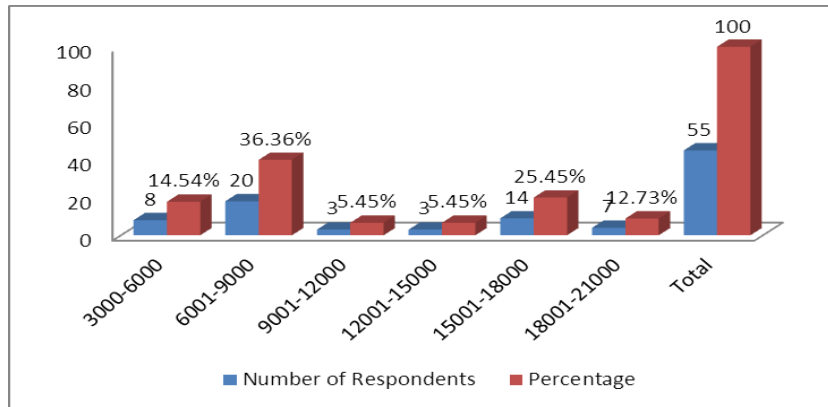


Fig. 2. Monthly Income of the Respondents' Family in Taka.

Family income refers to the position of individual in a society and class structure mentioned the quality of one's personal activities. In rural area, poor family sometimes can't meet up their children's need and they get involved in many criminal activities. The Figure 2 displays the monthly income of the juveniles' family. Data shows that the majority of delinquents' (36.36%) family income are Taka 6001-9000, 14.54% are Taka 3000-6000, 5.45% are Taka 9001-12000, 5.45% are Taka 12001-15000, 25.46% are Taka 15001-18000 and 12.73% are Taka 18001-21000. The above data reflect that majority of the respondents' family income are Taka 3000-9000, which is very poor income in the present time. Beside these, Taka 15001-21000 is not ignorable.

Types of Juvenile Delinquency: Bangladesh is a village based country. Rural society is oppressed in various types of problems. Juvenile delinquency is one of them. In rural society delinquents are generally involved in mooch, stealing fruits, lunacy of marriage, destroy crops, child marriage, quarrel, fighting, away from home etc. Today, they also involved in other criminal activities, such as, drug addiction, phonographs, sexual offence, gambling, show disorder, disrespect to senior and so on.

Table 1.5: Type of Juvenile Delinquency

Serial No	Type of Crime	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Mooch	33	60
2	Stealing fruit	40	72.73
3	Pornography	43	78.18
4	Copy in Exam	22	40
5	Gambling	18	32.73
6	Masturbation	13	23.64
7	Sexual offence	13	23.64
8	Smoking	17	30.91
9	Drug Addiction	24	43.64
10	Homophobia	3	5.46
11	Fighting	7	12.73
12	Quarrel	5	9.09
13	Destroy Crop	5	9.09
14	Disrespect to Senior	13	23.64
15	Truant	1	1.81
16	Lunacy of Marriage	6	10.91

17	Girl addiction	3	5.46
18	Throw Spittle	1	1.81
19	Stealing	5	9.09
20	Child Marriage	3	5.46
21	Away from home	4	7.27
22	Show Disorder	14	25.46
23	Threaten	2	3.64
24	Sex with Animal	1	1.81

Table 1.5 exhibits the types of juvenile delinquency. Data shows that a major portion (60%) of juvenile are involved with mooch, 72.73% are stealing fruit, 78.18% are pornography, 40% are copy in exam, 32.73% are gambling, 23.64% are masturbation, 23.64% are sexual offences, 30.91% are smoking, 43.64% are drug addicted, 5.46% are homophobia, 12.73% are fighting, 9.09% are quarrel, 9.09% are destroy crops, 23.64% are disrespect to senior, 1.81% are truant, 10.91% are lunacy of marriage, 5.46% are girl addicted, 1.81% are throw spittle, 9.09% are stealing, 5.46% are child marriage, 7.27% are away from home, 25.46% are show disorder, 3.64% are threaten, 1.81% are sex with animal. So data reflect that most of the juvenile see phonographs. Another crime is homophobia and masturbation which are very harmful for our society. These types of crime are much interconnected. Besides these, drug addiction, disrespect to senior, smoking, show disorder placed a greater part of rural society.

Table 1.6: Involvement with number of crimes

Number of Crimes	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
2 Crimes	7	12.73
3 Crimes	8	14.55
4 Crimes	4	7.27
5 Crimes	13	23.64
6 Crimes	3	5.46
6+ Crimes	20	36.36
Total	55	100

Table 1.6 manifests that, 12.73% juvenile are involved with two crimes, 14.55% are involved with three crimes, 7.27% are involved with four crimes, 23.64% are involved with five crimes, 5.46% are involved with six crimes and major portion (36.36%) juvenile are involved with six or more than six crimes which is greater than other number of crimes.

Influencers of the Juvenile Delinquents: Family members' occupation, attitude and behavior are followed most of time by the child as socialization starts from family. Moreover, neighbors, relatives, peer groups and friends are great sources for learning. So, juvenile can be a delinquent by the influence of those sectors. Sometime rich people blame the poor and label them as criminal for doing very small criminal activities. The present study has identified some elements that influence the juvenile to become delinquents.

Table 1.7: Crimes committed by Delinquents' parents and family members

Serial No	Type of Crime	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Smoking	3	5.45

2	Drug Addiction	2	3.64
3	Quarrel	1	1.82
4	Disrespect to others	1	1.82
5	Show disorder	1	1.82
6	Threaten	1	1.82
7	Stealing	1	1.82
Total		10	18.19

The above table 1.7 shows that many parents and family members' activities have effect on their children. In this report, the maximum 5.45% delinquents' parents are smoker and their children do so. 3.64% involved with drug addiction, 1.82% quarrel with others, 1.82% disrespect to other members of society including neighbors, relatives and so on, 1.82% show disrespect to others, 1.82% show disorder in society, 1.82% show threaten and 1.82% are stealing different things from different aspects. So, it is seen that total 18.19% of the respondents reflect their parents' activities.

As like as family or parents, delinquents are also influenced by their neighbors, relatives, peers, friends, rich people and so on. The table 1.8 mentioned that most of the delinquents 20% are influenced by their peers and friends. In addition, 5.45% influenced by neighbors and 3.64% are influenced by relatives. Here this research also noticed that 1.82% delinquents are influenced by rich people, they work in a gang and the gang leader is an aristocrat rich man in the village. They are both drugging addicted as well as drug supplier.

Table 1.8: Juvenile Delinquents Influenced by the Persons

People around Juvenile	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Parents	10	18.18
Neighbors	3	5.45
Relatives	2	3.64
Peers and friends	11	20
Rich People	1	1.82
Total	27	49.09

Discussion on the Major Findings of the Study: As per the finding of the study, it is seen that the greater portion of respondents (54.55%) are in the age group of 16-18 years, while another major portion of respondents (40%) are in the age group of 13-15 years and the lowest but mentionable figure of respondents (5.45%) belong to the age group of 10-12 years. The result also show that one of the big part of the juvenile delinquents (14.54%) are illiterate in the present age and 85.46% are literate where, 32.73% delinquents completed primary education, 34.55% are up to class eight, 10.91% completed S.S.C and 7.27% are study on going. In terms of occupation a greater portion of respondents (72.73%) are student, a mentionable portion (3.64%) are engine labor, 5.45% are shop labor, 9.09% are goldsmith and 9.09% are day labor. It has been noticed that the involvement of criminal activities is increasing among the student as they are engaged in many up to dated information, they have much more freedom, and they can hide their crime easily and so on. In this research report, as a rural area, the result found that the maximum percentage 27.27% of the head of the respondents' family is farmer, 25.45% are goldsmith, 20% day labor, 3.64% are shop labor, 5.45% are businessman, 12.73% are service holder and 5.45% are van driver. Data shows that the majority of delinquents' (36.36%) family income are Taka 6001-9000, 14.54% of Taka 3000-6000, 5.45% of Taka 9001-12000, (5.45%) of Taka 12001-

15000,(25.46%) of Taka 15001-18000 and 12.73% of Taka 18001-21000. The above data reflect that majority of the respondents' family income are Taka 3000-9000, which is very poor income in the present time. Besides these, Taka 15001-21000 is not ignorable. The research data show that a major portion (60%) of juvenile are involved with mooch, 72.73% are stealing fruit, 78.18% are watching pornography, 40% are copying in exam, 32.73% are gambling, 23.64% are doing masturbation, 23.64% are sexual offences, 30.91% are smoking, 43.64% are drug addicted, 5.46% are homophobia, 12.73% are fighting, 9.09% are quarrelling, 9.09% are destroying crops, 23.64% are disrespect to senior, 1.81% are truant, 10.91% are lunacy of marriage, 5.46% are girl addicted, 1.81% are throwing spittle, 9.09% are stealing, 5.46% are doing child marriage, 7.27% are away from home, 25.46% are showing disorder, 3.64% are threatening, 1.81% are doing sex with animal. Present research manifests that 12.73% juvenile involved with two crimes, 14.55% involved with three crimes, 7.27% involved with four crimes, 23.64% involved with five crimes, 5.46% involved with six crimes and major portion (36.36%) juvenile are involved with six or more than six crimes which is greater than other number of crimes. In this report, the maximum 5.45% delinquents' parents are smoker and their children do so. Rather that, 3.64% are involved with drug addiction, 1.82% are quarrel with others, 1.82% are disrespect to other members of society including neighbors, relatives and so on, 1.82% are show disrespect to others, 1.82% show disorder in society, 1.82% are show threaten and last 1.82% are stealing different things from different aspects. It is seen that total 18.19% of the respondents reflect their parents' activities. This report mentioned that most of the delinquents 20% are influenced by their peers and friends. In addition, 5.45% influenced by neighbors and 3.64% are influenced by relatives. It is also noticed that 1.82% delinquents are influenced by rich people, they work in a gang and the gang leader is an aristocrat rich man in the village. They are both drug addicted as well as drug supplier.

Conclusion: Juvenile delinquency is one of the most important social problems in Bangladesh. This problem is increasing day by day. At present it is not only limited in urban areas but also it is speeded out in the rural areas. As a result, the juveniles are involved in various criminal activities. Such as mooch, gambling, copy in exam, stealing fruits, pornography, masturbation, sexual offences, smoking, homophobia, fighting, quarrel, destroy crops, disrespect to senior, truant, lunacy of marriage, girl addicted, throw spittle, taking drug, away from home, stealing, sex with animal, show disorder, threaten, child marriage etc. But for this brutal situation the juveniles are not only blamed, but also blamed our social structure. So, the proper protection is essential to return the juveniles from their faults. Therefore, by which problems the juveniles are involving in various anti-social activities, every citizen of the country should identify these problems to return the juveniles in proper environment. The author would like to suggest the local and national government to improve the education level and to create new income sources to overcome this problem.

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