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Topic: Implementing measures to prevent and eradicate juvenile delinquency

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Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is an act of crime committed by a minor that violates laws put in place by the government. This issue has drawn the attention of researchers, policymakers, and communities worldwide because of its great impact on the lives of young people and society as a whole. Many are concerned for children as they grow up in the new digital age, where committing a crime has become much easier. Since juvenile delinquency is an extremely concerning problem for society; Researchers and policymakers have continued trying to find effective ways to combat the issue by finding potential roots of the problem. The factors contributing to juvenile delinquency are crucial to understand in order to develop effective prevention and intervention strategies. These key factors that greatly increase minors to commit crime include socioeconomic status, peer influence, educational achievement, substance abuse, and mental health. However, one of the most impactful is the effect of a child's family dynamic as they grow up. The reason being the fact that, as children grow up they are heavily affected by what they see around them all the time, their family. And so when a child grows up in a household with neglect, physical or sexual abuse, or parental substance abuse, they begin to mimic those same behaviours whether it is as a cry for help or as a way to display their anger. Similarly, when children grow up in a household where they have strict parents, they may act in the same way as a way to act out and gain some autonomy. And when this child faces hardships such as neglect or abuse, it does not simply stop when they become an adult. Instead, it continues affecting them as they become an adult, and it makes rates of crime as an adult

far higher. By monitoring a child's home life and improving public infrastructure for impoverished children, governments can help significantly improve the outcome for these disenfranchised children. Furthermore, promoting healthy and positive role models to troubled children can undo some of the damage that has been done by their dysfunctional families. Examining these complicated components can help us understand the causes and effects of juvenile delinquency and lead the way towards developing a more secure and supportive environment for young people. And thus, shifting a social the social paradigm; one which frequently condemns minors to find themselves breaking the law.

The juvenile justice system was created in the late 19th century, before that there was only one system which treated people of all ages the same. Children who committed crimes were often treated the same as adult criminals, receiving harsh punishments, and being imprisoned with adults until the introduction of an entirely separate system for juveniles. Children under the age of 16 who were neglected, dependent, or troubled were accepted into this new system. It was designed to be a rehabilitation programme for juvenile offenders rather than a punishment. Although the intention was to have a system where minors are not subjected to severe punishment, there are a number of issues within the juvenile system. There is a number of abuse issues within the facilities such as; "Harassment and mistreatment from guards, sexual victimization and sexual abuse, physical abuse and punishment, isolation used as discipline, Excessive restraints used as discipline, staff allowing violence between residents". All of these violations FINISH THIS

Definition of Key Terms

Juvenile

Juvenile is said to refer to a young person, commonly known as someone who is under the age of 18.

Delinquency

Delinquency can refer to a minor crime/ offence or the neglect of one's duty. Minor crimes can include; theft, larceny, alcohol offenses, disturbing the peace, drug offenses, vandalism, assault, robbery, criminal trespass, harassment, fraud, burglary, loitering, possession of stolen property, possession of weapons and crimes committed on behalf of gangs.

Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is an act of crime committed prior to when their respective government deems them an adult in the court of law. In extreme cases, minors are tried as adults and face the same level of punishment as an adult would. Juvenile delinquents are handled in juvenile court also known as juvy. Those who commit such acts are usually sentenced to less harsh punishments than their adult counterparts.

Juvenile Justice system

The Juvenile justice system is a legal system that handles cases involving youth who are accused of committing a crime, often under the age of 18 or the respected responsibility age in one's country. The system was first founded in 1899 and before that children were treated the same as adults and penalised at the same levels for their crimes. It attempts to treat and rehabilitate children who become involved in delinquency. It was also made as juveniles are considered to not have fully developed, meaning the reasoning for their actions can be different and will be penalised in more humane ways.

Penalisation

A penalty given to one who commits an offence in any way or form. This could be in many forms such as monetary compensation, community service hours, prison time or the death penalty.

Legal age

Legal age is the age which each country/region chooses to be the age in which someone is considered an adult and will be tried as an adult. This age can vary with some places having a legal age of 16 and some 18.

Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System

The Juvenile assessment and intervention system, also known as JAIS, is a supervision model created by Evident Change that assesses juveniles to understand the underlying issues that come with committing minor crimes. This system was set up to reduce crime rates from juveniles and understand why juveniles might commit such crimes.

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

The center on juvenile and criminal justice organization, also known as CJCJ, is a non profit organization which aims to reduce incarceration as a form of punishment. The CJCJ provides community service and public education on the topic of legal rights and incarceration, they promote a more balanced criminal justice system in which they reduce incarceration and improve long term safety for the community.

Background Information

In the early 20th century, the juvenile justice system in the United States emphasized the principle of *parens patriae*, which considered the state as a substitute parent, responsible for the well-being and guidance of juvenile offenders. Instead of punishing young people, the focus was put on rehabilitating them through education, counseling, and career preparation.

However, as concerns about rising crime rates and the idea that stricter measures were required developed in the last half of the twentieth century, there was a trend towards more severe behaviour. As a result, legislation advocating harsh punishment and adult trials for juveniles who committed significant crimes was enacted.

The importance of prevention and rehabilitation in stopping juvenile delinquency has recently received more attention. Early treatment, community-based programmes, and customised therapies that address the underlying causes of delinquent behaviour have been emphasised by research and based on research procedures.

General knowledge and treatment of juvenile delinquency have evolved over time in response to altering social viewpoints, study findings, and an increased emphasis on prevention, rehabilitation, and the general well-being of young offenders.

The Illinois Juvenile Court Act

The Illinois Juvenile Court Act is significant in the history of dealing with juvenile misbehaviour. When it was passed in 1899, it established the first juvenile court in Chicago, Illinois and recognized the need for a separate justice system for young offenders. The legislation underlined the importance of providing services like as counselling, education, and social help to address the underlying causes of delinquent behaviour. The statute promotes the concept of working in the best interests of the child throughout the legal procedure. It encourages the court to take the juvenile's age, background, and social history into account when making treatment, placement, and rehabilitation choices.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

Another notable event occurred in 1974 when the United States Congress passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, emphasizing the importance of prevention and rehabilitation in addressing juvenile crime. This legislation recognized the importance of preventing and intervening in delinquent behavior before it escalates into long-term criminal involvement. One of the primary goals of the JJDP Act is to promote the deinstitutionalization of juvenile offenders. It aims to reduce the unnecessary confinement of youth in secure facilities and encourages alternatives to incarceration, such as community-based programs and services.

Cybercrime

In recent years, a significant concern regarding juvenile delinquency has been the increase of cybercrime among young individuals. With the quick advancement of technology and widespread access to the internet, juveniles have found new ways to engage in illegal activities such as hacking, identity theft, online harassment, and distribution of explicit content. The rise of social media platforms has also created a platform for cyberbullying—punishable by law—where young offenders

target their peers with harmful intent, leading to serious psychological damage for the victims. This digital aspect of juvenile delinquency has presented new challenges for law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and parents in terms of prevention, detection, and rehabilitation.

COVID- 19

The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures have presented additional challenges; as many young individuals faced disruptions in their education, social support systems, and access to extracurricular activities, potentially increasing the risk of delinquent behaviors. This clearly indicates the shifting dynamics of juvenile delinquency and the need for multiple strategies that address both traditional, and new types of juvenile criminal behavior. For some juveniles, the pandemic made pre-existing risk factors associated with delinquency worse. Factors such as family instability, economic hardship, parental substance abuse, and domestic violence became more severe during the pandemic due to job losses, financial strain, and the psychological impact of the crisis. These circumstances can contribute to a higher likelihood of juvenile delinquency.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

Brazil

Brazil is one of the countries with the highest juvenile delinquency rate, given that some of the highest committed crimes in Brazil are drug wars and gangs, it is certain that juveniles will commit crimes more frequently. According to IPEA, 60,000 juveniles in Brazil are under socio-educational measures, 22,000 are imprisoned, and 12,000 are on probation. The criminal responsibility age is 18 years old, anyone under 12 is entitled to protective measures including acts such as; enrolment in public school, shelter, rehabilitation, medical, phycological and psychiatric treatment and more. Due to the recent increase in juvenile crime, many legislators, jurists, and Brazilians want the criminal responsibilty age to go down, 87% of the Brazilian population wants the

age to be changed from 18 to 16. As of 2016 the legal age has been changed to 16 for certain crimes such as battery or death.

Venezuela

Venezuela is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, over 50% of Venezuela's residents are in extreme poverty. Due to this, the crime rates are extremely high. People who grow up in poverty are more likely to experience trauma and stress, which can lead to a downfall, where they choose to engage in criminal activity. Along with high crime rates, the judicial system in Venezuela is highly corrupt; police are often underpaid and there are problems in the jail system. The Venezuelan justice system has become extremely corrupt, which gives young people a false sense of liberty. Many teenage crimes go unpunished, which causes a juvenile justice pattern and encourages future crimes. Gang involvement and drug trafficking have been increasing, for vulnerable juveniles this could be a quick escape to gain money and find a sense of belonging. Factors such as poverty, lack of access to education, and limited opportunities for employment have pushed many Venezuelan juveniles into crime.

Russia

1 in 5 children in Russia are currently living in a poor household, being poor can be a direct link to certain crimes such as theft, drugs, or burglary. For this reason, children in Russia have a higher chance to fall into delinquency. These crimes however can be a mode of survival; some of these children have been left alone with nothing so to survive they start to commit minor crimes such as the ones listed before.

Colombia

Poverty and socioeconomic inequality are the main factors that contribute to Colombia's delinquency rates. Juveniles are often at a disadvantage with lack of quality education, healthcare,

and resources that leads them to turn to delinquency in order to survive. Additionally, Colombia's long history of armed conflict has left an imprint of violence, drug trafficking, and organized crime, which exposes young people to criminal tendencies. The problem is made worse by the absence of good social support systems, which include rehabilitation programs and opportunities for at-risk adolescents. The Colombian government has taken steps to improve the issue by implementing educational programs, training activities and social adjustment programs.

Belgium

Belgium is known for having one of the best juvenile delinquency systems in the world. Juvenile delinquency can not be seen as “good” in any place and can not be prevented, but there is a big difference in the way governments handle the delinquents. For instance, when young individuals engage in delinquent behavior, it's often a signal for underlying social problems or mental issues. By acknowledging and addressing the core issues, they can implement support systems to prevent further delinquency and promote positive development among at-risk youth. The juvenile justice system in Belgium provides rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities for young offenders. According to the federal law, “The Belgian Constitution contains a provision that children are entitled to have their moral, physical, mental, and sexual integrity respected and be protected from discrimination.” Which shows that Belgium takes care of the youths' needs and helps them to better their habits.

USA

The problem of juvenile delinquency continues to exist in the US. Approximately 672,600 adolescents were arrested by law enforcement in 2019, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. It is essential to keep in mind that over the previous ten years, adolescent crime rates have been dropping. Addressing the systemic factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency is essential. Access to quality education, mental health services, and employment opportunities can significantly impact a young person's trajectory. Investing in

school-based intervention programs, increasing availability of mental health resources, and promoting vocational training can empower at-risk youth, providing them with the tools necessary for a successful future.

Portugal

Portugal has the second-best juvenile justice system in the world, coming after Belgium. It has a 77% success rate of ensuring children's rights and justice, this means that they are successful when it comes to making sure that children have rights and the justice that they deserve. Portugal's juvenile justice system prioritizes diversion programs and alternative measures to keep young offenders out of formal court proceedings whenever possible. Instead of immediately resorting to incarceration, efforts are made to address the root causes of delinquency and provide appropriate interventions. Additionally, Portugal has implemented measures to ensure the protection of the rights of young offenders within the justice system.

JAIS

The Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) is a supervision program that builds a relationship between a young person and a worker while bringing valuable information to the surface. The workers assess the at-risk youth to find any underlying issues and behavioral problems. After the assessment, they also provide programs and interventions that would most likely succeed depending on the person. This can produce less rebellion for at-risk youth and provide supervision to cause smaller rates of juvenile delinquency.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1899	The first separate court for juvenile offenders is established in Chicago, Illinois, USA, known as

the Juvenile Court. This is the first step in a specific strategy for handling juvenile criminals.

1967

The Supreme Court case of *In re Gault* established that juveniles have the right to the following things; the right to receive notice of charges, the right to obtain legal counsel, the right to "confrontation and cross-examination", the "privilege against self-incrimination", the right to receive a "transcript of the proceedings" and the right to "appellate review".

1974

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) was created in the US, it provided federal funding for states to develop and improve their juvenile justice systems. It emphasizes the importance of deinstitutionalization and alternatives to secure confinement for juveniles.

1989

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is created, creating international standards for the treatment of children, including those involved in the justice system. It promotes a rehabilitative and constructive approach to juvenile justice.

1990

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is established as part of the

United States Department of Justice. It provides resources, training, and research to support prevention programs and improve the juvenile justice system.

2002

The creation of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of juvenile justice systems across the United States through collaboration, sharing of best practices, and research-based approaches.

2009

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory initiated the formation of the European Council for Juvenile Justice, which comprises a consortium of juvenile justice experts and organizations consisting of 28 member states of the European Union.

2015

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children is launched, bringing together governments, organizations, and individuals to address violence and abuse affecting children, including efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency.

2020

The COVID-19 pandemic brings new challenges to the juvenile justice system, leading to the exploration of remote alternatives for court proceedings, virtual counselling, and the implementation of preventive measures to protect the health and well-being of young people in the justice system.

Relevant UN Treaties and Resolutions

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), implemented on November 20, 1989, is an internationally recognized agreement that outlines the fundamental rights and protections of children. The CRC serves as a framework to promote the wellbeing and safety of children of all ages and backgrounds worldwide. The accord emphasizes the importance of safeguarding children from exploitation, violence, and criminal activities, while also promoting their education and development.

Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice

The Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, also known as the Beijing rules, were established on November 29, 1985. The Beijing rules offer guidance on how the State should handle minors who come in conflict with the law. The rules suggest using non-custodial measures and aiming to reintegrate juvenile offenders into society. Their purpose is to provide proper treatment and guidance for young offenders in the justice system.

United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of juvenile Delinquency

The Riyadh Guidelines, also known as the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, were created on December 14, 1990. They aim to prevent juvenile delinquency by focusing on early interventions and preventative measures that address the underlying causes of this issue. The guidelines emphasize the importance of collaboration between families, communities, and justice systems to achieve their goal.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Several resolutions at the UN addressing juvenile delinquency have been submitted throughout the years but have failed for a variety of reasons. These resolutions are frequently meant to encourage preventive actions against juvenile delinquency, share techniques that work, and strengthen international collaboration. These resolutions haven't been passed successfully, though, due to issues including conflicting national interests, different legal systems, and disagreements over jurisdiction.

Many nations used rehabilitation-focused programmes to combat juvenile delinquency in the mid-20 century. These approaches emphasised the necessity of giving education, vocational training, and counselling to juvenile offenders in order to bring them into society as successful citizens. Several programmes were implemented, including juvenile detention organisations, community-based rehabilitation centres, and educational efforts aimed to the special requirements of juvenile offenders.

There have been attempts in the past to create organisations that are dedicated to combating juvenile delinquency, but some of them have encountered major challenges and eventually failed their goals.

International Juvenile Delinquency Association

The International Juvenile Delinquency Association (IJDA), was founded in the early 20th century with the goal of coordinating international efforts to reduce juvenile delinquency. However, the IJDA struggled to handle the issue effectively and finally fell apart because of financial issues, low participation, and a lack of consistent support from member nations.

Global Youth Rehabilitation Initiative

The Global Youth Rehabilitation Initiative (GYRI) was created in 1990 with the goal of developing strategies for the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders worldwide. However, due to internal disputes, insufficient funding, and the difficulty of executing coordinated programmes across different countries, GYRI was eventually disbanded.

Possible Solutions

Strengthening Education and Skill Development

Many politicians and organizations emphasize the importance of investing in quality education and skill development programs to prevent juvenile delinquency. This includes ensuring access to education, vocational training, and life skills development for young people. By providing educational opportunities and giving young individuals necessary skills, they are more likely to engage in productive activities and avoid criminal behaviour.

Community-based Interventions

The implementation of community-based projects with participation from a variety of participants, including families, schools, local government, and NGOs. With the help of community involvement, guidance programmes, and good role models, these programmes hope to create a supportive atmosphere for young people. It is easier to identify at-risk adolescents, give early

treatments, and establish connections of support by incorporating the community, which helps guide them away from delinquent behaviour.

Restorative Justice Approaches

Practices of restorative justice are now seen as a successful strategy for combating adolescent criminality. This strategy focuses on repairing the damage that has been done, encouraging accountability, and promoting communication between offenders, victims, and the community. Through the process, community service, and rehabilitation programmes, juvenile offenders are helped to accept responsibility for their acts, make apologies, and re-enter into society.

Diversion Programs and Alternatives to Detention

Many countries and organizations advocate for the establishment of diversion programs and alternatives to detention for juvenile offenders. With the help of these campaigns, young people are going to be kept out of the formal criminal system and instead receive supportive interventions. To address the root reasons of delinquency and stop further engagement in criminal activity, diversion programmes can involve things such as counselling, mentoring, community service, and educational possibilities.

International Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing

In order to effectively address adolescent delinquency, it is essential to establish international collaboration. This entails a collective effort from politicians, organizations, and nations to share knowledge, exchange effective techniques, and work together towards a common goal. Such collaborative efforts can inform global policies and interventions by sharing successful projects, research findings, and lessons learned. By creating a platform for knowledge sharing, stakeholders can develop a comprehensive understanding of the issue and identify effective

measures to combat it. This can ultimately lead to a reduction in the prevalence of adolescent delinquency on a global scale.

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