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A Qualitative Analysis of Perception of Delinquency and Psychological Wellbeing among Juvenile Delinquents and Runaway Children

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Abstract

The aim of the present research was to qualitatively identify the factors of delinquency among juvenile delinquents and runaway children residing in shelter and to examine their perception of delinquency and Psychological well-being in detail. A sample of 10 juvenile delinquents and runaway adolescents (M = 5; F = 5) was taken from the two institutions functioning for the protection and welfare of such children in Lahore and Rawalpindi. Semi-structured interviews were conducted for data collection and Thematic Analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006) was carried out. Four major themes were drawn comprising thirteen subthemes; Factors of Delinquency (Subthemes; Socioeconomic and Familial factors, Behavioral factors and Situational factors), Psychological wellbeing (Subthemes; Change in Life, Life Satisfaction, Purpose in Life, Relationship Building and Self Perception of Productivity), Role of Parents (Subthemes; Value of Parents/Home and Advice for Parents) and Emotional Responses (Subthemes; Anger provoking incidents, Feelings during anxiousness and Defense mechanisms). A lack of financial support, an unpleasant home environment, child labor, a lack of parental love, a rebellious attitude, bad company, physical aggression, verbal taunts by family or parents, and parent's demand for forced labor are frequently reported among factors contributing to delinquency. Among psychological well-being indicators, satisfaction with present life, a sense of relief, learning skills, and good relations with others are frequently reported codes. The theme, 'role of parents identified the importance of parents, their bread-earner role, and discouragement of child labor as repeated codes. The final major theme, 'emotional responses highlighted the teasing behavior of others and aggression as frequently reported codes among anger-provoking incidents and feelings during anxiousness, respectively. As 'Defense mechanisms, most participants reported low mood and staying silent. Overall this research helped to identify the problematic domains of juveniles' life to further address the intervention based solutions.

Keywords: *Delinquency, Psychological Wellbeing, Emotional Responses, Defense Mechanisms.*

Introduction

Children are seen as a country's future. As a valuable asset to society, they place a heavy burden of responsibility on the shoulders of their caregivers. Since children are regarded as the foundation of all civilized and developed communities, their healthy growth and development are crucial for the bright future of those societies. Their engagement in illegal behavior may pose a larger risk to their social advancement (Aynsley& Green, 2004). Adolescence is a time of massive transitions in psychological, physical, and emotional aspects of one's personality. At this point, conflicts with authority may cause children to engage in antisocial activities. The development in this time period is influenced in many ways by biological, cognitive, temperamental, and socio cultural factors (Dahl, 2001). Everything changes throughout this age of growth and development (the transition from childhood to maturity); the only thing that remains constant is the ongoing change. A person's adjustment in later life depends on how well they meet these demands and challenges during adolescence (Dekovic et al., 2004).

Delinquency is defined as antisocial behavior and disobedience to laws established by the government. Hadfield (cited in Joshi, 2017, p. 146) defined delinquency as the inability to follow social rules. Valentine (cited in Joshi, 2017, p. 146), explained delinquency as the violation of laws established by the state. Children who have committed crimes against others are considered delinquents and are subject to legal punishment. Accordingly, delinquency refers to such actions performed by children or adolescents that would have been considered crimes if they were carried out by adults (Sampson&Laub, 2017).

LiteratureReview

Both developed and developing countries are experiencing the issue of juvenile delinquency as a global epidemic. The contributory factors for delinquency in individuals are social discrimination, social class differences, child's residence (urban or rural settings), illiteracy, unemployment, dysfunctional home environment, and peer pressure (Talpur, 2012), a lack of moral values, exposure to violent media, youth violence, indulgence in adultery at early age, alcohol and drug abuse, gang membership, peer pressure, broken homes, bad company, criminal behavior, strict parenting, criminal neighborhoods (slum areas), and a lack of moral values (Mayer, 1995).

Fosco et al. (2012) emphasized the importance of parental supervision of children from childhood until adulthood. During this stage, the youngster spends more time with friends and less time with parents. According to Smith et al. (2000), a child's future propensity for violence and delinquency may be influenced by a parent's history of criminal behavior, parental aggression, parental conflicts, and a lack of maternal affection. The causes of delinquency in different societies may vary according to specific civilization and cultural values. Kausar and Pinquart (2016) highlighted money, land, sexual assault in childhood, old enmity, illiteracy, honorkilling, and drug abuse as significant contributory factors to juvenile delinquency. According to Kim et al. (2009), physical and sexual abuse of children and teenagers is a major contributor to runaway behavior. Adolescents face many challenges after running from home, including the need to resort to prostitution, drugselling, shoplifting, and stealing in order to survive. The majority of them end up being victims of crime and delinquency. Baron and Hartnagel (1998) highlighted long term-homelessness as a top listed risk factor for pre planned violent criminal acts, e.g. robberies, aggravated assault, and group supported delinquency.

According to Tucker et al. (2011), the primary causes of adolescent runaway behavior were a dysfunctional family environment, including physical and sexual abuse by a family member. Pakistani society, just like any other society, is based on specific norms, cultures, and values. Here, being primarily a collectivistic culture, parenting styles, emotional encounters (experiences), socioeconomic circumstances, and environmental factors that influence how a person develops their personality are quite different from those in western or individualistic cultures. One may also expect to observe regional or inter provincial differences in the above-mentioned characteristics with in Pakistan. Some parenting norms and cultural

practices may be linked to deviant behaviors in children. In case of antisocial and delinquentbehavior, according to Naqvi and Kamal (2013), children show such behavior and leave their families due to strict parenting, labor conditions, bullying, child abuse and neglect, harassment, parent's demands for high grades, drug abuse, etc.

Gap in Previous Literature

To address gap in previous literature, it is necessary to understand the concept and importance of psychological wellbeing first. The perception of delinquency, in terms of justification to delinquent behavior has been discussed earlier in the form of factors related to delinquency. According to Berman et al. (2006) psychological wellbeing means to being content in life and understanding positive emotions. According to WHO, every one adolescent in five experiences some kind of emotional, developmental, and behavioral problem and one in eight suffers from a mental illness. Currie, et al. (2010) believed that children and teenagers from different socioeconomic and demographic background are more "vulnerable" to disparities that would negatively affect their health (physical and psychological) and well-being. In addition, it was predicted that by 2020, the worldwide ratio of diseases from mental illness would increase to 15% (Biddle & Mutrie, 2007). Most of the previous research on delinquency in Pakistan and globally has examined the prevalence rate along with other demographic variables and delinquency-related factors among young people incarcerated in jails (Ahmed et al., 2020; Mahmood & Cheema, 2008; Alamgir et al., 2018; Sayer et al., 2017; Breining, et al, 2020). Case studies have tried to explore the contributing factors that force an individual to exhibit antisocial and non-conformative behavior in particular circumstances (Ahmed &Murtaza, 2016; Brookins& Hirsch, 2002).

The present study primarily looks at the psychological wellbeing and perception of delinquency among juvenile offenders and runaway adolescents living in shelter homes in Punjab, Pakistan, in an effort to address a gap in the literature. This research is important in the perspective that it is focusing on the perception of delinquency; how delinquent behavior is justifiable through delinquent's perspective; and psychological wellbeing of delinquents in shelter homes where they are gaining facilities such as proper food, education and shelter.

Research Questions

- What are the familial, socioeconomic, and behavioral factors behind delinquent behavior?
- What is perception of delinquency among juvenile delinquents and runaway children? How do they think about themselves and what purpose their lives have after leaving their homes and being labeled as a delinquent?
- How much productive do they perceive themselves as in future, and what approaches do they adopt to form relationships with others and their ability to mold their decision according to the context?
- How do these factors (familial, behavioral and socioeconomic aspects) affect the psychological well being of the juvenile delinquents and runaway children residing in shelter homes?

Method

Research Design

Thematic analysis as a qualitative approach was used. Thematic Analysis analyzes themes and patterns of data and interprets them in detail. Thematic analysis by Braun and Clarke (2006) was used to generate themes from different codes devised by data with top bottom (theoretical) semantic approach. Semantic approach stresses on the surface meaning of the data and analysis does not require to consider the aspects other than the participant has said.

Sample

A Sample of 10 Juvenile Delinquents and Runaway Children; admitted and caught by police as delinquents; (N=10; age: 11-17) was selected from two institutions functioning for the protection and welfare of such children in Lahore and Rawalpindi. Non probability purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample for semi structured interviews.

Interview Schedule

By keeping in mind the very objective of the research, an interview schedule was prepared. Detailed literature review helped frame 21 questions relevant to the research objectives. The questions were in Urdu language to capture the indigenous perspective well.

Procedure

The data was collected from the rehabilitation institute working for the wellbeing of juvenile delinquents and abused children. After taking the proper permission from Director General of respective institution, 10 juvenile delinquents and runaway adolescents (M= 5; F=5) were interviewed one by one. The institute did not allow to audio record the interviews due to their strict policies of privacy. The researcher noted down all the answers carefully on paper. The whole session of an individual interview lasted for 45 minutes to 1 hour. The initial transcripts were read a number of times and transcribed carefully. The detailed interviews gave four major themes with thirteen subthemes along with different codes and verbatim through line by line coding.

Results

Table 1: Participants' Characteristics (N=10)

Variable	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Age	11-14	5	50%
	15-17	5	50%
Gender	Male	5	50%
	Female	5	50%
Socioeconomic Status	Lower Class	5	50%
	Lower Middle Class	4	40%
	Upper Middle Class	1	10%
Nature of Case	Juvenile Delinquents	5	50%
Case Specification	Habitual stealing	1	
	Drug selling	1	
	Drug selling+ Child switching in hospital	1	
	Murder attempt	2	
Nature of Case	Runaway	5	50%
Case Specification	Physical and emotional abuse by step mother/landlady/caregivers	3	
	Sexual abuse by step father	2	

(Note: Age Mean= 15; SD= 1.14)

Table 2: Thematic Framework with Codes (Subthemes) and Frequencies of ThemeOccurrence among Participants

Major Themes	Subthemes	Codes	Frequency
Factors of Delinquency	Socio economic and Familial factors of Delinquency	Lack of financial support from parents	10
		Unpleasant home environment	9
		Separation in parents/2nd marriage of parent/Death of a parent	8
		Domestic Violence /child labor	7
		Parent/caregiver's physical and verbal abuse	8
		Lack of parents/caregivers love	9
		Extramarital affairs of parents/Mother's involvement in prostitution	2
	Behavioral factors of Delinquency	Irresponsible behavior towards family	1
		Anger issues	3
		Wandering with friends	1
		Drug abuse for fun/relaxation	5
		Rebellious attitude towards family	6
		Bad company of friends/elders	5
		Failure in Love affair	2
	Situational factors of Delinquency	Physical aggression and taunts by family/Caregivers	7
		Lack of parental control	3
		Homelessness (occasionally visits home because of taunts by family)	1
		Parents demand for forced labor	6
		Lack of parental care	8
Psychological Wellbeing	Change in life	Hopelessness towards life	1
		Satisfied with present life	7
		Learned new things	2
		Neutral attitude/Uncertainty towards life	1
	Life satisfaction	Not satisfied with life	4
		No household burden	2
		Sense of relief/satisfied	6
		End of emotional abuse	2
	Purpose in life	Rehabilitation center for abused children	1
		Be a Mother like teacher to students	1

		Getting education/learning skills	6
		To Marry my love	1
		To find my father	1
		To live freely	1
		To construct my own home	2
		Will start Drug selling again	1
		Separation of mother with step father	1
		To earn a lot of money	3
	Relationship building	Reserve attitude towards others	3
		Good relationships with others	5
		Helping behavior for others	4
		Weird attitude towards others	1
	Self perception of Productivity	Through education and learning skills	7
		Illegal approach to self satisfaction	1
Role of Parents	Value of parents/home	Parents are important	6
		Emotional disturbance due to lack of parent support	5
		Parents should not demand for forced labor	6
	Advice for parents/caregivers	Provide proper support and education to children	2
		Avoid bad labeling to children	2
		Should discourage child labor	6
		Discourage 2nd marriage	2
		Bread earner role of parents	3
		Polite attitude/attention towards child	3
		Do not involve children in illegal activities	1
Emotional Responses	Anger provoking incidents	Verbal/physical abuse by others	3
		Teasing behavior/taunts/wrongdoings of others	7
		Extra material affairs of mother	2
		Memory of Given as a child prostitution	2
	Feeling during Anxiousness	Self pity	1

	Physically aggressive behavior towards others	7
	Tension/ Restlessness	1
	Frequent Crying	3
	Stay silent	2
Defense mechanisms	Drug use for relaxation in past	3
	Start playing cards with friends	1
	Constructive self talk	1
	Destructive future planning	1
	Break objects when angry/slaps hard	3
	Stay silent/ Low mood	5

Table 2 illustrates the major findings identified from juvenile delinquents and runaway adolescents.Overall participant reported frequently on lack of financial support, unpleasant home environment, separation/death of parents, child labor/domestic violence, parent's /caregiver's physical and verbal abuse and lack of parents love as socioeconomic and familial factors of delinquency. As behavioral and situational factors, participant highlighted rebellious attitude and drug abuse frequently for behavioral factors, physical aggression and taunts by family/caregivers, parent's demands for forced labor and lack of parental care for situational factors of delinquency.

On psychological wellbeing, participant reported frequently as; satisfied on subtheme change in life, sense of relief on subtheme life satisfaction, getting education/learning skills on subtheme purpose in life, good relations with others on subtheme relationship building and self perception of productivity through learning and education. On role of parents, participant reported frequently on codes 'parents are important' and 'parents should not demand for forced labor' for subtheme 'value of parents/home' and 'discourage child labor' for subtheme advice for parents respectively. On emotional responses, all participant reported frequently on teasing behavior/taunts of others and use of aggression on subthemes anger provoking incidents and feelings during anxiousness respectively. On subtheme Defense Mechanism (to anxiousness), participants reported low mood and staying silent as most.

Discussion

The detailed analysis of interviews highlighted the different codes that were emerged in to four major themes consisting of thirteen different subthemes.

Factors of Delinquency

The first theme is related to factors of delinquency that is highlighting the socioeconomic, familial, behavioral and situational scenarios that contribute as risk factors for delinquency.While discussing the familial aspects of delinquency, Wardle (2004) identified that children grown up under stable marriage of their parents avoid growing up disasters and enjoy best opportunities of life and are happier than the children of broken homes and cohabiting parents. With relevance to home environment and parental involvement in child's life, Participant 1 (Male, Juvenile Delinquent, 16; Drug selling) reported *"Only father is important. If father is not alive then you can't achieve anything. Alone mother is of no use."* Participant 3 (Female, Juvenile Delinquent, 17; Murder attempt) highlighted the role of happy marital life of parents and reported *"My life would not have been like this if my parents were living in peace."*

Derzon (2010) emphasized on poor parenting, child maltreatment, family size, home conflicts and antisocial attitude of parents as potential risk factors in juvenile delinquency. During the 20th century, single

parent homes were considered as a promising environment for the upbringing of a delinquent individual. Family breakdown resulting from the divorce, death or separation of parents is a leading cause of undisciplined behaviors of children who later on become criminals (Rothman, 2017). Two explanations on the question why children from single parent families prove to be delinquents were given by sociologists Matsueda and Heimer (1987) and Dornbusch et al. (1985). The earlier explanation highlights the role of supervision on children that parents lack in case of parents' separation or death of a spouse. The poorly supervised child then gets into the company of delinquent influences. The second explanation is entirely related to the lenient attitude of single mothers which reduces the control over youth with time.

Another potential root cause of delinquency from the present sample is child abuse. Children experience violence in forms of physical and sexual abuse, neglect, emotional and psychological abuse in different scenarios such as, individual, household, institutional and societal levels (KrugEG, et al., 2002). Participant 7 (Female, Runaway, 15), a victim of child labor and step mother's physical abuse, gave importance to the child parent healthy relationship and reported **"***My father should have listened to me even for once. I left home because I could not tolerate my step mother's abuse on my younger sister".* Similarly Participant 8 (Female, Runaway, 15) highlighted the physical abuse by her landlady, *"My landlady was habitual of physical abuse to me. She burnt my hands with hot knife".* Participant 9 (Male, Runaway, 15), victim of sexual abuse by step father highlighted *"I was in immense pain. I told about sexual abuse (by step father and his friends) to my mother and she put the all blame on me".* According to Chaffin et al. (2004) parents are the determinants of children's future life style. They fulfill the responsibility of establishing moral values and certain behavioral attributes in their children. As a result to the abuse and violence by parents/caregivers adolescents showed stubbornness, bad conduct, stealing, physical aggression to younger siblings, and irresponsible behavior towards family members .Once these attitudes are established, these are difficult to suppress or change. Participant 4 (Male, Juvenile Delinquent, 16; Habitual stealing) reported unhealthy home environment as a potential risk factor for delinquency and reported *"I escaped the abusive environment of my home by wandering with my friends."*

With reference to bad company, Participant 5 (Female, Juvenile Delinquent, 15; Drug selling, Child switching in hospitals) reported that *"Parents are very important. They must teach their children the right ways to work".*Similarly, participant 7 (Female, Runaway, 15) reported *"Parents should be harsh on children to keep them away from bad things."*

Psychological Wellbeing

Violence occurs in all parts of the world in organized and semi organized ways and has not spared anyone whether rich or poor. According to WHO, nine out of every 100 children in U.S experienced maltreatment by their parents and caretakers in the form of physical/sexual/emotional abuse and neglect (Whitaker et al., 2005).In countries like Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh homelessness, child trafficking, sexual abuse and prostitution are well reported issues (Hyder& Malik, 2007). Violence against children has been identified as a major public health issue. The effects of such maltreatments bring the disturbance in children's well being, physical and emotional health, low grades, economic instability and future probabilities of victimization (Archer et al., 2017: Sacks et al., 2017: Pinto et al., 2017).

Psychological well being as second major theme is based on five subthemes that are labeled as change in life (after being rescued), life satisfaction, purpose in life, relationship building and self explanation of productivity. Carol Ryff (1989) defined six dimensions of psychological well being as self acceptance, autonomy, positive relations with others, purpose in life, environmental mastery and personal growth. Four out of six factors were probed through present data in terms of change in life as self acceptance; relationship building as positive relations with others; self perception of productivity as personal growth and purpose in life.

According to Mariani et al. (2017) the idea of delinquent's wellbeing assess the difference between the two phases of his life, his prior life and the life after admission to rehabilitation center. On question probing change in life and life satisfaction after leaving the home, participant 6 (Male, 13, Runaway; Physical and verbal abuse by caretakers) reported *"I like to stay here. They are training us well. I am not going anywhere"*. Participant 6 (Female, 15, Runaway; a case of runaway due to step mother's abuse), reported *"My whole life has been changed. Here is peace"*Participant 9 (Male, 16, Runaway; a case of sexual abuse by step father) reported *"My life was like hell when I was at home. It seems my life has ended"*

On life satisfaction question, participant 4 (Male, 16; Juvenile Delinquent; Habitual stealing) reported "*I think of future now, I have left behind the past. Whatever my father did to my mother, I won't be doing to anyone"*. On the other hand, Participant 9 (Male, 16, Runaway; sexual abuse by step father) reported *"No, I am not satisfied with my present life. I want my mother to leave that man".*

Angley et al. (2015) highlighted the importance of social support received by parents, peers, siblings, and teachers in enhancement of quality of life. He further explained this support in terms of a protective shield against adverse life events. Another study conducted by Poulin et al. (1999) reported that love, positive attachment and social support from significant ones (family, friends, social circle) can play an important role in the development of a positive psychological wellbeing where there are higher chances of confident selves and positive attitude towards life for a promising future. On question pertaining to relationship building, participants showed mixed views. Participant 9 (Male, 16, Runaway; a case of sexual abuse by step father) reported*"its weird"*. Participant 1 (Male, 14, Juvenile delinquent; Drug selling) reported *"My relations are good with friends but very aggressive with family"*. On the other hand, participant 5 (Female, 16, Juvenile delinquent; Drug selling, child switching in hospitals) reported *"Yes, I am very social".*

Subthemes purpose in life and self perception of productivity are explaining the specific goals in life and thinking of continuous development in one's life. On questions related to purpose in life, most of the participants showed positive and constructive attitude towards life. Participant 4 (Male, 16, Juvenile Delinquent; Habitual stealing) reported *"My father labeled us as jinx. I have to prove him that I can learn skills"*. Participant 10 (Male, 15, Runaway; sexual abuse by step father) reported *"I don't want to spend my life as a prisoner, I want to live freely".* Participant 1 (Male, 14, Juvenile delinquent; Drug selling) showed intention to stick to illegal practice to gain the goals.*"I will start my drug selling job again after getting back from here, I don't consider this job as illegal".* On self perception of productivity, most participants reported productive attitude towards life. Participant 3 (Female, 17, Juvenile delinquent; Murder attempt) stated that

"I want to make my own home". Participant 5 (Female, 16, Juvenile delinquent; Drugs selling, child switching) reported *"I want to find my mother and get some education"*

Role of Parents

Role of Parents as a third major theme is comprised of two subthemes, value of parents and advice for parents. This theme is reflecting the effectiveness of involvement of parents in one's life. A great emphasis was given to the role of parents in Court Involved Children during late 19th century. The underlying concept of this notion put the blame on parent's irresponsible behavior towards their children's needs. Brickhead (2012) identified that parent's inability to afford basic commodities of life e.g. food and clothes significantly contributes to juvenile delinquency. Participant 2 (Male, 15, Juvenile delinquent; victim of sexual abuse) reported *"Only father should be there, mother is not important, it's better for mother to be dead".* On the other hand, participant 8 (Female, 16, Runaway; Physical abuse by landlady) highlighted the importance of parents in one's life and reported *"I am moving places after the death of my mother. A person needs nothing if parents are alive"*

According to Wright & Wright (1992) home plays a role of natural school for children. Parent's emotional bonding with children shapes their moral values that define their future conduct. Children who face parental rejection and grow up in a dysfunctional environment are at greater risk of becoming delinquents in their later lives. Participant 2 (Male, 15, Juvenile delinquent; a case of sexual abuse (mother's involvement in prostitution) reported *"At least it's better to live on roads rather than on that filthy place (home)".*Participant 1(Male, Juvenile delinquent, 14; Drug selling) reported *"I left home because of frequent fights with my family members. My family even didn't put food for me when I went home late at night. After that it didn't mean for me whether I am staying at home or outside"*

On question probing the subtheme advice for parents, participants demanded the supportive role of parents in terms of taking responsibility to provide food, shelter, love and education as important factors for the development of positive personality of children. Participant 8 (Female, 15, Runaway; physical abuse by landlady) reported *"Parents sell their new born babies or leave them in nurseries. Parents should protect their children. They should not leave them for labor"*. Participant 2 (Male, 15, Juvenile delinquent; victim of sexual abuse by mother's clients) reported *"A woman shouldn't be a mother if she can't control her lust"*

Emotional Responses

The final major theme is comprised of subthemes anger provoking incidents, feeling during anxiousness, and defense mechanisms. In the present sample, the delinquents reported repression, sublimation, depression, and positive self talk as defense mechanisms while in a state of anger and anxiousness.

According to Daniels &Holtfreter (2019), emotional regulation is a complex phenomenon that modifies emotional situations on the basis of interaction between information, judgments, and decision making. Bameister et al. (2007) define the effective role of experience and culture in social development of emotions. Literature suggests the direct effect of emotions on behavioral outcomes but it's not the situation in every case. Infact cognitions are effected by emotions that influence the behavior eventually. Coping strategies are linked with emotional regulation. Compas et al. (2001), define coping as conscious and mindful efforts to adjust cognition, emotion, behavior, physical responses, and environment as a result of traumatic incidents or stressful situations.

On questions probing anger provoking incidents, feelings during anxiousness and related coping strategies, participant 2 (Male, Juvenile Delinquent, 15; Murder Attempt, victim of sexual abuse) reported *"I get angry when I think about my mother's involvement in prostitution, and her client's forced sexual activities to me. I feel restless and depressed. I plan to kill my mother".* Participant 7 (Female, 15, Runaway; Physical and emotional abuse by step mother) reported *"I get angrywhen someone verbally abuses me or says something odd about me. I pray to God to make everything right. I cry when alone"*. Participant 4 (Male, 16, Juvenile delinquent; Habitual stealing) reported *"I get out of control when others tease me"*. Participant 5 (Female, 16, Juvenile delinquent; Child switching, drug selling) *"I vandalize objects on extreme".*

Conclusion, Limitations and Suggestions

The present study was conducted to look into the psychological wellbeing and perception of delinquency among juvenile delinquents and runaway children residing in Protection and rehabilitation centers. This study highlighted the role of parents and home environment and shed light on how these factors make someone criminal or force to leave their homes forever. Furthermore, it explained the life orientations and psychological wellbeing of delinquents in terms of change, satisfaction, purpose and relationship building patterns in their lives. The findings allude to the significance of parental care, affection, human bonding, and living in a secure family environment for healthy development of a growing child. In most cases, parental neglect, absence of a parent especially a father, maltreatment by parents or others and/or wrongful

behaviors of significant others paved way for delinquency or waywardness. The study involved participants residing in protected environments of rehabilitation institutes and consequently lacks the interaction with juvenile delinquents imprisoned in different jails of Punjab. In rehabilitation centers, delinquents receive counseling and better facilities (accommodation, food, and education) as compared to delinquents in prisons. Therefore a separate study may be conducted to examine the same variables among juvenile delinquents imprisoned in juvenile jails of Punjab.

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