

## INTRODUCTION

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Youth nowadays, regardless of gender, social origin or country of residence, are subject to individual risks but are also being presented with new individual opportunities—some beneficial and some potentially harmful. Quite often, advantage is being taken of illegal opportunities as young people commit various offences, become addicted to drugs, and use violence against their peers. Statistical data indicate that in virtually all parts of the world, with the exception of the United States, rates of youth crime rose in the 1990s. In Western Europe, one of the few regions for which data are available, arrests of juvenile delinquents and under-age offenders increased by an average of around 50 per cent between the mid- 1980s and the late 1990s. The countries in transition have also witnessed a dramatic rise in delinquency rates, since 1995, juvenile crime levels in many countries in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States have increased by more than 30 per cent. Many of the criminal offences are related to drug abuse and excessive alcohol use.

The majority of studies most are dealing with juvenile delinquency which focuses on young people. However, youth are also victims of criminal or delinquent acts. The continuous threat of victimization is having a serious impact on the socialization of young men and on their internalization of the norms and values of the larger society. According to data on crimes registered by the police, more than 80 per cent of all violent incidents are not reported by the victims. Information about the victims allows conclusions to be drawn about the offenders as well. Results of self-report studies indicate that an overwhelming majority of those who participate in violence against young people are about the same age and gender as their victims, in most cases the offenders are males acting in groups.

Those most likely to be on the receiving end of violence are between the ages of 16 and 19, with 91 in every 1,000 in this group becoming victims of some form of crime. Surveys have shown that young men are more likely than young women to become victims. In the United States, 105 in every 1,000 young men become crime victims, compared with 80 per 1,000 young women. Young men are 2.5 times more likely to be victims of aggravated assault.

Young people who are at risk of becoming delinquent often live in difficult circumstances. Children who for various reasons including parental alcoholism, poverty, breakdown of the family, overcrowding, abusive conditions in the home, the growing HIV/AIDS scourge, or the death of parents during armed conflicts which are orphans or unaccompanied and are without the means of subsistence, housing and other basic necessities are at greatest risk of falling into juvenile delinquency. The number of children in especially difficult circumstances is estimated to have increased from 80 million to 150 million between 1992 and 2000. The problem of juvenile delinquency is becoming more complicated and universal, and crime prevention programs are either unequipped to deal with the present realities or do not exist. Many developing countries have done little or nothing to deal with these problems, and international programs are obviously insufficient.

Developed countries are engaged in activities aimed at juvenile crime prevention, but the overall effect of these programs is rather weak because the mechanisms in place are often inadequate to address the existing situation. On the whole, current efforts to fight juvenile delinquency are characterized by the lack of systematic action and the absence of task-oriented and effective social work with both offenders and victims, whether real or potential. Analysis is further complicated by a lack of international comparative data.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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For the purpose of collecting all important data and information required to be processed for establishment of this report-content, secondary data collection is chosen to gather all available information regarding involvement and contribution of youth in promoting as well as applying a concept of Juvenile Delinquency in both governmental matter and their daily lives. Different sources ranging from journal papers to published news are used to extract and gather all factual information regarding youth-involvement in Juvenile Delinquency. A similar method is also used to gather all responses from various stakeholders towards youth and Juvenile Delinquency. The sources are carefully chosen in order to ensure quality of the content, relevance, and ease of comprehension. Reason of choosing secondary data collection is based on a fact that varieties of source are largely available in electronic network.

## LITERATURE AND FACTUAL REVIEW

### FACT-SHEET AND ITS EXPLANATION

<b>Fact-Sheet</b>
<p>Statistical data in many countries show that delinquency is largely a group phenomenon. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of all offences committed by young people are committed by members of gangs or groups, which can vary from highly structured criminal organizations to less structured street gangs. Even those young people who commit offences alone are likely to be associated with groups.</p>
<p>While adolescence can be an age of “breaking rules” evidence shows that most first time offenders do not reoffend, and that diversion and other community-based measures are the best responses to offences committed by young people.</p>
<p>In 2008, an estimated 60% of children in the United States were exposed to violence, crime, or abuse in their homes, schools, and communities within the past year. Approximately 46% were assaulted at least once in the past year and 10% were injured in an assault.</p>
<p>In 2008, there were 288 arrests for violent crime offenses for every 100,000 youth between 10 and 17 years old. Even if each of these arrests involved a different juvenile, less than one-third of 1% of all juveniles ages 10 to 17 in the U.S. was arrested for a violent crime in 2008.</p>
<p>Over the years, the United Nations has reaffirmed and expanded its mandate to strengthen juvenile justice through the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) (United Nations, 1995) and the work of OHCHR, UNICEF, the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ).</p>

## RESPONSES FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

Juvenile crime is a major issue throughout the world. The various issues discussed throughout this text are encountered among other countries and other cultures in the global community. Indeed, issues related to youth, delinquent behavior, and the processing of youth who commit these behaviors are common on a worldwide scale. From the point of view of international organization, juvenile delinquency is driven by the negative consequences of social and economic development, in particular economic crises, political instability, and the weakening of major institutions (including the state, systems of public education and public assistance, and the family). Socio-economic instability is often linked to persistent unemployment and low incomes among the young, which can increase the likelihood of their involvement in criminal activity. Below are the responses or actions of international organizations for the juvenile delinquency.

- **Preventing children from becoming involved with the juvenile justice system**

The fewer children there are in the criminal justice system, the lower the risk of their exposure to violence in that system. It is important for international organization embarking on measures to prevent and respond to violence in the juvenile justice system to ensure that an appropriate environment exists for the primary prevention of children coming into the criminal justice process.

- **Protecting children from all forms of violence within the juvenile justice system and integrating this dimension into the national agenda**

International organizations are urged to revise their laws, policies and procedures to ensure compliance with international standards and ensure that the process of juvenile justice reform is framed by a child- and gender-sensitive approach, promoting a juvenile justice system that is fair, effective, efficient, and established as a core dimension of the national child protection system.

- **Safeguarding the right of all children within the juvenile justice system to have access to legal assistance throughout the process**

International organizations are urged to review law, policy and practical measures to ensure children's right to legal representation and access to funded legal aid in accordance with predetermined rules. Legal aid providers representing children should be specially trained and their performance regularly appraised to ensure their suitability to work with children. Likewise, legal aid representatives working with children should work in close cooperation with other professionals such as social workers and diversion service providers.

## GOVERNMENTS RESPONSES

The government places a strong emphasis on preventing juvenile crime and rehabilitating young offenders using diversionary and restorative justice programs rather than the traditional criminal justice system. The principles underpinning the justice system specify that juveniles are only sentenced to detention as a last resort. However, the government makes no apology for using detention to protect the community from those who commit serious, violent crime, even when they are juveniles. In addressing juvenile offending, as in other policy areas, the government is embedding the principle of prevention and early intervention into its decision making. The government continues to seek ways to shift resources to prevention and early intervention programs, and to gain a better understanding of the costs and benefits of early intervention, particularly when benefits can flow across agencies and outcomes can be improved for children, young people and the community as a whole.

The government recognizes that the nature of juvenile offending, and therefore the most effective methods to prevent and address it, differs from adult offending. Research indicates that involvement in crime tends to increase with age and typically peaks at 19 years of age before tapering off. This is supported by evidence that young people's brains are still developing in

ways that affect their impulse control and their ability to choose between anti-social behavior and socially acceptable courses of action.

The government recognizes that juvenile offenders should be dealt with in an age appropriate way. The government aims to ensure that juvenile offenders face the consequences of their actions and learn to take responsibility for their behavior. For those young people in custody who have not committed serious or violent crimes there is scope to provide interventions in the community. This strategy is in line with international research, which indicates that confining young people to custody is not effective in improving behavior and may lead to increased crime and increased costs to government. Research has also found that young people given custodial orders are no more likely to re-offend than young people given non-custodial orders.

### **PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSES**

To accomplish its goals, the juvenile court of the future will probably form more integrated partnerships with the private sector and with volunteers. It is evident that there are insufficient resources available to the juvenile court and public agencies working with the court to accomplish the prevention and intervention goals necessary to protect children, support families, and protect the community. Private sector and volunteer support have become important resources utilized by the juvenile court. This trend should continue to grow in the years to come. Juvenile courts have also led in the creation of community partnerships for children and families. Combining private, public, and nonprofit resources, these partnerships work together to accomplish goals that no one partner could achieve on its own. Typically, the group is convened by a juvenile court judge, identifies community needs for children and families, and develops an action plan to address those needs. The juvenile court of the future should be able to take advantage of community resources more effectively by turning to volunteers and public-private partnerships for support. Communities seem ready to give their time and resources to children and families. The challenge for each court will be to identify the most effective ways by which communities can be organized to work with the court on behalf of children. Below are the responses of private sector for the young people regarding the problem of juvenile delinquency.

- Private sector should establish policies that are conducive to the bringing up of children in stable and settled family environments. Families in need of assistance in the resolution of conditions of instability or conflict should be provided with requisite services.
- Private sector should take measures to promote family cohesion and harmony and to discourage the separation of children from their parents, unless circumstances affecting the welfare and future of the child leave no viable alternative.
- Private sector should take special responsibility and provide necessary services for homeless or street children; information about local facilities, accommodation, employment and other forms and sources of help should be made readily available to young persons.
- Private sector should begin or continue to explore, develop and implement policies, measures and strategies within and outside the criminal justice system to prevent domestic violence against and affecting young persons and to ensure fair treatment to these victims of domestic violence.

## **NGO RESPONSES**

All non-government organizations providing services to young people in detention are required to be responsive to the needs of a culturally diverse client group. Funding agreements include a clause requiring NGOs to ensure that the particular needs of girls and young women, young people with disabilities and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are met. NGOs must develop an Equity Plan which demonstrates how clients from each of these groups can access and benefit from services provided. Services include accommodation, employment support, alternative educational placements, youth mentoring, cultural programs, adolescent counselling, and support to parents and families of young offenders. Each year, Juvenile Justice reviews its multicultural activities to ensure that goals are achieved and best practice is maintained. Below are the responses of non-governments for juvenile delinquency.

- Non-government agencies should give high priority to plans and programs for young persons and should provide sufficient funds and other resources for the effective delivery of services, facilities and staff for adequate medical and mental health care, nutrition, housing and other relevant services, including drug and alcohol abuse prevention and treatment, ensuring that such resources reach and actually benefit young persons.
- Justice reinvestment to divert funding from building juvenile justice centers to evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs and services for local communities.
- Non-government provides diversionary programs for young boys and girls with intellectual or mental disabilities to avoid reoffending.
- Develop a family work model and crisis accommodation supports for young people with complex needs in the juvenile justice system.

### **MEDIA RESPONSES**

Research indicates that the news media plays a major part in shaping these perceptions. Although there are not many surveys focusing on public perceptions about youth crime and teenage violence, one 1996 poll reported that 81% of respondents said that teen violence was a major problem nationally, and 84% said that it had increased nationwide in the previous year. Ironically, the same survey reported that only 58% of those responding believed that youth crime had increased in their communities in the past year and just 33% said that it was a big problem in their communities. A 1989 Time CNN poll revealed that 88% of respondents believed that teenage violence was a bigger problem than in the past, and 70% believed that "lenient treatment of juvenile offenders by the courts" was a factor to blame for such violence. Below are the responses of media for juvenile delinquency.

- The mass media should be encouraged to ensure that young persons have access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources.
- The mass media should be encouraged to portray the positive contribution of young persons to society.

- The mass media should be encouraged to disseminate information on the existence of services, facilities and opportunities for young persons in society.
- The mass media generally, and the television and film media in particular, should be encouraged to minimize the level of pornography, drugs and violence portrayed and to display violence and exploitation disfavorably, as well as to avoid demeaning and degrading presentations, especially of children, women and interpersonal relations, and to promote egalitarian principles and roles.
- The mass media should be aware of its extensive social role and responsibility, as well as its influence, in communications relating to youthful drug and alcohol abuse. It should use its power for drug abuse prevention by relaying consistent messages through a balanced approach. Effective drug awareness campaigns at all levels should be promoted.

### **YOUTH RESPONSES**

Research has shown that many risk factors increase the chances of youth developing problem behaviors. Understanding these factors is the first step toward identifying effective ways to prevent delinquency. Equally important is the role of protective factors that buffer young people from the negative consequences of exposure to risks either by reducing the risk or changing the way the youth responds to that risk. Below are actions or responses of youth organizations to combat the juvenile delinquency.

- Youth organizations should be created or strengthened at the local level and given full participatory status in the management of community affairs. These organizations should encourage youth to organize collective and voluntary projects, particularly projects aimed at helping young persons in need of assistance.
- A range of services and helping measures should be provided to deal with the difficulties experienced by young persons in the transition to adulthood. Such services should include special programs for young drug abusers which emphasize care, counselling, assistance and therapy oriented interventions.
- Youth organizations should provide, or strengthen where they exist, a wide range of community-based support measures for young persons, including community

development centers, recreational facilities and services to respond to the special problems of children who are at social risk. In providing these helping measures, respect for individual rights should be ensured.

- Youth organizations should attempt to meet and promote the highest professional and educational standards with respect to curricula, teaching and learning methods and approaches, and the recruitment and training of qualified teachers. Regular monitoring and assessment of performance by the appropriate professional organizations and authorities should be ensured.
- Young persons and their families should be informed about the law and their rights and responsibilities under the law, as well as the universal value system, including United Nations instruments.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### CONCLUSION

Juvenile delinquency covers a multitude of different violations of legal and social norms, ranging from minor offences to serious crimes committed by young people. Some types of juvenile delinquency constitute part of the process of maturation and growth and disappear spontaneously as young people make the transition to adulthood. Many socially responsible adults committed various types of petty offences during their adolescence. Quite often, however, the situation is far more serious. Poverty, social exclusion and unemployment often cause marginalization, and young people who are marginalized are more susceptible to developing and maintaining delinquent behavior. Furthermore, young people are more likely to become victims of crimes committed by juvenile delinquents.

Delinquency is largely a group phenomenon; it is frequently engaged in by certain subcultures of young people who have jointly assumed a particular identity. It is also primarily a male phenomenon, with crime rates for male juvenile and young adult offenders more than double those for females. Some criminal activities are associated with intolerance of members of other cultures or religious, racial or ethnic groups.

If delinquency policies are to be truly effective, higher priority must be given to marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in society, and issues relating to youth in conflict with the law should be a central focus of national youth policies. The administration of juvenile justice should be decentralized in order to encourage local authorities to become actively involved in preventing youth crime and reintegrating young offenders into society through support projects, with the ultimate aim of fostering responsible citizenship

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **RESPONSES OF WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH**

In order to achieve the millennium Development goals by 2015, WAY has prioritized to play an active role in bringing awareness about the issues to the youth globally. WAY will take necessary action to:

- Provide immediate intervention and appropriate sanctions and treatment for delinquent juveniles.
- Prosecute certain serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders in criminal court.
- Reduce youth involvement with guns, drugs, and gangs.
- Provide opportunities for children and youth.

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