

## Prevalence and Factors of Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh : An Empirical Analysis

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### Abstract

This empirical study on the prevalence and factors of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh has been carried out at two Child Development Centers (CDC) of Gazipur district by using both qualitative and quantitative research methods as its methodology. Primary data have been collected through face-to face interviews. For the secondary data the paper has been relied on related government records and review of related published and unpublished literature. As juvenile delinquency is multidisciplinary in nature, both sociological and criminological theories have been used as theoretical frame work. The aims of this study were to find out the prevalence rate of various crimes for which juveniles have been arrested and to reveal major contributing socio-economic factors behind juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh. This paper also suggests that to lessen and prevent juvenile delinquency, innovative strategy like, community supervision and multi-stakeholder coordination should be incorporated in policy level. Hence along with policy-making, this paper will contribute to the empirical literature of sociology and criminology in general and juvenile delinquency in particular.

### Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is a complex and pervasive social problem that needs to be addressed most urgently. The effect of juvenile delinquency on society is multifaceted and caustic. If a juvenile becomes delinquent and he/she carries this delinquent behaviour into adulthood it jeopardizes not only his/her future but also the future of a nation. In recent Bangladesh, daily news reports are filled with atrocities committed by juveniles including sexual harassment, rape, violence, even murder. Though there is no aggregate reliable data; available data from the police department gives an indication of the extent and rising trends of this problem. The data of *Quartile Crime Conference* by Police shows that a total of 589 juvenile offenders were arrested by the police in 2013. In 2014 it was 818, it became 1184 in 2015 and in 2016 it stands 1596. Though this figure does not reflect the total scenario of the phenomenon, it can be assumed from this data that this problem is becoming one of the fastest growing social problem in this developing country. Not only the individual crime, the teenage gang culture has emerged as an alarming issue as law enforces agencies estimated that around 50 juvenile gangs such as ‘Disco Boyz’, ‘Nine Star’, ‘Bangla Group’ etc. are currently active in Dhaka city. For the last couple of years, news report in both print and electronic media also addressed this issue and unveiled the dangerous trends. Their delinquent activities are not limited to only telling lie or theft; they involve ferocious crime like murder or rape in their tender age. The first growing as well as severity of juvenile delinquency in recent years emerge as a menace and a major

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concern for the society. Plainly, if the influencing factors along with the context of delinquency are not explored sufficiently and not taken appropriate measure timely, this phenomenon will turn into a 'situation beyond control' and will destroy the future of our children and eventually impede the development of the country. The upsurge of juvenile delinquency stands against the socio-economic development of the country. Invariably, various socio-economic factors are caused for increasing juvenile delinquency.

Social scientists have speculation on the cause of delinquency for two hundred years (Siegel and Senna 89). Though juvenile delinquency is an old age phenomenon, before twentieth century, few discussions had done and little distinction was made between adult and juvenile offender. After the publication of Cohen's 'Delinquent Boys', the sociological explanation of delinquency has evolved rapidly across the world. Sociological study of delinquency requires understanding the cause of law violations relating to social structure, social disorganization, social process, social control, social reaction and so on. Many academic scholars have made significant contribution to this end having split opinion on the cause of delinquency. Some explain delinquent behavior by placing the youth in the social organization and structure (Shaw and Mckay, 184-85), some emphasize on the relation to social institution (Sutherland, 16-18), some on social condition (Cohen, 183), some on social control (Gottfredson and Hirschi, 91-94) and some on conflict (Regoli and Hewitt, 159). In order to accomplish these explanations this study has emphasized on the context of juveniles' lives and their experiences in offending. So, in-depth study was a necessity to find out the socio-economic factors behind the prevalence of delinquency in Bangladesh. Therefore, the scope of this paper is restricted to focus on various sociological and criminological explanations of crime, prevalence rate of various offences committed by the juveniles and major socio-economic factors that cause high prevalence. In this regard, this paper has at least three contributions to the literature and in policy level on juvenile delinquency. Firstly, it will enrich the empirical literature on socio-economic factors of juvenile delinquency. Secondly, the paper will encourage students to get familiar with the theoretical explanation of juvenile delinquency as an attempt has been made to present a summary of all the major theoretical assumptions in a condensed form. Thirdly, this paper will be helpful for formulating effective policy and program as it has suggested for a comprehensive and inclusive prevention intervention.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this article are: (a) to provide the major theoretical explanations of juvenile delinquency, (b) to provide the prevalence rate of various crime for which juveniles were arrested and (c) to explore the major socio-economic factors that are responsible for juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh. The implication of the study findings is that it will help the policy maker to formulate appropriate policy and program in preventing and controlling juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh.

### **Methodology of the Study**

Mix method has been chosen as methodology of this study. So both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques and presentation approaches have been used in this regard. However emphasize has been given on qualitative research method for the in-depth study. A review of literature shows that most of the studies on juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh are quantitative in nature that depict the numerical figure which lack in detail information. So far, only a few studies have been conducted exclusively on socio-economic factors behind juvenile delinquency. This study has been reasoned that without a 'thick description' [(a term used by Geertz (15-16)] on socio-economic factors it is difficult to explore inner causes behind the problem. Hence qualitative approach was a necessity. Child Development Center (CDC) of Tongi, Gazipur for male and Child Development Center (CDC) of Konabari, Gazipur for female, have been selected as study area due to the availability of the accused juveniles of any offences. By using purposive sampling 15 confined juveniles' in-depth interviews have been conducted for case study. A check list and semi structured questionnaire have been used in this regard. Respondents' physical and psychological capacity to response properly and their voluntary motivation to talk were the selecting criteria of respondents for the intensive interview. Demographically the juveniles who have been selected for in-depth interview had the potential to vary in their age, socio-economic background and offence history. Besides this, the study has also tried to collect information from the CDCs officials, academicians, legal expert and guardians on some specific and sensitive issues, as they directly dealt with the problem as well as have vast knowledge about the issue. In this regard, 08 Key Informant Interview (KII) have been conducted. Their valuable opinion enriched and validated this article as well. On the other hand, to assess the prevalence rate of different offences and magnitude of the problem all incarcerated inmates' official record has been collected, face-to-face interview have been carried out by using semi structure questionnaire. This has ensured the triangulation of the study. As per official record, 312 juveniles were incarcerated for the accusation of specific offences in the month of April in 2015. By using systematic sampling 169 respondents were selected for survey. Based on these incarcerated juveniles' accusation record, prevalence rate of different crimes has been calculated. This study has been excluded the inmates who were arrested in mere suspicion under section 54 of special power act, 1974. Secondary information was collected from different journals, books, research publications, web site and other published and unpublished documents.

### **Overview of the Theoretical Explanation**

As the study of juvenile delinquency is multidisciplinary in nature, a wide range of theoretical postulations have been evolved to explain juveniles' delinquent behaviour with its own way of analysis. It is very challenging to attribute one single theory for juvenile delinquency. Among several theories, this paper has an attempt to make an overview of the prominent sociological as well as criminological theories and has used them as theoretical framework to understand the causes of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh.

### **Differential Association Theory**

'Differential Association Theory' pronounced by Sutherland explains why any individual has the attraction of deviant behaviour (77-79). Sutherland believed that adolescents develop the attitudes and expertise for delinquency through their prolonged contact with others individuals who have criminal records and maintain the norms of delinquency. The theory affirms that by interacting with significant others, especially criminal peers through the process of communication juveniles learn the criminal activities. If juveniles have more contacts with the person who supports unlawful behaviour than differing it, they will be more vulnerable to involve in criminal activities. He argued that if any society has high favourable definition for the violation of law, delinquent behaviour of its member is natural (6-8).

### **Social Disorganization Theory**

Shaw and McKay created 'Spot Maps' to show the spatial distribution, residential area of the juvenile offenders in the city of Chicago (323). They explored the relationship between juvenile delinquency and place of residence. They found that poor neighbourhood is an ingredient of high rates of delinquency. Their research findings suggested that high-delinquency prone areas are characterized by social disorganization with low- income, low percentage of homeownership. In these areas there are contending and conflicting attitudes and values. These areas are filled up with adult criminals. In this crime prone residential areas are considered for the safe home for committing crime as all of its residents are in supportive of criminal activities. So, there is a greater likelihood that the children of these areas will come into contact with criminal activities.

### **Cultural Deviance or Sub-culture Theory**

Cohen through his 'Delinquent Boys' hypothesized that social conditions make the lower-class boys incapable of achieving success in a legitimate way, they experience a form of cultural conflict (183). These underprivileged boys connect themselves and form teenage gang. They involve in those activities that are irrational, inexplicable, malicious and anarchic. He argued that delinquent boys adopt a distinct subculture and holding such values that are directly opposite to the values of greater society.

### **Routine Activity Theory**

Cohen and Felson claimed that human being is by nature lawbreaker, but it depends whether anyone have chances to commit the crime (588-608). Through the 'Routine Activity Theory' they argued that unlawful deeds occur not only because a criminal decides to break the law but also because a target or object is available in the wrong spot at the wrong time and law enforces agencies or guards are not present there. In this regard, this theory suggests that three elements must be exist to form an ideal situation for committing a crime. These three elements are -a motivated wrongdoers with criminal intentions and ability in committing the crime, an appropriate target and non-appearances of a proficient guard who can prevent the occurrence of the crime.

### **General Theory of Crime**

By introducing 'General Theory of Crime' Gottfredson and Hirschi postulated that people who have low self-control may commit crime (91-94). They argued that self-control determines whether people will become criminal or not. People with profound self-control are capable enough to restrict themselves from criminal activities. They argued that offences such as alcohol abuse, drug use and illicit sex are going to the people with low self-control. They added that the origin of low self-control laid in the socialization. If early socialization was faulty, child-rearing became ineffective there will be a chance of low self-control. Parents play an important role in promoting self-control by maintaining a warm relationship with their children. By monitoring and supervising them closely parent also recognize any kind of lacking including low self-control in their children.

### **General Strain Theory of Crime**

Agnew through his 'General Strain Theory of Crime' argued that anger and frustration go hand in hand in creating criminality among the individuals (47). When an individual is mal-treated by the people in his/her social relationships, anger and frustration grow within him/her which eventually leads criminal behavior. In other way when a person feels pressure or strain to maintain social relationship or gain something, he/she may involve criminal activities. He believed that strain comes from multiple sources and he outlined three kinds of strain that lead to criminal activities: strain caused for the failure of achieving the socially approved goals, strain caused for removing positively valued stimulus from the individual and presenting negative stimulus to the individual. Agnew argued that lower-class individuals are frequently failed to achieve material goals through legitimate way and this failure leads them to illegitimate path or means to get their demand fulfill. Agnew found that real or anticipated damage also cause strain (83). Deaths of a loved one, divorce of parents, move to new school, and breakup with a boyfriend/girlfriend are the diverse dimension of strain. Naturally people try to prevent anticipated loss, try to make-up the loss and sometimes try to take revenge by adopting criminal activities. He explained with examples that adverse situations or events, like: child abuse by parents, bad experiences with peers, problems in school environments may create criminal behavior (86).

### **Differential Oppression Theory**

For Regoli and Hewitt, delinquents and their delinquencies are product and adults are the producers (157). They argued that juvenile delinquency is the culmination of a process that begins at conception and evolves through adolescence. The 'Theory of Differential Oppression' claims that children grow up in an arena of oppression and the oppressive environment. Hence, the oppressive children adjust to oppression in one of four ways: passive acceptance; exercise of illegitimate coercive power; manipulation of one's peers; and retaliation. According to this theoretical assumptions, adult attempts to impose their sense of order within the home or school on children whom they perceive to be inferior leads to maladaptive responses by children, including delinquency(163). Many youngsters are attracted to delinquency as an adoptive measure because it helps them establish a sense of liberty and control. Children who have experiences of

oppression by adults, involve in various form of delinquency including sexual misbehaviour, illicit use of drugs or alcohols to gain social power.

### Socialization Theory

The ‘Socialization Theory’ of Chesney-Lind claims that to understand the criminality among female offenders it is a necessity to understand the relationship between the girls and parents along with family interaction (06). Adverse environment like sexual tension, hostile relationship between parents, absence of either parents leads a girl to become vulnerable to get involved in criminal activities as she wants to find affection and support from external sources.

Based on above discussion it is clear that theory on the causation of juvenile delinquency is still an unfinished journey. No universal theory has been made so far. Different theories suggest that the causes of juvenile delinquency are varied. Social disorganization theory posits that delinquency is a result of poor neighborhood. Differential association theory postulates that juvenile delinquency is an outcome of peer pressures. According to Self-control theory, the weakness of self-control is responsible for delinquent behaviour. Routine-activity theory claims that a crime can occur due to the absence of appropriate guard, presence of suitable target and intent. Differential oppression theory claims that delinquency is the reaction of oppression imposed on juvenile by the adults. It is cleared that all the major theoretical explanations of juveniles’ delinquency have its’ own particular way of explanation and can be used as complement to one another. This paper has made relatedness of these theoretical explanations to the major socio-economic factors for the better understanding of the causation of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh.

### Findings and Discussion

#### Prevalence and Magnitude of Juvenile Delinquency

This paper has revealed the spectrum of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh. By using legal offence category that was provided by the CDC authorities, the present study has shown the prevalence rate of different crimes committed by juveniles in Bangladesh.

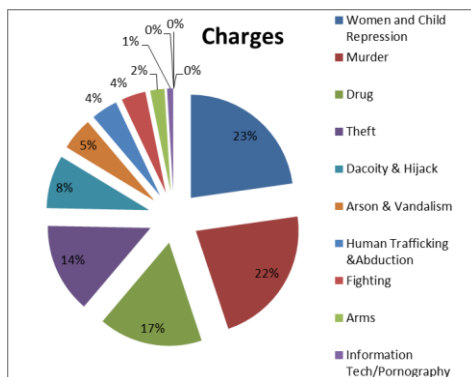


Chart 1: Name of the Crime with which the Juveniles were Charged

Sources: This chart is constructed on the basis of field work at CDCs in May, 2015

This above chart shows that Violence against Women (23%) was the most frequent form of accusation for which the juveniles were arrested. Murder also been constituted 22% of total crime records. It is a matter of great concern that our adolescents are accused of this extreme form of violent crime in their tender age. This study has revealed that prevalence rate of drug related offence was 17%, theft and snatch was 14% and robbery and hijacking was 8%. Although other forms of offences were scattered and small in number, their severity are very much consequential for any society. Possess and trade of fire arms, vandalism, fighting, information-technology based crime, abduction, human trafficking were found mentionable offences for which juveniles were charged. In earlier findings (Hossain 23; Sarker 95; Ferdoushi 109) reported that the most frequent forms of crimes committed by the juveniles were theft, drug business and fighting. But at present, juveniles are much more prone to commit murder and women repression including forcible rape.

### **Socio-economic Factors of Juvenile Delinquency in Bangladesh**

Juveniles are not by born unlawful or antisocial, even most of the cases juveniles are not aware about the consequences of their criminal act. However they involve in crime. Various earlier studies and theories suggested that socio-economic factors influence the prevalence of juvenile delinquency. In relation to the objective, the most dominant socio-economic factors that have been emerged from the narratives of respondents' have been categorised through this thematic analysis are as following:

#### **Destructive and Disturbed Home Environment**

Family environment is an insulator of delinquency. Broken family, presence of step-parents, conflict between and within parents, siblings and other family members, parental criminality were the major factors behind the delinquency. Looking into family structure of the juveniles it was found that most of them came from nuclear family coupled with aggressive environment. Some of the respondents told that they had bitter experiences of observing their parental conflict. Most of the mothers in poor families turn down their anger by beating children. Not only that, some juveniles reported, their parents believed that hard spank was necessary to discipline them and adopted harsh punishment. To avoid witnessing the parental battle and oppressive environment some of the respondents said that they stayed outside home and found pleasure from neighborhood friends with smoking and some sort of drug. This friendship along with drug addiction led them to involve other crimes also. According to Rohan (15), an accused of theft:

“My father had beaten my mother indiscreetly in front of my eyes. I could not bear it. When I went forward to resist my father, he kicked me out. So, I left the scene and had to stay outdoor. This happening was very common in our family. Eventually I begun to spend my time with some of my neighborhood friends and started smoking. To meet the costs of the cigarette, I got involve into theft.”

This utterance can be explained in light of differential association theory along with differential oppression theory. Moreover, presence of step-mother in a family is an important factor to decide whether a family will be sound or quarrelsome. For some juveniles, particularly for female offenders, it was found that they had to stay with

their step-mothers by experiencing hostile relationship, which is in line with the notion of socialization theory of Chesney-Lind (23).

### **Lack of Parental Schooling, Care and Supervisions**

Parents infringe societal norms and values to their children. But some juveniles under this study experienced hard reality in their childhood. Their parents thought very little about their future. The juveniles whose fathers were found involved in lower status bearing job and mothers were either housewives in rural areas or maid-servants in urban areas had very little knowledge about parenting. Literatures suggested that laxity of parental care, supervision and monitoring causes low self-control and eventually create delinquency among the children (Gottredson and Hirschi, 93). This study found that juveniles and their parental educational level were more awful. Generally the accused of theft, drug addiction, rape and murder were the victim of school drop-out and their parental educational level were below the primary level. This exploration is consistent with others findings ( Sarker 182-83; Hossain 18; Haveripet (par.3); Ferdoushi 113; Islam (par.6). Poor and illiterate parents engaged their children in earning, instead of enrolling in educational program. They could not provide proper guidance to their children. Parents with no education or lower level of education were unaware about the children's overall activities. The story of Sujan (17), son of an illiterate and unstable couple is an example of a deprived child from his birth to his imprisonment. He narrated:

“I was born in a slum in Dhaka city. My mother left me along with my younger sister when I was only four and my sister was only two years of old. I even couldn't recall my mother's face. Both of my parents were illiterate. My father remarried another woman. So, neither my father nor step-mother did show any affection to me. Even my father did never inquire about my whereabouts.”

So, lack of parental schooling augmented the poor parental care and supervision which eventually caused juvenile delinquency.

### **Peer Pressure**

The present study has revealed that peer pressure is one of the major factors of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh. Peer relation directly contributed to juvenile delinquency. Juveniles were powerfully influenced by peers. For them, friends became an influential factor of decision making, instead of parents. They felt comfort with the friends while in emotional as well as financial need. The issue that they could not discuss at home, the urge that could not fulfill at home; friends had arranged all the hostile and forbidden needs. Friendship with scandalous boys made the juveniles criminal. Crime like substance use, theft, acid throwing and murder were found related with peer-group influence. Munna (16) an accused of murder, narrated:

“I had learnt smoking cigarette as a kind of fun with my friends. But gradually the smoking became my part of life. Because of my unsecured childhood I had an attitude of indifference towards family and social norms. When I was without proper supervision, I associated with delinquent peer and subsequently involved in various criminal activities including murder”.



Actually, the peer groups were developed spontaneously to meet childhood needs as play, fun and adventure. Eventually in urban area, especially in Dhaka city, they formed gang with various attractive names.. The accused juveniles did maintain close relationship with peers who had delinquent values. This finding is consistent with the postulation of Sutherland and Cressey (77) where they indicated; within peer-group juveniles learn the techniques and attitudes that support delinquency.

### **Poverty and Unemployment**

Prevalence of poverty and absence of economic opportunities have been found for delinquency. If a child is born and grown up in an underprivileged family, he is deprived of basic amenities for his life. He lacks nutrition, proper education, health and shelter. Derived such an unfortunate background, anti-social behavior naturally develop in juveniles' mind. Most of the juveniles under this study were urban poor and lived slums areas. Their parents could not manage the household expenditure sufficiently. These unfortunate children were forced to engage themselves in income generating activities. Failed to get legitimate opportunity for livelihood, juveniles were compelled to involved in criminal activities like theft, drug trade, snatching, robbery etc. The earlier empirical findings of Sumon (340), Hossain (18), Kamruzzaman and Hakim, (110) suggested that youth of urban poor are very much vulnerable to commit crime. Kamal (15) an accused of theft, in current study, uttered:

“I belong to a hard core poor socio-economic family back ground. I did not want to be a thief in my life. But my misfortune led me to become a professional thief. However, I did never find it a secured profession due to the fear of being caught”.

All of these evidences are in line with the general strain theory of crime where Agnew argued that lower-class individuals are frequently failed to achieve material goals through legitimate way and this failure leads them to illegitimate path or means to get their demand fulfill (Agnew 390).

### **Favorable Environment and Culture of Impunity**

Favorable environment and culture of impunity of our country is one of the most influential components in relation to crime in general and juvenile delinquency in particular. Almost all the KIIs opined that the influential persons directly or indirectly work behind the scene to form youth gang. Some juveniles used firearms for committing crime and the arms were supplied by so called Boro Bhais. They got support from the 'big boss' in avoiding the legal costs as hostile political leaders used the youth for their political game. Juveniles who were involve in crimes like, human trafficking, arson or bombing got political and administrative backing under this study.

### **Easy Access of Drug and Drug Addictions**

Many researchers find a correlation between drug use and crime i.e. Dentler (304); Erickson (21). This study is not an exception. Accessibility of drugs and addiction of drugs are major stimulations to become a delinquent. The causes behind drug consume are curiosity, peer pressure, out of fun, enjoyment of life. The respondents

of this study reported that they used drugs out of frustration and poverty. Some of them were addicted due to family conflict. But most of KII opined that, easy access to drugs is the leading cause for drug addictions. Drug addiction directed the deterioration of morality among the juveniles. Hence they involve other types of crimes. Hijacking, extortion, stealing, robbery etc. are the result of drug addiction by the juveniles.. Shuvo (15) one of the respondents said:

“Initially I collected money from my father by telling lie. Before came to CDC, I earned the money through hijacking or Stealing. Many of us mug people to finance the drug addiction, he added.”

**Another juvenile narrated:**

“On that day of arrest, we picked up a Jewelry-shop owner and snatched away cash and mobile phone from him. With that money we bought YABA tablet.”

**Porno Movie and Objectification of Women**

Our culture is male dominated and bigotry is ever present. Fictional heroes from movie, play or novels frequently constitute an embodiment of romance and violence. To win the heart of heroin, hero frequently irritate her. Juveniles are vulnerable to adopt this culture of romance and eventually they fall in the peril of crime. In our society girls are frequently fall victim of acid throwing. Most of the cases acid is thrown on the faces of the girl. It indicates that in our culture the face of a woman is the most lucrative part of her body. Failing to win the heart of girlfriend juveniles under this study did little care to commit crime. In some cases, two juveniles fell in love with same girl and that were a driving force to commit crime. Sometimes juveniles become criminal due to take revenge. It is confirmed through this study that some juveniles adopted criminal’s behavior out of frustration and revengeful attitude. The illustration of Arif(15) revealed:

“I proposed for a romantic relationship with Ripa (13), a pretty girl of my locality but she refused. Moreover, she got involve with another young boy at the same locality. I considered it as an insult. This event made me revengeful. Finally, I decided to take revenge by throwing acid towards the girl.”

This utterance is supportive with the notion of Agnew (387) where he argued that criminal behavior is a way of reducing or releasing anger and frustration. Juveniles those were studying in secondary level school informed that they used to roam and gossip in groups in front of their own school or sometimes nearby girls’ school. In this time, they tried to irritate the girls while crossing them. They even engaged clashes among themselves centering the supremacy on the area. Some juveniles get involved in crime like murder, for their romantic relationship. When society and culture of any country, portrayed women as commodity and an object for enjoyment, violence against them is eminent (Strauss 457) and this was found in this study. So, objectification of women was found another cause for the juvenile delinquency.

**Land Dispute**

As an agricultural country, in Bangladesh, land is considered the main asset for most of the villagers. So, in rural areas of this country, land related disputes are very

common. Most of the anthropologist, who work in rural areas of Bangladesh, focused on the issues of land dispute. Jansen (223) has outlined the types of land disputes as, disputes due to division of inherited land, disputes over Hindu land property, disputes over *khas* land, disputes due to false registration and recording of land, disputes over *Char* land, disputes over boarder line between plot. So, dispute over land is an old age phenomenon in Bangladesh. Nine juveniles of this study have been staying at CDC for land disputes related cases. Among them six juveniles were accused of murder case, which indicates the nature of severity of this problem.

**Decline of Moral and Religious Values**

It is an old age argument that weakening the moral and religious values in society increase the rate of crime. Morality is the foundation of a society’s code of conduct that determines how the member of society perceive the appropriateness or rightness and goodness of his culture. In recent Bangladesh, due to gradual degradation of religious and moral values uncountable anomalies and discrepancies becomes the social fabrics of our country. As a result, numerous inhumane and cruelty are present everywhere in our society. These social fabric i.e. social norms, values, attitudes and behavior is favorable (Sutherland and Cressey 6-8) to cause moral deviation of the youth and makes them vulnerable to get involved in criminal activities. It is confirmed through this study that some juveniles show anti-social behavior due to lack of religious and moral values. One of the KIIs who is a teacher by profession opined:

“Lack of teaching on ethics and respect to others at family and schools has led to demoralize the teenagers and forced the juveniles to commit various inhumane offences.”

Most of the KIIs opined that delinquency among the juveniles is a reflection of moral deviation of the juveniles in our society. Ferdousi indicated that breakdown of social norms and values collapse the juveniles live and thereby, delinquent and criminal behavior increase (123).

Now by constructing the following table this paper summarizes the types of crime, causal factors and its relevance to various theoretical explanations:

Name of the Crime	Causes/factors of Juvenile Delinquency	Theoretical Relevancy
Women Repression: rape, sexual harassment, eve-teasing, acid throwing, physical hurt	Moral deviation, Peer pressure, Lack of parental supervision and monitoring, Porno-movie and objectification of women, Poor educational background	Differential association theory, Social disorganization theory, Differential oppression theory, Socialization theory
Murder	Peer pressure, Presence of step-mother, Land dispute, Culture of impunity, Deviation of moral values, Poverty etc.	Differential association theory, Social disorganization theory, Differential oppression theory, Socialization theory, General strain theory, Routine activity theory

<b>Name of the Crime</b>	<b>Causes/factors of Juvenile Delinquency</b>	<b>Theoretical Relevancy</b>
Theft, Snatch, Pick-pocketing	Poverty, Unemployment, Peer pressure, Enmity, Drug Addiction, Absence of either parent, Lack of Education etc.	Differential association theory, Social disorganization theory, Differential oppression theory, General strain theory, Routine activity theory, General theory
Dacoity/ Robbery/ Hijacking	Poverty, Unemployment, Drug addiction, Lack of education	Differential association theory, General strain theory, Routine activity theory, Social disorganization theory
Drugs: Trade, Carry, Use, Consume	Poverty, Peer pressure, Lack of parental supervision, Accessibility of drug and Drug addiction	Differential association theory, Social disorganization theory, Differential oppression theory, General strain theory, Routine activity theory, General theory, Sub-culture theory
Arms: Trade, Carry, Use	Poverty, Peer pressure, Culture of impunity, Favorable environment	Differential association theory, Social disorganization theory, General strain theory, Routine activity theory, General theory
Arson and Bombing	Poverty, Culture of impunity, Favorable environment, Degradation of moral values	Differential association theory, Social disorganization theory, General strain theory, Routine activity theory, General theory
Fighting	Peer pressure, Land dispute, Suddenly/ Accidental, Culture of impunity.	Differential association theory, Social disorganization theory, Differential oppression theory, General strain theory, Routine activity theory, General theory
Human Trafficking and abduction	Poverty, Degradation of morality, Revengeful attitude, Favorable environment, Culture of impunity, Disturbed and disrupted family	Differential association theory, Social disorganization theory, Differential oppression theory, Socialization theory, General strain theory, Routine activity theory
Information Technology	Peer pressure, Favorable environment, Lack of parental supervision	General theory, Differential association theory, Routine activity theory

Table 1: Diverse Causal Factors of Juvenile Delinquency and Its Linkage to Theory

Source: This table is constructed on the basis of field data, data from thematic analysis and various theoretical approaches

### Conclusion

The aims of this study were to investigate the prevalence and factors of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh. Official result of CDC has shown that juveniles of Bangladesh have been involved in various types of crime (Chart-1). Among them women and child repression were found the highest form of crime that the juveniles were accused of, followed by murder, which indicates a very dangerous sign for our

country's future prosper, peace and development. Besides, some common crimes that juveniles were involved are theft, hijacking, *dacoity*, fighting, explosion, drug trade etc. So, the nature of juvenile delinquencies in Bangladesh is becoming more complicated, violent and dynamics that covers from petty theft to murder.

Although many theoretical assumptions have been yielded to explain juvenile delinquency—a number of which have been discussed in this article—no single theory is applicable to explain all aspects of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh. In exploration for the root causes of delinquency, it is absolutely required to make a thorough investigation of the past and present life of the individual and of his social settings, including family, neighborhood, peer group, occupation, economic condition etc. The result of this study suggested that delinquency frequently occur as a result of dysfunctional dynamics within the homes, which is supportive with the postulation of differential oppression theory. A smooth family life is considered as a defensive factor of delinquency; from family children learn the cultural norms, values, and attitudes and processes that guide throughout their life (Siegel and Senna 273). But absence of either parents, continuous witnessing of parental abuses, quarrelsome family environment, low educational attainment of the parents and low paid as well as low status bearing occupation of the parents constitute the disrupted, destructive and disturbed family environment and for juveniles this environment acts as a promoter of juvenile delinquency.

Many of the juveniles have to experience various forms of violence in their immediate life; domination of mother by father and himself by adult and this finding is supportive with the socialization and general oppression theories. From the family environment, they have learned the violent way of conflict and dispute management. The findings of this study have found consistent with the empirical studies of Faruk et al.; Islam and Khatun 424; Kamruzzaman and Hakim 110. These findings can also be explained by the general theory of crime as juveniles with low self-control have taken the path of vices than to conform in difficult circumstances.

From this study it is reconfirmed the old age cause of juvenile delinquency; how peer pressure act as an influential factor to make them delinquent. For some juveniles, criminal behavior was the result of peer association. They spent much of their time with the deviant peer as they felt comfortable with them, where deviant ideas, motivations and techniques were viewed favorably that is relevant with the principles of differential association theory and are supported by the empirical study of Chowdhury et.al. (par.4) and Sharmin and Islam (120).

This study has revealed that a major portion of the accused juveniles have been migrated from their own district and have lived in unhealthy and densely populated slum areas of Dhaka city. This depiction is relevance with the explanation of social disorganization theory. To earn their livelihood, some juveniles were compelled to get involved in criminal activities. Multiple studies also have investigated the effect of poverty on adolescent delinquent behavior and identified the issue of poor economic condition as the major cause of delinquency (Afseruddin 23; Hossain 34; Sarkar 178; Enamul et. al. 36-38; Shamim et. al. 102; Gaurav et. al. (80); Islam and Khatun 423; Islam 8).

It has been found from this study that some juveniles got involved in crime due to a favourable situation where routine activities theoretical explanation works. Like western society, one of the major lessons of the socialization process is that money or material gains and power are more essential for survival in Bangladesh. Those who have no material resources are eager to gain power and property by any means which eventually lead them to get involved in anti-social activities. Some juveniles felt that they had nothing to lose. So, they adopt a criminal career, which is pertinent with the elucidation of general strain theory. Besides, Bangladesh society and culture consider the juveniles as *polapan* and this consideration has also found an ingredient for the juvenile to involve in serious crime. When a juvenile commits a minor crime, their parents and most of their relatives take it lightly. Eventually this led them to become a serious criminal and this is in line with the socialization and social disorganization theory of crime.

Most of the KII of this study have opined that, the nature and gravity of the offences committed by the adolescents are frustrating, they are increasingly getting involved in violent crime and it is due to their inability in coping with the changing pattern of society, moral degradation of the youths, and degradation of societal values.

The causes that have been described in this paper are only part causes i.e. socio-economic causes of delinquency. Biological or psychological causes were not investigated through this study. The causes always lie in combination of factors and they are not found to be alike. This paper has identified multiple factors causing juvenile delinquency. So, any single theoretical postulation is not enough to explain juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh. However, the dominant factors that have emerged from this thematic analysis are destructive and disturbed family environment, lack of parental education and supervision, peer pressure, poverty, favorable environment and culture of impunity, easy access of drug and drug addiction, porno movie and objectification of women, land dispute, degradation of religious and moral values. These factors have been found complex as interoperability exists among the factors.

There is no short cut solution to juvenile delinquency as the contributing factors are complex. It is also true that it is not possible to wipe out juvenile delinquency from the society. Hence synthesizing the prevalence rate and the contributing factors of juvenile delinquency along with innovative strategy can reduce the frequent occurrence of crime. A multidimensional as well as multidisciplinary approaches (researches from diverse disciplines work together to find out the context and causes) are needed to explain the frequent occurrence of delinquency. On the other hand, a comprehensive approach should be adopted in policy framework to address the problem more sufficiently. In this regard, along with scaling up the existing legal mechanism, community-based supervision and multi-stakeholder (government, researchers, semi-government, non-government organization, parents, teacher, religious leader, professional, social activist, general people, legal experts, media personnel) coordination including massive awareness program should be introduced in prevention interventions of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh.

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