



ROLE OF FAMILY IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: WHAT NATIONAL CRIME RECORD BUREAU (NCRB) DATA REVEALS?

Ramakrishna Biswal, Elsie Mishra & Saswati Jena*

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

National Institute of Technology, Rourkela

*** Silicon Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar**

Outline of the Presentation

- Introduction
- Theoretical Perspectives
- Research Question
- Research Methodology
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- Conclusion and Recommendations
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INTRODUCTION

- Family, presents a group of people who love, care for each other, and are friendly and happy together.
- Family is the first social institution with which a child comes in contact first and also acts as the main source of socialization (Moitra and Mukherjee 2012) and agency of social control.
- There exists two kinds of families: first, a happy, loving, stable and wholesome family and second, a sad, unstable, deprived and disturbed family.
- The behaviour of a child happens to be good and pleasant when a child is brought up in a good family environment but a child brought up in a poor, deprived and depraved family environment develops bad and anti-social behaviour (Kauts and Kaur, 2016).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Authors

Loeber and Loeber Stouthammer, 1986

Farrington and Welsh, 2003

Derzon 2005

Bjerk, 2007

D'Onofrio et al., 2009

Galloway and Skardhamar, 2010

Family Variables (Risk Factors)

- Maternal deprivation
- Criminality of parents and siblings
- Brutality of discipline directed to a child
- Parental neglect and abuse
- Lack of parental supervision
- Improper upbringing
- Domestic violence in family
- Age of parents at time of child's birth
- Parental attitudes toward violence
- Drugs and alcoholic parents
- History of mental illness in parent
- Birth order of the child
- Size of the family
- Education
- Socioeconomic status of the parents
- Poverty
- Parent/child separation
- Broken homes
- Family stress
- Residential mobility
- Urban housing
- Warmth and relationship

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

STRAIN THEORY

- Strain theory is proposed by **Robert. K. Merton**, an American Sociologist in the year 1938.
- The theory explains that:
- Due to **lack of resources** strain is felt by certain individuals in the society (especially lower income group) this leads to commission of crime by them.
- Not every individual is able to achieve the **prescribed goals** (e.g., money) due to **lack of available means** (e.g., education) necessary to achieve these goals.
- It is especially true for people belonging to lower income group.
- Due to **absence of proper means** the people of **lower income group** are faced with lot of **strain and stress**.
- Thereby, turning to **crime**, which seems to be the **easiest way to achieve their goals**

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

- Canadian-American Psychologists **Albert Bandura(Year)** proposed Social Learning theory
- Social learning theory can be explained as:
- The probability that persons will *engage in criminal* and *deviant behaviour* is *increased* when their probability of their *conforming to the norm* is *decreased* .
- When an individual *differentially associate* with *others who commit criminal behaviour* and espouse definitions favourable to it.
- When an individual is *relatively more exposed* in-person or symbolically *to salient criminal/deviant models*
- When an individual has defined it as desirable or *justified in a situation* and have *received* in the *past* and anticipate in the *current or future* situation relatively *greater reward than punishment* for the behaviour
- The conceptualization of social learning theory embodies within it four fundamental premises that include differential association, definitions, differential reinforcement and imitation (Akers and Sellers, 2004).

RESEARCH QUESTION and METHODOLOGY

Research Question

- *To understand the role of family (called attributes by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)) in developing deviancy in children in India.*

Methodology

- The study took under consideration the data available at NCRB website about juvenile delinquency/ Children in conflict with law.
- Data relating to family factors like living status of the children, economic status of the family and education of the juvenile delinquents from 2006 till 2016 are taken into consideration.
- Data collected from the reports are converted into percentages (%) and graphically presented.

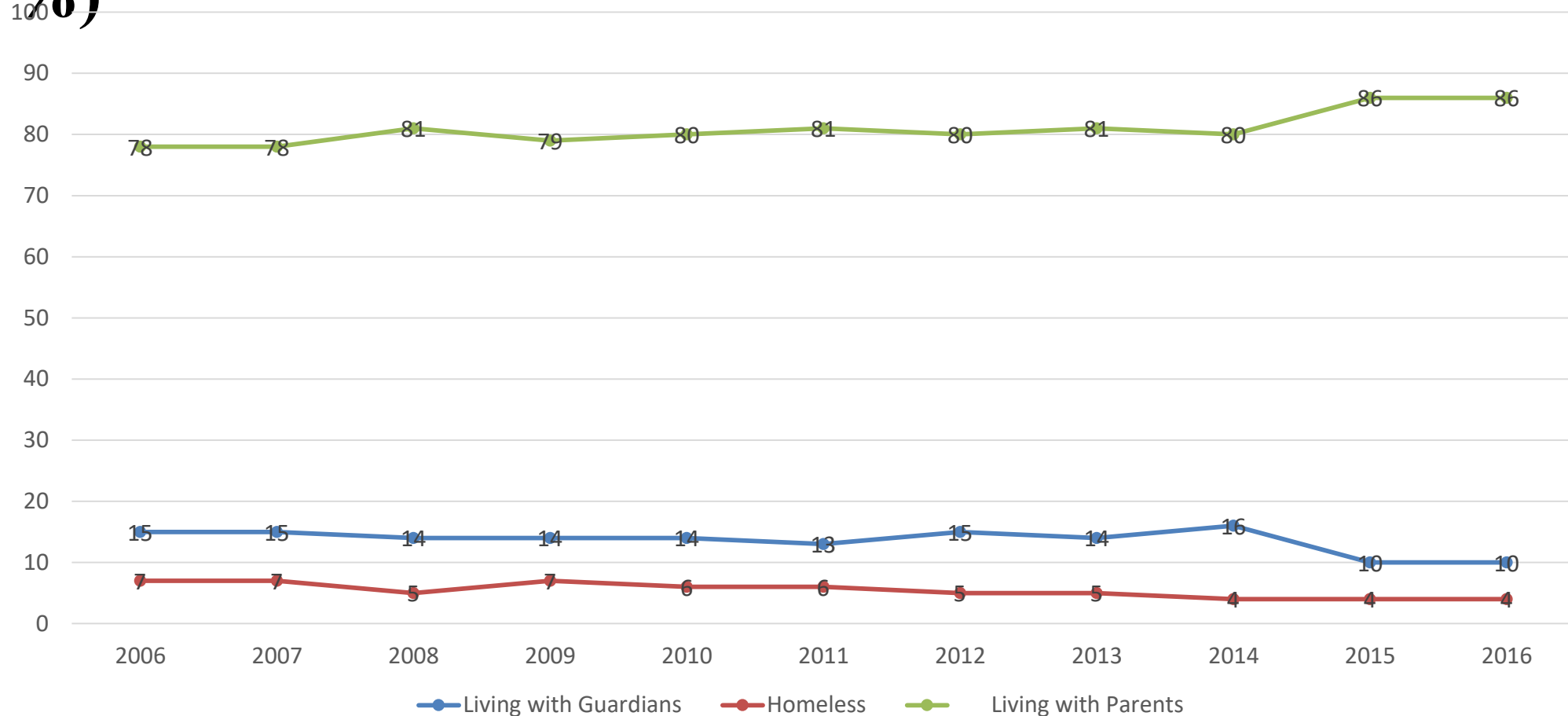
DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Incidences of juvenile crime, Percentage of juvenile crimes to total crime and Rate of crime by juvenile from 2006-2016

Year	Incidence of juvenile crime	Percentage of Juvenile Crimes to Total Crimes	Rate of Crime by Juveniles
2006	25817	1.1	1.9
2007	27028	1.1	2
2008	27691	1.2	2.1
2009	28247	1.1	2
2010	25298	1	1.9
2011	27962	1.1	2.1
2012	31973	1.2	2.3
2013	35861	1.2	2.6
2014	38565	1.2	2.7
2015	33433	1.1	2.5
2016	35849	1.2	2.6

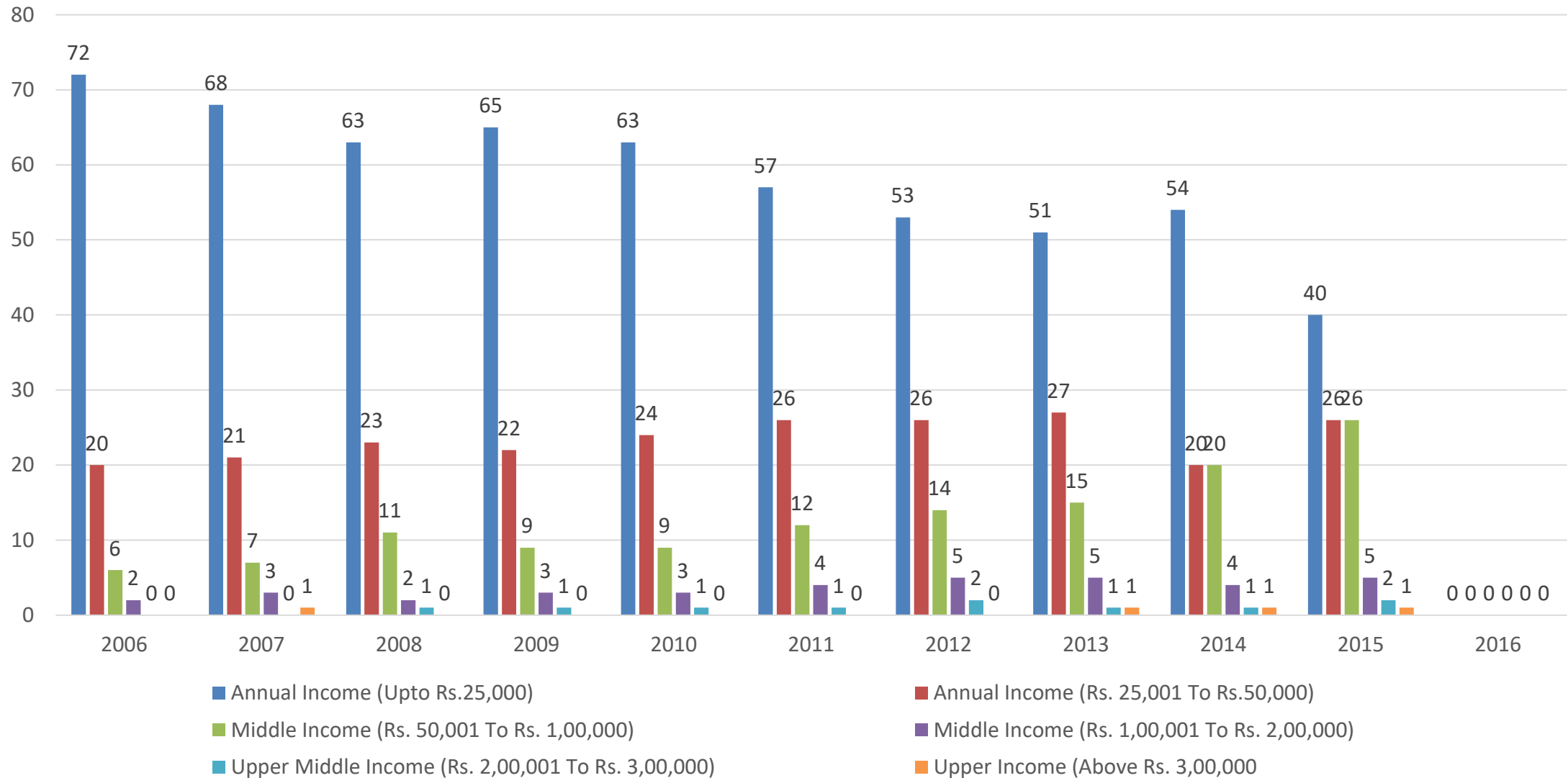
CLASSIFICATION OF JUVENILES APPREHENDED BASED ON DIFFERENT ATTRIBUTES FROM 2006-2016

Fig 1. Classification of Juveniles Based on Living Status (in %)



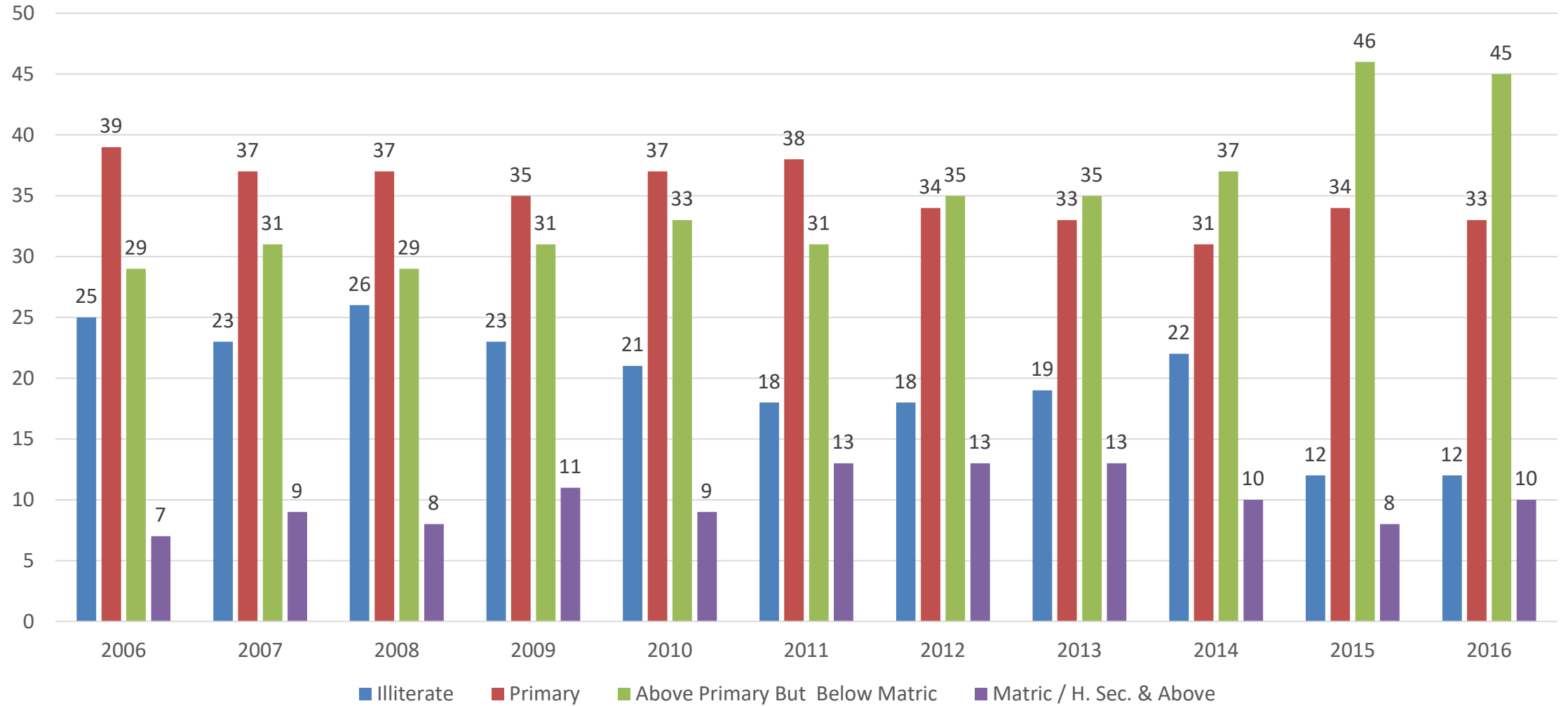
Source: NCRB reports from 2006-16 in Crime in India

Fig 2. Classification of Juveniles Based on the Income Group (in %)



Source: NCRB reports from 2006-16 in Crime in India

Fig 3: Educational Status of Juvenile Delinquents (in %)



Source: NCRB reports from 2006-16 in Crime in India

FINDINGS

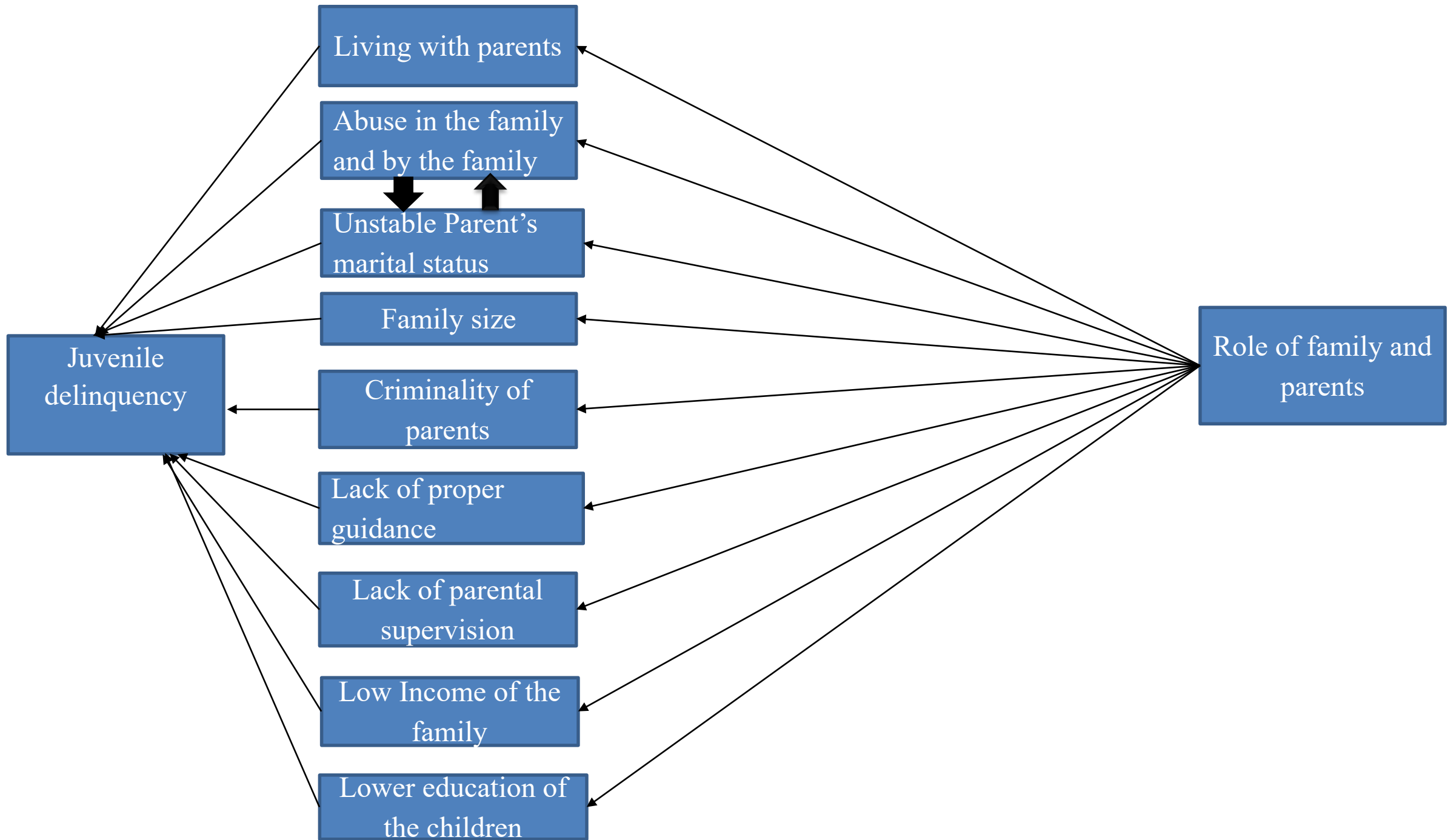
- **Incidences** of juvenile crimes have increased over a decade ([Table 1.](#)).
- The **share of the crime** committed by juvenile to the **total cognizable** offences has remained at **1.2 or 1.1** percent ([Table 1.](#)).
- It is evident from the reports that **juvenile crime rate** has been steadily increasing over a decade from **1.9 to 2.6** percent ([Table 1.](#)).
- This data suggests that in **a decade** there is an addition of **1 juvenile** delinquent **per 100 juveniles**.
- If this trend continues in a span of 3 decades, there would be an increase of 3 delinquents totalling to 6 juvenile delinquents per 100 juveniles.
- This is an alarming situation for a relatively young country like India and it is detrimental to the overall health of the nation.
- Large number of juvenile delinquents have been residing with parents during commission of crime ([Fig 1.](#)).

- Homeless children have committed less crime in comparison to children with parents or guardian ([Fig 1.](#)).
- Majority of the juveniles come from families having an annual income less than Rs. 25,000 followed by juveniles whose families' annual income varies between Rs 25,000-50,000 ([Fig 2.](#)).
- Less number of apprehended juveniles come from upper middle income families and upper income families ([Fig 2.](#)).
- Most of the juveniles delinquents have attended middle (standard V to IX) school followed by juvenile delinquents who have attended school till primary level (standard I to IV) ([Fig 3.](#)).
- Juveniles who have completed matriculation and above have committed less crime ([Fig 3.](#)).

DISCUSSION

- Three main attributes of juvenile delinquents discussed in NCRB reports are living status of children, educational status and economic background of the juvenile's family.
- Lack of parental supervision, parental rejection, absence of parental involvement, parent's marital relation and criminality of parents in a family can lead to development of criminality in the child (Wright & Wright, 1994).
- Involvement of parents in criminal activity themselves. Lack of parental control along with antisocial behaviour of parents can also lead to development of criminality in the child (Henggler, 1989; Wright & Wright, 1994).
- Children belonging to low socio-economic group resides in low socio- economic neighbourhood are more likely to become criminally linked.
- Low socio-economic neighbourhood have high criminal population. This leads to increased involvement of the juveniles in delinquent activities by the process of interaction with them (Weatherburn, et.al., 1997).

- Extreme economic deprivation can put pressure on neighbourhood disorganization and academic failure of a child.
- Economic deprivation can also lead to domestic violence in some cases which may put a negative effect on the children and may lead to violent offending by the children in the later time.
- The feeling of isolation by the children due to failure in class and perception of not receiving enough emotional support from teachers and friends can lead to delinquency or aggressive behaviour (Gottfredson, 1997).
- To compensate the feeling of failure and isolation children usually develop friendship with delinquent peers.
- These involvement with bad peers gives them a sense of self worthiness and belongingness.
- Therefore to prove their affiliation to their peers, children usually commit deviant behaviour



CONCLUSION

- Involvement and commission of various crimes by juveniles have increased manifold.
- This increase in crime committed by juveniles can be due to growth in population and changing life style occurring in India.
- The involvement of juveniles in all such crimes can be broadly attributed to family, failure in education, low income of the family, bad peer influence, bad neighbourhood etc.

RECOMMENDATION

- Socially and legally sanctioned preventive measures must be carried out to control juvenile delinquency.
- Rights of the children should be protected as well as their wellbeing.
- Children residing in the system should be provided with proper counselling with the help of psychologist/psychiatrist.
- Rehabilitative and reformative measures should be adopted to bring juvenile delinquents into the mainstream

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