

## Family Factors Contributing to Juvenile Delinquency

Samia Bibi<sup>1</sup>, Malik KaleemUllah<sup>2</sup>, Muhammad Zeeshan Ikram<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BS Criminology, University of Sargodha. [asumiamalik123@gmail.com](mailto:asumiamalik123@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of Sargodha  
[kaleem.ullah@uos.edu.pk](mailto:kaleem.ullah@uos.edu.pk)

<sup>3</sup> BS Criminology, University of Sargodha. Email: [zb11280@gmail.com](mailto:zb11280@gmail.com)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.63163/jpehss.v3i3.981>

### Abstract

Juvenile delinquency remains a serious social challenge that affects community stability and the healthy development of young people. The family is widely recognized as the primary agent of socialization, and problems within the family system often shape juvenile behavior. This research investigates the influence of family-related factors such as parental supervision, family atmosphere, parent–child interaction, and socioeconomic pressure on both juvenile delinquency and cyber delinquency. A quantitative approach was employed, and data were collected from 120 youth respondents using a structured questionnaire based on a five-point Likert scale. Descriptive statistical techniques were applied for analysis. The results show that although most respondents reported no involvement in delinquent activities, a considerable minority admitted participation in behaviors such as theft, aggression, property damage, and online misconduct. The study concludes that weak family ties, limited parental monitoring, emotional strain, and peer influence increase the risk of delinquent behavior. Strengthening family communication, parental guidance, and digital awareness can play a vital role in preventing both traditional and cyber forms of delinquency.

**Keywords:** Juvenile Delinquency, Family Influences, Parental Supervision, Aggression, Cyber Delinquency.

### Introduction

Juvenile delinquency refers to behavior by individuals under the age of eighteen that violates legal norms or accepted social standards. It has emerged as a global concern due to its negative consequences for social order, community safety, and the future lives of young people. Delinquent behavior not only disrupts societal harmony but also limits educational and occupational opportunities for youth. Among the various explanations of juvenile delinquency, family-related factors occupy a central position. The family serves as the first social environment where children acquire values, discipline, emotional regulation, and social responsibility. When family relationships are unstable or unsupportive, children are more likely to develop antisocial tendencies. Factors such as inadequate parental supervision, poor communication, emotional neglect, disrupted family structures, and economic hardship significantly increase the likelihood of delinquent behavior. In the contemporary era, rapid technological development has also expanded juvenile misconduct into digital spaces, giving rise to cyber delinquency. This study aims to explore how family dynamics contribute to both traditional and cyber forms of juvenile

delinquency. Basic Research Questioning, family influences, parental supervision, aggression, cyber delinquency.

### **Basic Research Questions:**

1. Which family-related factors most strongly contribute to juvenile delinquency among adolescents?
2. How do parental behavior and parent–child relationships influence the development of delinquent behavior?
3. In what ways do parenting styles and supervision affect juvenile involvement in delinquency

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To identify major family-related factors associated with juvenile delinquency.
2. To examine the role of parental supervision and parenting styles in shaping juvenile behavior.
3. To analyze the impact of family structure, including single-parent and broken homes, on delinquent tendencies.
4. To explore the relationship between family socioeconomic conditions and juvenile delinquency.

### **Methodology**

This research employed a quantitative design using a survey method to assess the relationship between family factors and juvenile delinquency. The study population consisted of youth from diverse educational and residential backgrounds. A sample of 120 respondents was selected through convenience sampling. Data were gathered using a structured questionnaire based on a five-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. The instrument measured variables such as parental supervision, family communication, economic stress, and overall family environment, along with indicators of delinquent and cyber-delinquent behavior. The data were analyzed using SPSS, focusing on descriptive statistics including frequencies and percentages. Ethical principles such as informed consent, confidentiality, and anonymity were strictly observed.

### **Findings and Discussion**

The findings reveal that a majority of respondents experienced adequate parental supervision and relatively stable family environments. Most participants denied involvement in serious delinquent acts such as theft, vandalism, physical aggression, and cyberbullying. These results suggest that positive family conditions function as protective factors against delinquency. Nevertheless, a noticeable minority reported engagement in aggressive behavior, property-related offenses, peer-influenced misconduct, and cyber delinquency. Neutral responses on several items indicate possible hesitation or underreporting, a common limitation in self-reported studies. Economic stress was found to contribute to emotional strain within families, indirectly increasing the risk of delinquent behavior. Peer influence also emerged as a significant factor, particularly in group-based and online delinquent activities. These findings are consistent with social control theory, strain theory, and differential association theory, which emphasize weakened family bonds, stress, and peer learning as predictors of delinquency.

### **Recommendations**

1. Parents should ensure consistent supervision and maintain open communication with their children, including guidance on online activities.
2. Educational institutions should introduce awareness programs focusing on anger management, peer pressure, and responsible digital conduct.

3. Community-based counseling services and youth mentorship initiatives should be strengthened to support at-risk adolescents.
4. Policymakers should emphasize preventive and rehabilitative strategies rather than purely punitive measures, especially in addressing cyber delinquency.
5. Future studies should employ larger samples and mixed research methods for a deeper understanding of juvenile delinquency.

### **Conclusion**

This study concludes that juvenile delinquency is a complex social phenomenon strongly influenced by family-related factors. Effective parental supervision, emotional support, and healthy communication act as protective mechanisms against both traditional and cyber forms of delinquency. Although the majority of youth demonstrate positive behavior, the involvement of a minority highlights the presence of risks linked to family stress, peer pressure, and emotional challenges. Addressing juvenile delinquency requires a comprehensive approach that integrates family-centered interventions, educational support, and digital literacy programs. Strengthening family systems and promoting positive youth development can significantly reduce the likelihood of delinquent behavior and contribute to a safer society.

### **References**

1. Farrington, D. P. (2005). Childhood origins of antisocial behavior. *Clinical Psychology & Psychotherapy*, 12(3), 177–190.
2. Hirschi, T. (1969). *Causes of delinquency*. University of California Press.
3. Sampson, R. J., & Laub, J. H. (1993). *Crime in the making: Pathways and turning points through life*. Harvard University Press.
4. McCord, J. (1991). Family relationships, juvenile delinquency, and adult criminality. *Criminology*, 29(3), 397–417.
5. Widom, C. S. (1989). The cycle of violence. *Science*, 244(4901), 160–166.
6. Murray, J., & Farrington, D. P. (2008). Parental imprisonment and children's antisocial behavior. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 49(12), 1266–1276.
7. Glueck, S., & Glueck, E. (1950). *Unraveling juvenile delinquency*