

A REPORT ON  
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE NORTHDALÉ AREA  
OF  
PIETERMARITZBURG

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PART ASSIGNMENT FOR B.ED.DEGREE

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INTRODUCTION:

Juvenile delinquency is a problem which has been highlighted, and which has caused considerable concern in the 20th Century. With the increase in urbanization and industrialization there has been a considerable rise in the number of young offenders. The problem is world-wide, and is most pressing and serious in those countries which are the most highly developed industrially.

Frequently, groups of juveniles gather together for companionship because of their common interests, or in some cases, lack of interests. Many of these groups can be distinguished by a characteristic style of dress, hair-style and dialect.

From the point of preventing and "curing" the maladaptions of youth, the crucial requisite is still lacking: sufficiently exact knowledge of the causes of youth's maladjustments to the stresses, strains and prohibitions of modern civilization. Without sound knowledge of the causes of maladapted behaviour, the elaborate apparatus set up in juvenile court statutes - highly desirable as it is from a humanitarian standpoint - cannot be too successful in curving or even curbing juvenile delinquency.

The same may be said of probation <sup>1)</sup> parole and the youth correction authority. Intensive follow up studies have revealed that among juvenile delinquents as well as among adult offenders repetition of anti-social behaviour occurs in a high proportion <sup>2)</sup> of the cases.

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1) Sheldon & E. Glueck: Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, P. 4.

2) Sheldon & E. Glueck: One Thousand Juvenile Delinquents P. 5.

Even official statistics of recidivism, which are far from complete or thorough, show that high percentages of prisoners (often from half to two-thirds) are recidivists. This carries with it a very simple yet very profound implication, namely, that the tendency towards delinquency and criminalism is deeply rooted. This is the chief reason why the present methods of punishment, correction and reformation are largely ineffectual. <sup>1)</sup>

Sheldon and Glueck ask the following rhetoric questions pertinently - "How can a Probation Officer or Parole Officer effectively modify fundamental attitudes and behaviour tendencies by brief, sporadic contacts with an offender. <sup>2)</sup> How can the Superintendent of an institution expect to reform a persistent delinquent when the propulsions to maladjustment are often unknown to either the offender or those charged with this rehabilitation?

Even the most skilful psychiatric therapist often requires daily contacts with a patient of from one to three years before he can hope to understand and cure. <sup>3)</sup>

There is therefore a need for an eclectic approach to the study of the causal process in human motivation and behaviour. <sup>It</sup> is obviously necessary. Such an enquiry should be designed to reveal meaningful integrations of diverse data from several levels of inquiry. But while the most promising areas of research in human conduct and mis conduct are to be found in the nexus of physical and mental functions and in the interplay of person and milieu, the complexities of motivation and varieties of behaviour compel a division of the field into areas or levels.

1) Sheldon & E. Glueck: Unravelling Juvenile Delinquency. P. 4.

2) Ibid: P. 6

3) Burt: The Young Delinquent

A child deviates from the normal accepted code of conduct in a particular society, and the question is asked "What is to be done with such a child?" Is he to be caned, reprimanded, 1) pladed under permanent restraint or sent back to his parents' care?

The whole question is one, not so much for a legal or a moral code, but, in the last resort, for scientific investigation.

Burt says "A crime is not a detached or separable fact, self-contained and self-subsisting. It is only a symptom. It is a mental system with a mental origin, and as such is the distinct department of individual psychology. The handling of a juvenile offender is, or should be, a practical application of known psychological principles. With moral disorders as with ~~xxx~~ 2) physical, we must find and fight not symptoms but causes.

#### THE METHOD OF THE PSYCHOLOGIST.

The psychologist, therefore, in approaching the young delinquent takes a path very different from that of the policeman detective. It is not an investigation of the offence, but on the investigation of the offender, that his efforts are primarily focussed. With the misdeeds of immature boys and girls, the main issue to be answered is not - by whom was this crime committed? - but, why did this particular child commit any crime at all? Throughout it becomes the concern of the psychological adviser in every case and on every occasion to study first and foremost, the delinquent as an individual.

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1) Burt, .C. Op. Cit. P. 4.

2) Ibid P. 5.

DEFINITION OF DELINQUENCY.

1)  
 Sheldon and Glueck<sup>1)</sup> define a child as a delinquent if he commits even a minor act in violation of the law. In "Massachusetts, for example, a "delinquent child" is one "between seven and seventeen who violates any city ordinance or town by-law or commits an offence not punishable by death." a "wayward child" is one "between seven and seventeen years of age who habitually associates with vicious or immoral persons, or who is growing up in circumstances exposing him to lead an immoral, vicious or criminal life."

Delinquency also refers to repeated acts of a kind which when committed by persons beyond the statutory juvenile court age of sixteen are punishable as crimes - except for a few instances of persistent stubbornness, truancy, running away, associating with immoral persons and the like.

DEFINITION OF JUVENILE.

As regards the age, the limits accepted by the psychologist diverge a little from those laid down by the Statute; once more they are wider, and less sharply drawn. In the eye of the law "a child is one between 14 and 16; a "juvenile adult" a person between 16 and 21; and the measure of responsibility differs from stage to stage.

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1) Sheldon and E. Glueck Op. Cit., p. 14.



When the offender had not yet attained the age of fourteen years the law presumes that he had acted as he did without criminal intent.

Up to the age of 16, all children and young persons must be dealt with by a juvenile court; after that age, offenders must be dealt with in the ordinary courts as adults.<sup>1)</sup>

CASES DEALT WITH IN THIS SURVEY.

The cases dealt with in my survey have an age range of 5 years to 17 years. They are children who have been in the care of the Pietermaritzburg Indian Child Welfare Society, The Social Welfare Department and the Valley View Place of Safety.

LOCALITY

The area chosen for the investigation is Northdale - an area that is predominantly populated by Indians and is barely three miles away from the City of Pietermaritzburg. The area is still in the process of being completed as a residential unit.

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1) Burt, C. po. cit. pp. 16-18.

RAISETHORPE

KHAN ROAD

MYSORE ROAD

BOMBAY ROAD

KAROPANA ROAD

NORDALE STADIUM

NORTHDALE INDIAN TOWNSHIP.

WOODLANDS COLOURED TOWNSHIP.

NATIONAL ROAD

GREYTOWN ROAD

OLD GREYTOWN DALE

CITY OF PIETERMARITZBURG

CHURCHST.

TO NORTHERN NATAL

TO DURBAN

MOUNTAIN RISE



REASONS FOR THIS INVESTIGATION.

The presence of large numbers of juvenile delinquents, especially in urban areas, makes the study of the causes for the development of delinquency of the characteristics of the juvenile delinquent, and the methods of treatment very interesting and important.

The line of approach in this study will be that of the psychologist and the sociologist. It is important that the social and the psychological tendencies of such children be studied and understood. Knowledge of these factors is essential when treatment and not punishment becomes the object of those who combat delinquency. Certain measures, such as the institution of juvenile courts, the appointment of probation officers, the extension of the foster-parent system, and the possibility of postponed and suspended sentences, were definitely intended as measures of treatment; nevertheless, if these measures are administered mechanically then there is the danger that the older conception of punishing the offender may still prevail. Welfare workers, who are in touch with the treatment of juvenile delinquents, are not content that this danger has been evaded in this country. Consequently the value of further research into the social and psychological factors connected with juvenile delinquency may assist in keeping the ideal of treatment early in view, and should be of direct assistance to the welfare worker<sup>1)</sup> in his handling of individual cases.

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1) Burt, C.: Op. Cit. P.5.

CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY FOUND AMONG THE GROUP INVESTIGATED.

The cases of delinquency are mostly of a complex nature and they are not easily ascertained unless a careful case-study of individual delinquents is made.

Invariably, as stated earlier, single causes rarely operate above. They are intricately interwoven and these operate differently with different individuals. The treatment of causes separately must be accepted as a purely mechanical device for the sake of presentation.

A) LACK OF PARENTAL CONTROL AND HOME DISCIPLINE.

Altogether 12 Case-reports ~~xxx~~ were selected at random from a case load of 922 (presently handled by the Pietermaritzburg Indian child Welfare Society) and it was found that there were six cases of positive signs of delinquency - coming from six separate families.

In all ~~ix~~ cases it was found that there was definitely a lack of home discipline, or wrong methods of discipline must be looked upon a potent factor in the delinquency situation.

This conclusion is supported by the evidence contained in the case - studies made of the ~~ix~~ families. In all cases it was seen that home discipline was obviously a cause of delinquency.

Another factor that could have been the cause of juvenile delinquency was that the families were large:- R/F TABLE.

NO.	CASE FILE NO.	NO. CHN.	LEGITIMATE ILLEGITIMATE	PARENTS	REMARKS.
1.	358	6	Illegitimate	Father Alcoholic	5th Child% Delinquent Violent temper, played truant, ran away from home.
2.	2981	5	Legitimate	Father and mother divorced	1st Child - delinquent stole watch.
3.	2779	5	Legitimate	Father Deceased	1st child - delinquent Keeps late hours, plays truant, referred to Probation Officer
4.	3550	2	Illegitimate	Mother begot children from married man of another language group.	Both children behavioural problems expelled from school Referred to Probation Officer.
5.	1195	3	Legitimate	Par-nts Separated	Youngest son- delinquency tendencies, played truant expelled from school.
6.	415	3	Legitimate	Parents Separated & Long history of family disce cord.	2 Elder brothers were in Reformatory School and prison - Caught for begging and stealing - imprisoned for 18 days.

In each of the above cases the mother or foster-parent was interviewed so as to obtain as clear a picture as possible for their children turning into delinquents. A study of the cases as the various factors are dealt with will reveal some of the reasons why the children had chosen the type of living that they were leading.



In practically all the cases the delinquents were without a mother for the greater part of the day as the mothers were in some occupation or other and were therefore unable to give their full attention to the home and the children.

The father invariably had passed away or was disabled or was separated. The children missed the dominant father figure. It will be seen through the case-studies that either father or mother deserted the family and the remaining parent was unable to control the children properly.

? In one or two of the cases studied it was found that the father was a habitual drunkard and when intoxicated used to ill-treat the children in such a way that they left the home and spent most of their time on the streets or with neighbours. During these periods away from home they often come into contact with undesirable companions who lead them into delinquency.

The frequency of lack of parental control and discipline in some homes is further illustrated by the fact the mother in one case and the father in one case were visited many times by the Social Welfare Officers for ill-treating their children. This is clearly seen in the case File No. 358. The father continually assaulted members of the family. There was domestic discord from as early as 1955 and all ~~6~~ 6 of the children were born out of wedlock. The marriage was not registered, neither was there a religious ceremony. It is therefore not unusual to find that one of the children had become a delinquent - played truant from school and ran away from home. The eldest child was referred to the Probation Officer, while two other brothers had already been to the Reformatory School.

For a clear picture of the position of the six cases dealt I would like to refer you to the attached report drawn up after the mothers or foster parent had been interviewed.

There were many factors which had influenced some of the children to present behavioural problems. A glimpse of the report will show that in practically every case the parents were either dead or separated and in one case alcoholics.

These factors were det<sup>x</sup>imental to the healthy up bringing of the children. In one case two brothers were expelled from the school because of the severe behavioral problems that those two brothers had presented.

In nearly all the cases a congested type of living was the primary cause for the breakdown in parental control. With one exception in all the other cases the families occupied a room and a kitchen.

B) LACK OF SELF CONTROL.

Closely associated with the lack of parental control as a causal factor of delinquency is the lack of self-control. This ~~has~~<sup>is</sup> it mostly connected with such types of delinquencies as assault, petty thefts, uncontrollability, violence, and truancy at school. Children are so often tempted and when they succumb to such temptations, then we say that they lack self control. In cases of assault also, the child who does not possess self-control becomes easily infuriated when mocked or teased. This lacking

of self-control is linked closely with the lack of parental control and home discipline. Lack of home discipline is ~~conductive~~ to lack of self control.

C) LACK OF HEALTHY RECREATION.

Opportunities for play are essential to the natural development of the child, but the child who grows up in a poor, overcrowded home has to forego this privilege, from babyhood. Even a slightly bigger home cannot provide these facilities, since ~~many~~ money for the purchase of books and toys is not available and there is no suitable place in which to keep inexpensive presents received from friends or toys made at home. In the struggle for the existence there is no time to give attention to the healthy amusement of the children.

Burt says "The leisure hours are vacant, and an active mind in a joyless home will soon find mischief for an idle hand."<sup>1)</sup> The older children make for the streets. There they are free from parental supervision and there they meet undesirable companions. Poverty at home makes the children crave fulfillment of unsatisfied wants. This is further aggravated when the mother goes to work.

This is an important factor in practically all the cases studies. Poverty has made it an almost impossibility for the children to purchase useful toys and games to keep them occupied. Play grounds and sports fields in the Northdale are inadequate to meet the needs of the children. The proximity of the homes reduces privacy to a minimum.

L) Burt, COp. cit. p. 91.

D) LACK OF EMPLOYMENT.

The lack of employment at certain ages seems to be a potent cause of delinquency among the juveniles. A study of the cases will reveal that the children who were referred to the Probation Officer were scholars who had run away from home. They were walking the streets without any gainful employment. Marie, son of Padayachee Case No. 6 was caught begging after he had run away from home.

Idleness in itself is detrimental to a child's character and is, consequently, sometimes the cause of his instability to keep a position if later he should find one. If a youth is taken out of school and not placed in a position immediately, he is allowed the freedom to cultivate unstable habits by associating with undesirable companions.

Despair and frustration will undoubtedly lead good delinquents to commit serious crimes than either scholars or employed juveniles.

POVERTY.

Although a large number of juvenile delinquents come from poor and very poor homes, the relation between poverty and misconduct should be regarded as an indirect relation. It is rather a case of abuses arising from poverty leading to crime; according to Burt poverty as such was one of the primary causes in only 30% of all cases investigated and in the remaining cases it may have been a contributory factor.

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1) Burt, C. Op. Cit. P. 67.

So many children live in poverty without becoming delinquents. In the majority of cases poverty was indirectly a contributory factor in causing delinquency. Poverty played its part by causing bad housing conditions, forcing the family to live in unhealthy neighbourhoods, preventing the child from obtaining a reasonable education and amusement, and also keeping him out of employment. The unfavourable housing conditions, bad neighbourhoods and under nourishment in their turn are often the causes of ill-health and weak constitutions. These conditions also prevent the youths from associating with respectable people and thus deprive them of the opportunity of being set the example of useful and respectable citizens.

In all the cases studies the maximum family <sup>income</sup> received in the way of Maintenance Grant was R29,75. This of course was not given to all grantees. The maximum was given to those families where there was a large number of children. Further to this another factor that determined the amount a family received was the family income, assets inherited etc.

With the gradual decrease in the number in each family - this happened when a child had left school or when a child had reached the age of 16 - then the grant received from the Social Welfare Department is correspondingly decreased. Another factor that is taken into account is the contribution made by the other working members of the family to the upkeep of the home. These, of course apply only in the case <sup>of</sup> families where the breadwinner is deceased or incapacitated through some illness.



In ~~the~~ case of the bread winner being disabled - then the family also receives a ~~d~~isability grant. Among the Indians also, the Grantee - invariably the mother, is not expected to earn more than R96,00 per annum. Should she be earning more than R96,00 per annum then she does not qualify for maintenance grant.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCE OUTSIDE THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

Generall ~~J~~uvenile delinquents come from the poorer suburbs of the town where urban conditions such as the following promote crime:

- (i) The greater the instability of family life in a city.
- (ii) Greater heterogeneity and mobility of the urban population.
- (~~i~~iii) Importance of social contacts; undesirable street companions, utilization of leisure lack or superfluity of facilities for amusement, mostly unhealthy amusement.
- (vi) Poor working conditions.

(A) The influence of companions of the same age and sex is important. These companions usually live in the same neighbourhood and attend the school or schools nearly. Sometimes older children lead younger children astray. As a rule wrong-~~doers~~ have a Leader whose influence should not be underestimated.

Young girls in particular are harmed by sexual misconduct and assault. The arousal of sexual feelings in early life leads to blunting and maladjustment in later years.

Where home supervision and disciplin are poor there is<sup>1)</sup>  
no proper control of the children's companion.

(b) The School is an important environmental influence<sup>2)</sup>  
in the life of the child - T.E. Sullenger investigated  
the influence of the school in connection with juvenile  
delinquency. He found that in 90% of all cases truancy  
contributed to misconduct. The child's maladjustment at  
school, retardation, lack of interest on the part of  
parents and teachers in his progress at school may lead  
to truancy which in turn gives rise to malpractices.

<sup>3)</sup> But found that influence<sup>1)</sup> of an unsympathetic  
school played a part in 7% of his juvenile delinquents  
who were at school, and that the boys were affected to a  
grated extent than the girls. The specific form of  
maladjustment varies from one case to another. The  
retardation and constant change of place of residence.  
Often he is older than his classmates and asserts himself  
by doing wrong. Fortunately under the modern system  
of education; however, increasing ~~attention~~ attention  
is being paid to the individual pupils, and provision  
is also made to meet the needs of the deviate pupil.

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1) Bust, C. Op. cit. P. 131.

2) Sullenger, T.E.: Social Determinants in Juvenile  
Delinquency. pp. 87-90.

3) Bust, C. op. cit. pp. 133-134.

CASE NO. 4.

1 In this respect one is reminded of the plight of  
in the above case. &c  
the two boys <sup>MAN</sup> highlights the influence the school could  
play. These two boys were excluded and the Principal  
had stated that they would only be re-instated if their  
behaviour had improved. The behaviour of the children  
would only improve if the conditions and circumstances  
at home were improved. They were illegitimate children  
born from the association of the mother with a married  
person. There was no parental control, there was no  
father - fugure at home. These children took up to  
smoking and playing truant and were finally excluded.  
Both had been reported to the Probation Officer. This  
case illustrates clearly that the teachers as well as  
principals should try to acquaint themselves with the  
social-economic circumstances of deviant students so  
as to take the right decision. In the absence of such  
information much harm can be done.

c) The way in which a child spends his leisure must  
also be studied since this is connected with juvenile  
delinquency.

Burt<sup>1)</sup> says that the cinema has been freely censured  
and abused for stimulating the young adventurer to mischief  
folly, and even crime. He feels that the greatest danger  
lies in "The general and elusive influences"<sup>1)</sup>

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1) Burt, C. op. cit. pp. 143-144.

Even the moral atmosphere of the film is characterized by trivialities and fun, alternating with snatches of sentiment and passionate excitement. Deceit, flirtation, jealousy, intrigue, foolhardy assaults and excessively emotional experiences are represented as the normal everyday experiences of the adult. The child without a background of experience obtains a warped idea of social life. Although the crook is eventually made to bite the dust, his doing and foolhardiness are admired by the child.

Films arouse the interest and curiosity of children and stimulate their powers of imagination. They encourage day-dreaming and may lead to social misbehaviour particularly with regard to sex. The child who is incited to action by films is the child whose tendencies and urges are inherently wrong.

Most crimes, according to Burt,<sup>are</sup> committed during leisure - in the late afternoon and evening and particularly during week-ends. The more serious offences committed by juveniles include the following: assault, theft, housebreaking, malicious damage, municipal offences, driving without a licence, and even more serious forms of crime. The lesser crimes, however, preponderate.

#### LACK OF EDUCATION.

Second in importance perhaps only to the lack of parental discipline is the lack of proper education as a causal factor of delinquency among the youth of Northdale. The lack of adequate schooling must, however, always be considered in direct connection with the lack of employment - the one invariably the result of the other and both these causal factors operate in association to produce delinquency

work to youths who are inadequately educated and the only possible fate awaiting the poorer uneducated youth is either a poor labourer's job or a casual, "on-a-daily" basis job.

In each one of the cases investigated none had reached secondary school. All had left school before reaching Standard six. This could be attributed to the fact that none of them had received an high school education. This is an important factor - for the children's future livelihood have been affected.

CASE NO. 6

Both parents - did not receive any education beyond standard iii. The father was a tuberculotic and had been at the F.O.S.A. settlement for fifteen months. In the meanwhile the mother went to work in the nearby Prilla Mills and earned R4,50 per week. On this meagre wage she supported six children and herself. **She** received relief in the form of groceries to the value of R1,50 per week. Her eldest son became an asthmatic, left school in standard iii, at the age of 13 years and was found loitering in Durban. He was found and detained at the Valley View Place of Safety.

The 2nd son 15 years old was charged for theft of a watch, sentenced to 18 days but had actually served 5 days and was subsequently sent to the Reformatory in the Cape.

The 3rd child a girl - left school in standard iii and is at home, while the 4th child, a son left school in standard 5 and had started work in a nearby shoe factory.



The 5th child, a son left school in standard four and had run away from home. It was rumoured that he had run away to Johannesburg but was actually sleeping at a nearby cinema. He is at present at the Valley View Place of Safety.

The last child, the 6th, a girl is in school and is in standard three.

The above case illustrates most clearly the consequences of the lack of proper education, together with ~~the~~ other factors such as poverty, lack of parental control etc.

The contributing factors that make a child delinquent are numerous and varied; they are often complexly interweven in a single case. When one becomes aware of the manifold possibilities of variations between one human being and any other and the many variations in the life experiences of two children even in the same family, it becomes clear that the combinations of components that find expression in behaviour are almost infinite.

In a study of 40 children drawn from Standards seven "D" and "F" of the Woodlands High there were some startling facts. Refer Table 2. (Questionnaire appended at end of report)

It was found that:

- (i) Only  $22\frac{1}{2}\%$  of the families had both the father and mother living.
- (ii)  $22\frac{1}{2}\%$  - the father was deceased.
- (iii)  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  - the mother was deceased.
- (iv) 100% were with <sup>out</sup> ~~st~~ step-mothers
- (v) 100% were without ~~a~~ step-fathers
- (vi)  $72\frac{1}{2}\%$  of the fathers were working.
- (vii) 90% of the mothers were housewives.

No.	Age	Std.	Both Parents Living	Father Dead	Mother Dead	Both Parents Dead	Step- Father	Step- Mother	No. of sisters	No. of Brothers	Fathers' Working	Moth- ers work- ing	No. of Bros. work- ing.	No. of sister workir
1.	14	7E	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	2	No	No	1	1
2.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	3	1	Yes	No	-	-
3.	14	"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	3	0	No	No	-	-
4.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	4	2	Yes	No	-	2
5.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	1	Yes	No	-	1
6.	16	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	0	Yes	No	-	-
7.	13	"	No	Yes	No	NI	No	No	2	4	Yes	No	-	-
8.	13	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	4	Yes	No	-	-
9.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	2	Yes	No	-	-
10.	13	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	4	2	Yes	No	2	1
11.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	2	No	No	1	-
12.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	0	Yes	No	1	-
13.	15	"	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	3	4	Yes	No	1	-
14.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	3	3	Yes	No	1	-
15.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	2	Yes	No	1	1
16.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	4	Yes	No	3	-
17.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	4	Yes	No	2	-
18.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	3	1	No	No	1	-
19.	14	"	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	4	1	Yes	No	4	-
20.	13	7P	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	3	4	Yes	No	1	-
21.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	3	Yes	No	-	2
22.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	4	2	Yes	No	-	-
23.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	3	3	Yes	No	-	-
24.	13	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	1	Yes	No	-	-
25.	13	"	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	4	1	Yes	Yes	-	-
26.	13	"	No	No	No	No	No	No	8	1	No	No	-	-
27.	14	"	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	1	2	Yes	No	-	-
28.	13	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	4	Yes	No	-	-
29.	13	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	3	Yes	No	-	-
30.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	3	Yes	No	-	-
31.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	1	No	No	-	1
32.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	1	Yes	No	-	-

	Age	Std.	Both Parents Living	Father Dead	Mother Dead	Both Parents Dead	Step- Father	Step- Mother	No. of Brothers	No. of Sisters	Fathers Working	Moth- ers Work- ing	No. Bros. Work- ing	No. o Siste work- ing
3.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	1	Yes	No	1	-
4.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	3	1	Yes	No	1	-
5.	15	"	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	1	No	No	1	-
6.	13	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	3	1	Yes	No	1	-
7.	14	"	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	2	2	No	No	1	1
8.	14	"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	3	Yes	No	1	2
9.	15	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	1	No	No	1	-
39.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	1	Yes	No	1	-
40.	14	"	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	1	1	Yes	No	1	-



This little survey simply illustrates the fact that with the father employed and the mother at home augurs well for the up bringing of the children. ?

The father still has control over his children while the mother plays an important part in seeing to their basic needs, as well as affording <sup>how</sup> comforting, love and warmth that any growing child needs. In the <sup>survey</sup> conducted among the students none of the families had any children who were <sup>How do you know?</sup> delinquents. In the families of the delinquents studied in almost all cases the father was either dead or unemployed and the mother had to go to work.

#### REMEDIAL TREATMENT.

The incidence of delinquency is bound to increase if remedial measures are not taken timeously. One does not lay the blame at the door of the Juvenile Court as an institution. It is bound by law to punish the transgressor according to the seriousness of the offence and the number of crimes committed. It may seem, therefore, that in some cases the failure to deal effectively with delinquency is due to the fact that the measures of the authorities are very often still punitive but ~~is~~ not deterrent, preventive or reformatory. To hand over a young delinquent to a court of law as the only institution to deal with him has a very serious effect on his character. A juvenile delinquent goes through life handicapped by the stigma of a conviction. This has been appreciated and the institution of the Juvenile Court and the Probation Officer system is intended to meet the difficulty.

That the reformatories have failed <sup>can</sup> ~~to~~ be understandable. In the reformatory the child finds himself in an artificial environment - specially created and so calculated as to offer more of those stimuli, which, the the ordinary social environment, would act as incentives to crime. ?

Effective treatment of the juvenile delinquent must therefore be sought. Whatever authorities or institutions in the end undertake that treatment - the Juvenile Court, Social Services, Probation Officials or Reformatories or all these in co-operation - they will have to adopt methods which are personal and individual, ie. which are based on a psychological study of the individual cases entrusted to their care. The methods of treatment will vary - in character and in mental make - up, and as their environments vary.

To be effective any system of treatment must first of all be presentive and then reformative. The requisites of such a system can best be illustrated by indicating possible methods of combatting certain factors which are related to Juvenile delinquency such as Lack of Parental Control and Home Discipline, Education Drawbacks, Unemployment, Recreation, Poverty and Unhealthy Neighbourhoods.

#### 1) LACK OF PARENTAL CONTROL AND HOME DISCIPLINE:

An elaborate system of adult education seems to be the most successful preventative ~~and~~ of delinquency which is mainly caused by the lack of proper parental control and home discipline.

Ignorance on such matters as child care and elementary home craft often causes friction between the parents and this may ultimately lead to the neglect of the children and perhaps to the breaking up of the home. Such consequences could, perhaps, have been avoided by timely instruction on such matters as homecraft,

child rearing etc. If it is altogether impossible to remedy the unsatisfactory parental and home influence, then it will be best to remove the delinquent from his family and his home environment, but this should only be done as a last resort.

In the new environment in which the juveniles are then placed, every effort should be made to inculcate those qualities of character which, in normal circumstances, would have been developed under proper parental influence and in a healthy home atmosphere.

In the case studies in this report it has been seen how closely delinquency and broken homes are associated. The juvenile should, therefore, be treated in such a way that there are ample compensations for the lack of parental control and the lack of a healthy home influence.

Two institutions one in Durban - Lakehaven under the jurisdiction and control of the Durban Indian Child Welfare Society and the other in Pietermaritzburg - The Sunshine Home - under the auspices of the Pietermaritzburg Indian Child Welfare Society - are doing useful work in so far as caring for the needs of those children that are orphans or from broken homes. at Lakehaven there are five cottages, house-parents and a normal school - the setting is close to that of ordinary homes. In this respect the Aryan Benevolent Home - formerly of Bellair Road, Mayville has also played a prominent role.

## 2) EDUCATIONAL DRAWBACKS:

Criminal tendencies emanate in early childhood - as is shown in the studies in this report. At the age these children attend school. It is, therefore, clear that part of the task of the prevention of delinquency and crime rests on the school. Apart from dishonesty, petty thefts, etc. which are the everyday

vices found in every school, there are such forms of misdemeanour as truancy which demands special attention from the schools. It has been found by some investigators to be one of the forms of misbehaviour which leads more after to criminality and delinquency than many others which are daily decried by schools. The co-operation of the school and the recognition by the school of its function in this work is an essential measure in any system of preventing delinquency and the reformation of delinquents.

Fortunately the new system of education - Differentiated - is attempting to meet the varied requirements of the students. Prior to this, students did not have a wide choice of subjects which suited the bright students admirably. It was the average child who was not able to cope. He went out into the world ill-equipped to meet the demands of society and incompetent to adapt himself to the social order.

It is also pleasing to note that as from this year 1973, Indians are not only given compulsory education but that those who had enrolled this year in class (i) would have to remain in school <sup>up</sup> to standard 8. This would definitely relieve to a large extent the problem of elimination.

### 3) UNEMPLOYMENT.

It is axiomatic that with an improvement in education - the incidence of delinquency will definitely drop. The better a person is educated the better are his chances of obtaining good employment. He is also more mature in his outlook towards life and is more responsible. Thus the longer a person remains at school the better will it be for him.

4) RECREATION:

Better recreational facilities are necessary for the poorer classes and especially for the younger children. Lack of adequate recreational facilities leads to many deviate forms of behaviour. It is pleasing to note that many of the new Indian residential sites are being provided with "open-Spaces" for the benefit of the children.

A new township in Tongaat, The Watsonian Township, has cluster types of homes built around a central park which has swings, see-saws etc. In Northdale, here in Pietermaritzburg there is a definite need for more playing fields and "open-spaces" where children could spend their time gainfully without in any way endangering their lives.

5) POVERTY AND UNHEALTHY NEIGHBOURHOOD.

There is a definite need to bring about a radical improvement in the economic situation and the environmental conditions of the family from which a delinquent is drawn. It is of the utmost importance that the families should be removed from slum areas and provided with better housing facilities. In the survey conducted among the six families it was found that with the exception of one family which had two rooms and a kitchen, the others had a room and a kitchen. There is no privacy whatsoever.

IN CASE NO. 1.

All six children were born out of wedlock. The children were not registered and all eight of them (6 Children, father and mother shared a room and a kitchen. There was domestic discord as early as 1955 - thus loss of respect for the parents by the children. The eldest child was referred to the Probation Officer as he presented behavioural problems.

IN CASE NO. 2.

The father, mother and 3 children (2 sons and a daughter) shared a room and a kitchen. Because of the continual trouble at home between the parents, lack of privacy and later because of desertion by the father - the children displayed great behavioural problems. Grinding poverty forced the ~~wake~~ mother to work - thus no adequate control over the children - so much so that even the girl began playing truant from school.

IN CASE NO. 3.

Poverty reared its ugly head again in this family. The father was deceased and the poor mother was saddled with the burden of looking after 5 children - a handful for any mother. The eldest child became uncontrollable and violent at times. He was referred to the Place of Safety - Valley View. Here too the family of 6 had to share a room and a kitchen. A most unpleasant situation for the upbringing of young children.

IN CASE NO. 4.

The mother had been in the association with a married man of a different religious group and her two sons born during this association presented great difficulties. Apart from being tuberculous they were uncontrollable, played truant frequently from school and were subsequently expelled. Lack of parental control, poor facilities at homes and complete lack of privacy induced these children to adopt anti-social attitudes.

Another case where poverty and unhealthy neighbourhood play a important role in inducing children to cultivate derivate behaviour patterns is clearly illustrated in

CASE NO. 5. In this case the seven children were in the custody of their step-mother - who by a Court Order assumed the role of foster mother. The seven children and the foster-mother live in a small dingy room and a kitchen which is

detached from the room. There is no privacy whatsoever. It is no surprise to find that the eldest child had been presenting behavioural problems and had been referred to the Probation Officer.

CASE NO. 6. has been dealt with earlier on in the report.

A comparison of the home conditions and parental relationships of the six families of the delinquent children and that of the 40 families of the non-delinquents school children proves conclusively that the percentage of delinquents who came from poor broken homes is much higher than the percentage of normal children who came from <sup>normal homes</sup> ~~such children~~. The broken home must therefore be considered a potent causal factor of delinquency.

CONCLUSION: T. Earl Sullinger is prominent among American advocate of a programme of prevention, choosing particularly the ground of its ultimate economy to society. He stresses the importance of allowing every child to develop socially, physically and mentally under normal conditions, ie. under conditions of normal development and functioning of the Primary Groups (the family, the play group, the neighbourhood and the school) to which the child belongs.<sup>1)</sup>

All writers agree that the most frequent causal factor in the misdemeanours of juveniles centre about the family life, although not all go as far as Lindsay who attributes all guilt to the ~~parents~~ parents.

It is in the family that the child first adopts behaviour patterns towards others and forms of opinions of larger groups outside. It is important to note that it behoves society to pay all possible attention to pathological conditions that may be present in the family.

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1) Sullinger, T.E.: Social Determinants in Juvenile Delinquency,



Burt <sup>1)</sup> says that there are a number of causes. Often juvenile crime is the result of some extremely unhappy experience: an illness, a new demoralising or subversive friendship, the death or remarriage of one of the parents, the development of a new interest in the child himself. We must remember that in addition to immediate determining causes, the juvenile delinquent is the product of a series of adverse circumstances which arranges in order of importance as follows:-

1. Lack of discipline or defective discipline.
2. Particular instinctive tendencies.
3. General emotional instability.
4. Morbid emotional states.
5. A family history of vice and crime.
6. Deficient intellectual abilities.
7. Subversive tendencies in interest such as the urge for adventure the cinema, etc.
8. Conditions in connection with development.
9. A family history of mental deficiency.
10. Defective family relationships.
11. Influences outside the home circle, e.g. bad companions and defective recreational facilities.
12. A family history of physical weakness.
13. Poverty and related circumstances.
14. Physical weakness and inability in the child himself.

One notices from the above list of causes that the problem of maladjustment is no isolated one. It is a component of the great task of child welfare and education. This is a problem that affects everyone- be he a social worker, a policeman, a teacher or an ordinary layman. There is therefore an urgent and positive need for the co-operation of all persons dealing with children.

Moreover every case of juvenile delinquency demands an individual approach and scientific investigation. It is of utmost importance also that the prevention of crime calls for more purposive attention to aspects such as housing, continuation of education, medical treatment, psychological study of children at home, improvement of industrial conditions, extension of recreational facilities and research work in juvenile problems.

I personally feel that if some of the above services, if not all, could be extended to the Northdale area then we are in the right direction to arresting the incidence of delinquency.

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1. Burt, C. : op. cit. p. 590.



QUESTIONNAIRE

SUBMITTED TO 40 CHILDREN AT WOODLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

1. What is your age?.....
2. In what standard are you?.....
3. Are both your parents still living?.....
4. Is your father dead?.....
5. Is your mother dead?.....
6. Are both your parents dead?.....
7. Have you a step-father?.....
8. Have you a step-mother?.....
9. How many brothers have you?.....
10. How many sisters have you?.....
11. What work does your father do?.....
12. What work does your mother do?.....
13. How many brothers are working?.....
14. How many sisters are working?.....
15. YOUR NAME.....

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL



PUCKREE PADMADEVI CHIT

4 APPAVOO GRESCHER, MONTREAL.

CHILD CONCERNED:- Dorasamy Padayachee b. 9/12/57. - boy is presenting behavioral problems. - Is in the habit of leaving home periodically. Parents separated - long history of discord owing to excessive drinking of liquor by the father and inadequate support coupled with assault.

Two elder brothers were at the Reform School in the Cape. Mother is in receipt of Maintenance Grant for her one school-going child. Father receives a Disability Grant.