



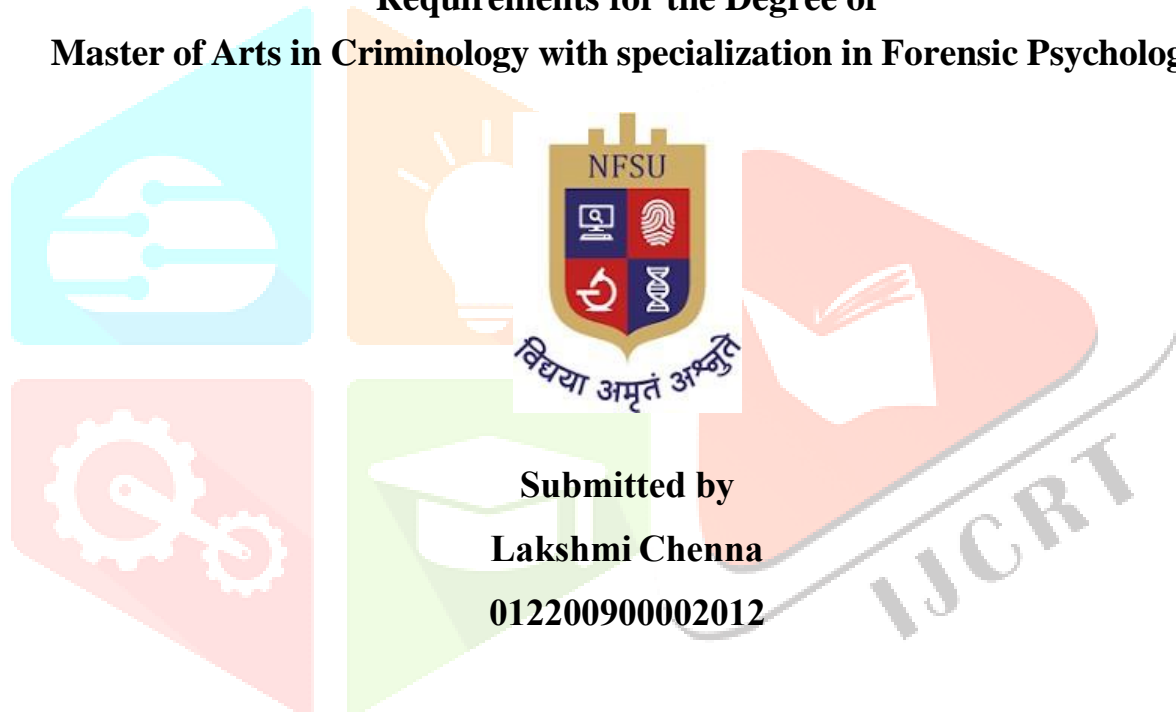
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW IN TELANGANA

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the
Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in Criminology with specialization in Forensic Psychology



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Abstract:

The young population plays a crucial role in the future of any nation, and with Telangana being one of the youngest states, prioritizing the well-being and reintegration of its young populace is of utmost importance. Recent data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has brought to light the alarming involvement of children in criminal activities, emphasizing the pressing need to focus on their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Despite the challenges posed by the limited number of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) compared to the state's population and area size, understanding and enhancing existing rehabilitation programs are imperative for laying a solid foundation for the state's development.

The study, utilizing a mixed research methodology encompassing both qualitative and quantitative methods, has a sample size of 20. While the sample size may be relatively small, it offers a foundation for future research to expand upon the findings. Quantitative methods will be employed for descriptive statistical analysis, while qualitative methods will involve interpretative analysis.

This research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reintegration programs for children involved in criminal activities in Telangana, India. Recognizing the complexities of reintegrating such children into society, this study engages various stakeholders in the rehabilitation process and conducts direct interviews with the children to provide a comprehensive assessment.

This study aims to identify the challenges, accomplishments, and gaps in current rehabilitation and reintegration practices. By capturing the perspectives of key stakeholders, including social workers, judges, members of the child welfare committee, officials from observation homes, lawyers, and psychologists, alongside conducting direct interviews with children participating in these programs, the study aims to gain valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of the rehabilitation process.

Data analysis examines various aspects of the rehabilitation and reintegration process, including access to education, vocational training, mental health support, family reunification, and community acceptance. By delving into the lived experiences of stakeholders and children, this research endeavours to inspire positive change in policies and practices in Telangana and beyond. Ultimately, the study findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding the rehabilitation and reintegration of children involved in criminal activity, guiding future interventions to promote their overall well-being and social inclusion.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquent, Children in conflict with the law, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, CCL in Telangana, Observation Home

Aim:

This study aims to identify the challenges, accomplishments, and gaps in current rehabilitation and reintegration practices. By capturing the perspectives of key stakeholders, including social workers, judges, members of child welfare committee, officials from observation homes, lawyers, and psychologists, alongside conducting direct interviews with children participating in these programs, the study aims to acquire a deep understanding of the complex aspects involved in the rehabilitation process.

This research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reintegration programs for juveniles in Telangana, India. Recognizing the complexities of reintegrating such children into society, this study engages various stakeholders in the rehabilitation process and conducts direct interviews with the children to provide a comprehensive assessment.

Introduction:

“In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again; and in him, too, one more, and of each of us, our terrific responsibility towards human life; towards the utmost idea of goodness, of the horror of error, and of God.” — James Agee

According to renowned philosophers like Aristotle and Plato, poverty and unmet human needs are often considered the root causes of criminal behavior. Children who face a deficiency of affection, emotional instability, harsh discipline, and feelings of inadequacy or inferiority may respond with rebellious behavior, potentially developing an unbalanced personality that can lead to criminal activities. It is crucial to note that children shouldn't be expected to meet the same level of accountability as adults. Children who break the law

usually suffer from social difficulties, neglect, violence, and deprivation and need specific care, attention, and protection. Unfortunately, many terrorist groups recruit minors under the age of 18.

Evolution of Juvenile Justice in India:

The origins of Juvenile Justice in India can be traced back to 1850 with the enactment of the Apprentices Act. This was India's first endeavor to strike a chord with children who had done some petty thing in crime. Rather than face punishment, these children could be put under the responsibility of a court and trained for work as apprentices. This model was seen as a rehabilitative approach for young offenders, correcting rather than punishing them.

Subsequently, the Reformatory Schools Act of 1876 was enacted, which marked the initial attempt to segregate juvenile offenders from adult prisoners. The Act established institutions known as reformatory schools, where young offenders were provided with industrial training aimed at their rehabilitation. The main goal of the act was to prevent young people from becoming repeat offenders in the future.

The Indian Jails Committee of 1919 recommended addressing juveniles, which was later integrated into the Children's Act of 1960. This act led to the establishment of separate courts. Subsequently, the act was revised in 1978 and eventually replaced by the Juvenile Justice Act 1986. This legislation contained particular clauses for addressing the needs of delinquent offenders, including their care, protection, treatment, development, and rehabilitation, as well as ensuring justice is served through juvenile courts. The act was grounded in the principle that young offenders should not be prosecuted but reformed, punished, and rehabilitated.

In 1992, India demonstrated its commitment to international standards by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This led to the revision of the country's juvenile justice laws to align them with the principles of the Convention. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2000 superseded the Juvenile Justice Act of 1986, signifying India's dedication to conforming to international standards in developing its system.

The evolution of justice in India has focused on moving from punishments to a more rehabilitative strategy. The main goal is to help young offenders rehabilitate and equip them with the tools and education needed to succeed in life, rather than just punishing them for their actions. India's recent alignment of its juvenile justice laws with international standards is a positive step forward in improving and advancing the country's JJS.

The JJ Act of 2015 introduced many changes to existing laws based on modern-day requirements in terms of reforming and making the system more responsive to society. It focuses on making the child accountable not by punishing but by counseling.

Major Changes:

1. Change in Nomenclature: "Juvenile" has been changed to "Child" and "Children in Conflict with the Law."
2. Defined the terms:
 - a. Orphaned, abandoned, surrendered children.
 - b. Heinous Offenses: Maximum Punishment of 7 years imprisonment under any existing law
 - c. Serious Offenses: Maximum Punishment of 3 to 7 Years
 - d. Petty Offenses: Maximum of 3 years of imprisonment.
3. It has clarified the functions of the JJB and CWC.
4. Act establishes an efficient and well-organized system for the adoption of orphaned, surrendered, and abandoned children.
5. The legislation also mandates the registration of all childcare institutions.
6. A significant change in the revised legislation is the inclusion of a clause allowing individuals 16- to 18-year-olds will be treated as adults in heinous offenses.
7. The Act also confers statutory status upon the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).
8. The Act delineates a distinction between CCL and those in need of care and protection.
9. Incident of any nature by a minor could lead to a sentence of up to 3 years under the former law. Nevertheless, the 2015 revision resulted in a major alteration. All children under 18 would receive equal treatment, with the exception of when it comes to heinous crimes. Any individual between 16 and 18 years old who is accused of a serious crime can be prosecuted as an adult. The pivotal

part in this procedure is played by the Juvenile Justice Board, evaluating the child's physical and mental capabilities, their understanding of the crime's repercussions, and more, to decide if the child should be considered as an adult.

The JJ Amendment Act, 2021 has introduced several key amendments that are set to significantly strengthen the JJS. These amendments not only prioritize child rehabilitation and protection but also safeguard the rights and welfare of children, instilling a sense of hope and optimism for a better future.

The amendments include enhanced reporting requirements, empowering the District Magistrate, information sharing and upload, streamlined grievance redressal, establishing a specialized Children's Court, and a rehabilitation focus.

The enhanced reporting requirements mandate quarterly reporting by the Committee on restored, deceased, and runaway children. Additionally, the amendments ensure regular monitoring and reporting to the State Government and District Magistrate.

The empowered District Magistrate has been granted additional powers to entertain grievances, gather information from stakeholders, and make critical determinations in the the child's best interests. This recognition of their role and the emphasis on local authorities in child protection and rehabilitation is a testament to their importance and value in the system.

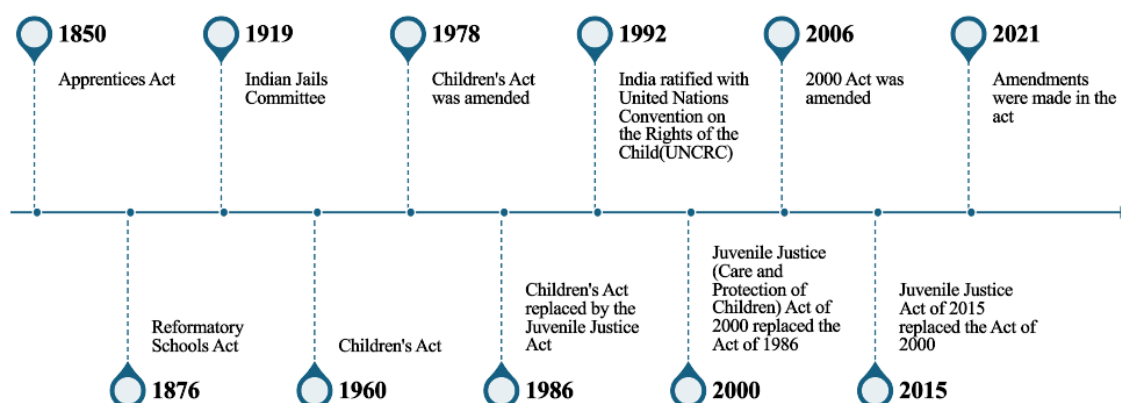
The amendments mandate uploading information regarding children to a specified portal to facilitate better coordination and data sharing among relevant units for improved rehabilitation efforts.

The streamlined grievance redressal system allows affected children or related parties to file complaints before the District Magistrate. This ensures prompt action and resolution of issues related to the Committee's functioning.

It designates offenses under the Act to be triable by the Children's Court, providing a child-friendly justice system focused on rehabilitation and reintegration. The rehabilitation focus of the amendments seeks to strengthen rehabilitation efforts by enhancing stakeholder oversight, accountability, and information sharing. This improves the holistic well-being and care of CNCP. These amendments represent a significant step towards ensuring a child-centric approach to juvenile justice and protection. They have the potential to positively change the lives of CNCP.

Figure: 1:

Evolution of Juvenile Justice in India



Stakeholders in System:

In the JJS, each stakeholder must have a comprehensive understanding of their roles and responsibilities, as well as the functions of other stakeholders, as delineated by pertinent laws and regulations. The system comprises eight critical stakeholders: the police, probation officers, the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), various institutions (such as observation homes, special homes, and aftercare organizations), the state government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the legal service authority or advocates, and guardians or parents.

Each stakeholder plays a pivotal role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of CCL:

1. **Police:** The police are responsible for being the first contact for children in the JJS, ensuring their safety, conducting investigations in a child-appropriate way, and connecting them with appropriate services and facilities.
2. **Probation Officers:** Responsible for preparing social investigation reports, monitoring children's progress under their supervision, and providing necessary guidance and support to facilitate rehabilitation and reintegration.
3. **Juvenile Justice Board (JJB):** The JJB adjudicates cases involving CCL, focusing on the child's rehabilitation rather than punishment. The JJB also collaborates with other stakeholders to implement rehabilitation plans.
4. **Institutions:** Observation homes, special homes, and aftercare organizations provide temporary and long-term care for children, offering education, vocational training, counseling, and mental health support for the child's overall development and reintegration into society.
5. **State Government:** Formulates and implements policies related to juvenile justice, oversees the functioning of institutions, allocates resources, and guarantees the safeguarding of children's rights at every stage.
6. **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** NGOs provide various services, such as legal aid, counseling, educational programs, and advocacy for children's rights. They also work closely with government agencies to enhance the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs.
7. **Legal Service Authority or Advocates:** Provide legal representation and advice to CCL, ensuring the child's legal rights are upheld and that the proceedings are fair and just.
8. **Guardians or Parents:** Integral to rehabilitation and reintegration, their involvement and support significantly influence the child's behavior and progress. They are encouraged to participate in counseling sessions and rehabilitation programs to enhance comprehension and cater to the child's requirements.

Comprehending the roles and responsibilities of these stakeholders is fundamental for the effective functioning of the juvenile system, which operates collaboratively. Collaboration and coordination among all stakeholders are indispensable to creating a supportive environment that fosters the rehabilitation and successful reintegration of CCL. This comprehensive strategy benefits both the children themselves and also plays a part in enhancing society's general welfare and safety.

Juvenile Justice Board (JJB):

JJB is a statutory body established under India's JJ Act, 2015. It is responsible for adjudicating matters involving juveniles. Distinguished from traditional criminal courts, the JJB operates within a unique and tailored legal framework designed to address the specific needs and circumstances of CCLs and acknowledge their distinct status within the justice system.

Roles and Responsibilities of JJB:

- Adjudicating cases involving juveniles (children under 18 years of age) accused of committing a crime.
- Ensuring juveniles' legal rights are protected throughout the judicial process, providing a child-friendly environment during the inquiry, and safeguarding their privacy and dignity.
- Rehabilitating and reintegrating juveniles into society by offering counseling, vocational training, and other necessary support services.

- Ensuring juveniles' proper care and protection in observation homes or special homes.

Composition:

The Board comprises a Principal Magistrate, who is a Judicial Magistrate of the first class, two Social Workers, and at least one female member. It is intentionally structured to ensure a comprehensive and empathetic approach to resolving juvenile cases. The two social workers were selected for their child welfare and rights expertise. JJB members must be between 35 and 65 years old and receive honorariums for their service. The tenure of JJB members is constrained up to three years starting from the appointment date. However, they may be eligible for re-appointment for up to two additional terms, provided these terms are not consecutive.

By adhering to these tenure regulations, the JJB strives to achieve a fine equilibrium between the infusion of fresh perspectives and the retention of experienced personnel. This approach fosters effective and equitable decision-making processes explicitly tailored to address the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of CCLs. It also underscores the Board's adaptability to evolving societal and legal dynamics while steadfastly upholding its commitment to the welfare of juveniles within the justice system.

As per 4(3), social worker members must be a minimum of 35 years old when notified and have a minimum of seven years of experience in activities related to children's education, health, or welfare. They must also be working professionals holding a degree in child psychology, psychiatry, sociology, or law.

As per section 5(5), the State Government will conduct an inquiry if a complaint is filed against a Board member, unless the complaint is against a judicial officer, in which case it will be referred to the Registrar of the High Court for further action.

In accordance with 5(6), the State Government requires to finish the investigation within two months and then proceed with necessary measures within one month.

Ultimately, according to guideline 5(7), if a member is accused in a criminal case, the State Government has the authority to temporarily suspend the member, either immediately pending investigation for a suitable period, or after completing an inquiry and allowing the member an opportunity to share their perspective.

Functions of the Board:

The JJB is mandated to conclude inquiries within four months of the juvenile's first encounter with the Board. This exemplifies the Board's dedication to rendering prompt decisions with efficiency and effectiveness. In cases where warranted, an extension of up to two months is permissible, provided that the Board furnishes written justifications for such extensions. The proceedings are closed if inquiries into minor offenses remain inconclusive even after the additional period. For serious or heinous offenses necessitating prolonged inquiry, authorization from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate is obligatory, accompanied by the documented rationale for such extensions.

By 6(7)(A), the Board is authorized to conduct hearings via videoconferencing in cases where constraints impede the physical movement of the child accused of conflicting with the law or that of the Board members, including the chairperson. Nonetheless, if the child requires a doctor, psychiatrist, therapist, or medical care, the hearing must take place on site as specified in sub-rule (1) of rule 6.

The Board is tasked with the following additional responsibilities:

(v) Conducting inspections of childcare institutions to identify any apparent deficiencies, making recommendations for improvements, ensuring adherence to regulations, and proposing appropriate action against any employee found neglecting their duties to the District Magistrate.

(vi) Placing a suggestion box or complaint box in the Board's premises, as well as in observation homes, special homes, or places of safety, at a visible spot to promote feedback from both children and adults. The Principal Magistrate's nominee will manage the operation of these boxes.

(via) The State Government will establish an online grievance redressal system to receive suggestions or complaints, which the Board will have access to.

(viii) Review the suggestions or complaints documented in the children's suggestion or complaint book during each visit to the childcare institution and conduct spontaneous individual and group interactions with the children at these institutions in the absence of staff and the person in charge. This is carried out to gain insights into the children's concerns and issues, evaluate their well-being, and offer feedback and suggestions to the childcare institutions accordingly.

Procedure about Children in Conflict with Law:

8. Pre-production action of police and other agencies:

8(3) When a police officer apprehends a child alleged to be in conflict with the law, the officer should:

(iii) Promptly and explicitly notify the child, via their parent or guardian, of the accusations made against them. If an FIR is filed, the child should receive a copy or the parent/guardian should be provided with a copy of the police report.

(iiia) Inform the child and parent or guardian promptly about the child's rights and privileges under the Act and its rules

(iiib) Display the rights of the child in all police stations and visible locations, including observation homes, special homes, and places of safety.

9. Producing the alleged child before the law:

By 9(2) of the relevant statute, the Board is vested with the authority to issue requisite orders upon a child being brought before it, including placing the child in an observation home, a place of safety, or under the care of a suitable individual. Furthermore, per Section 9(2A) provisions, the Board is mandated to furnish information about the child on a designated government portal.

Moreover, as delineated in 9(3), in cases where the child brought before the Board falls within the purview of the stipulations outlined in Section 78 and Section 83 of the Act, encompassing a surrendered child, the Board is empowered after conducting a thorough inquiry, to effectuate the transfer of the child to the committee as a CNCP. The Board is also authorized to issue pertinent directives for the rehabilitation of the child, which may encompass orders for the child's safekeeping and protection. Additionally, the Board may contemplate relocating the child to a recognized facility in a different district or state if such a step is essential for the child's health and safety.

Child Welfare Committee (CWC):

According to Section 27 of the JJ Act 2015, modified in 2021, the CWC is made up of a Chairperson and four members, with one female member and a child-related expert being mandatory. The main duty of the committee is focused on the welfare, safety, and recovery of at-risk children. It is tasked with determining the children's best interests and ensuring their placement in secure and nurturing environments. Furthermore, the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) handles juvenile delinquency cases to rehabilitate and reform young offenders. Child Welfare Committees are mandated in every district, ensuring that children in need receive thorough care and protection.

Responsibilities of CWCs:

- Guaranteeing the safety and welfare of children in need of care and protection.
- Conduct inquiries and provide a safe environment for children.
- Rehabilitating and reintegrating children into society.
- Ensuring that child-friendly procedures are followed during the rehabilitation process.
- Monitoring institutions and foster homes where children are placed.

Composition

The CWC comprises a chairperson and four additional members, all of whom must be women. The state government appoints these members, and they are required to possess expertise in child rights, child protection, and welfare.

Procedure:

The Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) are vested with the power to scrutinize and resolve matters concerning children who are deemed to need care and protection. These committees are empowered to oversee the placement of children in suitable facilities or with foster caregivers.

Legal Framework:

JJ Act of 2015 establishes the legal framework for the constitution and functioning of CWCs. CWCs work in coordination with various other entities, including Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), the Child Protection Unit (CPU), and Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs).

Challenges:

Despite their pivotal role, Child Welfare Committees encounter various challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, insufficient building space in certain Bala Rakshak Bhavans, a shortage of staff and unskilled personnel, and a dearth of training opportunities for committee members.

The Juvenile Justice Act and Juvenile Justice Model Rules of 2016 recognize the potential dual status of a CCL as a CNCP through various provisions:

- Section 8(3)(g) of the Juvenile Justice Act is a pivotal provision that grants the JJB the authority to transfer cases involving a CCL identified as a CNCP to the CWC "at any stage." This provision underscores the crucial role of the JJB in recognizing that a CCL can concurrently meet the criteria for being categorized as a CNCP, necessitating the involvement of both the CWC and JJB in such cases.
- Section 17(2) of the JJ Act underscores the authority and responsibility of the JJB. Suppose a child is found to be innocent of any wrongdoing but is identified as a CNCP. In that case, the JJB can direct the child to the CWC with specific instructions.
- By Rule 9(3) of the Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016, when a child is coerced into or compelled to engage in illicit activities by militant groups or other adults, provisions exist for the transfer of such children to the CWC after a comprehensive inquiry, subject to their classification as a CNCP. This regulation elucidates the circumstances under which the transfer of a child to the CWC is warranted, thereby promoting clarity and comprehension of this procedural mechanism.
- By Rule 57(2) of the Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016, the JJB is authorized to transfer a child who has been accused of an offense under Section 78 to the CWC if the child is deemed as a CNCP.

These provisions reflect a comprehensive legal framework that acknowledges CCLs' dual status as potential CNCPs. The framework emphasizes the importance of tailored interventions and collaborative efforts between the JJB and CWC to address the multifaceted needs of vulnerable children.

The JJS is designed to safeguard the human rights of children. Usually, these people are described as being under 18 years old, although this can differ depending on the location. The system aims to deal with situations where children break the law because of factors like neglectful parenting, abandonment, peer pressure, homelessness, and poverty. In contrast to the punitive tactics commonly used in the adult justice system, the main goal of juvenile justice is to rehabilitate and reintegrate young offenders back into society. The main goal of the system is to cultivate a more profound comprehension of societal norms and responsibilities, thus fostering the growth of young minds. It should be emphasized that the JJS and the adult justice system have substantial differences in how they handle cases and make decisions regarding them, at least in theory. The priority of the justice system should always be the well-being of the children.

Table:1:

Forms that are using for CWC and JJB for producing of child:

S. No	Name of the form	Form No.
1	Rehabilitation Card	14
2	Case Summary maintained by Child Welfare committee	15
3	Report to be submitted at Time of Production of child Before the Committee	17
4	Order of Placement of a Child in an institution	18
5	Order for placement of child under the care of a parent, guardian or Fit Person pending inquiry	19
6	Order for Social investigation report of Child in need of care and protection	21
7	Application for Surrender of Child	23
8	Declaration by Person surrendering the child or children	24
9	Certificate Declaring the child legally free for adoption	25
10	Case Monitoring sheet for Committee	26
11	Release Cum Restoration Order	44
12	Escort Order	45

The Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 grants juvenile's numerous rights, including:

1. Right to equality and non-discrimination
2. Privilege against self-incrimination
3. Right to consult a lawyer and receive legal aid
4. Non-retroactive juvenile justice
5. Right to be produced before the JJB within 24 hours
6. Right to be informed about charges
7. Bail as a matter of right
8. Presumption of innocence
9. Right to be governed by special laws for CCL
10. Right to fair and expeditious inquiry
11. Right to life
12. Right to education
13. Right to child-friendly procedures and environment
14. Right to be heard
15. Right to privacy
16. Best interest principle
17. Protection from torture and ill-treatment
18. Protection from sexual offenses
19. Right to rehabilitative measures
20. Institutionalization as a last resort
21. Prohibition against the imposition of the death penalty or life imprisonment without the possibility of release

International standards acknowledge that every child suspected, accused, or recognized as having violated criminal law has the right to be treated in a manner appropriate to promoting their dignity and self-worth. These standards emphasize the importance of child-friendly justice principles.

The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a pivotal international agreement that comprehensively delineates children's rights. As the first of its kind, this landmark accord addresses the protection of children's rights and serves as a blueprint for treating and safeguarding children. The Convention provides detailed directives on the appropriate treatment of children and protecting their well-being. Oversight of the Convention's implementation in ratified nations is entrusted to the Committee for the Rights of the Child, a specialized international body of the United Nations.

Integral to the legal framework of participating countries, the UNCRC holds precedence over national legislation and other ratified international agreements. This global reach underscores the Convention's significance as a cornerstone of international law, ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights and well-being of children on a worldwide scale.

The UNCRC is a crucial treaty outlining children's rights in various areas including political, civil, economic, social, health, and cultural aspects. At the heart of the agreement is its acknowledgment of individuals who are under 18 years old as minors. The CRC emphasizes that all children have inherent rights that are considered essential, some of which are seen as most important such as:

- The right to life, survival, and development.
- The right to education facilitates the realization of their full potential.
- The right to protection from abuse, violence, or neglect.
- The right to express opinions and have them heard.
- The right to be raised by their parents or have a relationship with them.

Furthermore, the CRC outlines four core principles that serve as guiding tenets:

1. Non-discrimination.
2. Right to life, survival, and development.
3. Best interests of the child.
4. Respect for the child's views.

In adherence to the UNCRC, the JJ Act, 2015 was established to ensure the care and protection of vulnerable children. This act serves as more than just a legal framework, as it explicitly prohibits the waiver of any child's rights, as outlined in Section 3(ix) of the JJ Act, 2015. This provision guarantees the respect and protection of children's rights without any possibility of compromise.

UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, Beijing Rules (1985):

The "Beijing Rules" of 1985, formally known as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, were adopted by the General Assembly in 1985. This set of rules outlines the minimum standards for the administration of juvenile justice, focusing on safeguarding the rights of young offenders and facilitating their well-being and rehabilitation.

The key principles of the Beijing Rules encompass the following elements:

1. **Fair and Humane Treatment:** Juveniles are treated fairly and humanely throughout the justice process.
2. **Best Interest of the Child:** The best interest of the child should be the paramount consideration in all decisions that impact juveniles.
3. **Rehabilitation and Reintegration:** The Beijing Rules of 1985 emphasize the importance of rehabilitating and reintegrating juveniles into society, with the aim of instilling hope and providing necessary support.
4. **Proportionality:** This principle ensures that responses to juvenile offenses are balanced and fair, commensurate with the circumstances of the offender and the nature of the offense.
5. **Non-Discrimination:** This principle reaffirms our commitment to equality and justice, ensuring that juveniles are not subject to discrimination on any grounds, including but not limited to race, gender, or socioeconomic status.
6. **Legal Safeguards:** Juveniles are entitled to legal representation and other protections to ensure a fair trial.

The provisions outlined in Rule 7 of the Beijing Rules hold significant importance within our legal system. They make it mandatory to ensure fundamental procedural safeguards at all stages of juvenile proceedings, including the presumption of innocence, the right to be informed of charges, and the right to remain silent. These safeguards are not mere recommendations but rather essential protections that every juvenile is entitled to.

Rule 7.1 of the Beijing Rules is more than just a domestic rule; it reflects our dedication to global human rights values, emphasizing important principles like the presumption of innocence found in international human rights agreements. Adhering to global standards shows our global duty to safeguard the rights of all people, including children.

Furthermore, Rule 15 ensures the presence of legal counsel, parents, or guardians throughout the trial, while Rule 16 pertains to the juvenile's special inquiry report.

Rule 20 emphasizes the avoidance of unnecessary delays in proceedings.

Mission Vatsalya:

The carefully devised strategic plan of Mission Vatsalya is centered on achieving developmental and child protection objectives by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The primary objectives revolve around advocating for children's rights, raising awareness, and enhancing the JJS, all grounded in ensuring equitable development for every child. The fundamental framework for executing Mission Vatsalya is derived from the provisions outlined in the JJ Act, 2015, and the POCSO Act, 2012. The evolution of juvenile justice in India has centered on a shift from punitive measures to a more rehabilitative approach. The focus is on rehabilitating young offenders and providing them with the necessary tools and education to lead successful lives rather than simply punishing them for their actions. India's recent alignment of its juvenile justice laws with international standards is a positive step forward in improving and advancing the country's JJS.

Before the fiscal year 2009-10, the Ministry was responsible for managing the execution of three separate schemes: the Programme for CCL and CNCP, the Integrated Programme for Street Children, and the Scheme for Assistance to Homes for Children (Shishu Greh).

Mission Vatsalya, a centrally sponsored Scheme (CSS) initiated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) Government of India in 2009, represents a significant endeavor in the field. This initiative is designed to offer comprehensive care and safeguarding to children facing challenging circumstances while meeting their immediate requirements.

The program aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Child Protection Services:** This involves strengthening and expanding services that safeguard children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.
2. **Institutional Care:** This section focuses on enhancing childcare institutions' quality of care and facilities.
3. **Non-Institutional Care:** This objective promotes family-based care alternatives such as foster care, adoption, and sponsorship.
4. **JJS:** The aim is to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of the system.
5. **Capacity Building:** This objective requires training and capacity building of stakeholders involved in child protection, including government officials, NGOs, and community members.
6. **Awareness and Advocacy:** This involves raising awareness about child rights and protection through campaigns and outreach programs.
7. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** This involves establishing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of child protection schemes and policies.

In 2009-2010, the recognition of the need for a more comprehensive approach resulted in the merging of the three schemes into one initiative called the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), sponsored centrally. This consolidation marked a significant step towards a more unified and efficient child protection system. In 2017, the scheme underwent a name change to the 'Child Protection Services' Scheme, reflecting its evolving nature. As of 2021-22, the CPS Scheme has been seamlessly integrated into Mission Vatsalya, aligning its objectives and activities with the broader vision and goals of the mission.

Its goal is to establish a caring, compassionate, and organized setting to help children thrive and progress during their crucial developmental stage. This goal will be achieved by enhancing the structure of committees responsible for the welfare and protection of children, along with the statutory and service delivery structures in every district across the nation. Providing for the needs of children in difficult situations is the responsibility of legal and service delivery systems, and there is also a focus on dealing with child welfare and protection issues in the local community. This requires incorporating these issues into local development plans along with corresponding budgets.

The expectation is that the committees in the institutional framework will provide backing to the statutory and service delivery structures by advocating, raising awareness, building capacity, and implementing preventive measures. It is anticipated that these actions will establish a robust and supportive environment for children in neighbourhoods.

The Mission Vatsalya portal was designed to establish a unified digital platform that addressed the Management Information System (MIS) requirements for children in vulnerable circumstances, including those missing, orphaned, abandoned, or surrendered. The primary objective was to integrate these vulnerable children with government institutions and services to ensure their care and development.

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) integrated four distinct portals—TrackChild for missing/found children, CARINGS for child adoption, the ICPS portal for scheme monitoring, and Khoya-Paya, a citizen-centric application for missing and sighted children—into a single portal, which served as a pivotal aspect of the Mission Vatsalya initiative. This consolidation offered various advantages, such as enhanced monitoring capabilities through multiple MIS dashboards, preventing redundant efforts at the grassroots level, and providing a unified platform for all stakeholders involved. It also facilitated informed decision-making processes, optimized resource utilization, provided access to a comprehensive Child Protection Resource Directory, enhanced citizen participation, and made analytical reports available for informed decision-making.

As part of its comprehensive approach, Mission Vatsalya established a 24x7 child helpline service in collaboration with states and districts. This initiative aligns with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015, demonstrating a collective effort in child protection. The child helpline seamlessly coordinates with state and district authorities and integrates with the Emergency Response Support System 112 (ERSS-112) helpline administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Child Care Institutions (CCIs) are articulated in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015, granting authority to the State Government, either independently or in partnership with voluntary organizations, to establish homes in each district or cluster of districts. These homes are not just shelters, but surrogate family environments, offering comprehensive childcare amenities. These amenities are aimed at fostering the holistic development of children until their eventual social reintegration through non-institutional care, reassuring you about the quality of care provided.

The main goal of CCIs is to enhance the skills and abilities of children while working with their families, if applicable, to help them reintegrate into society and undergo rehabilitation. The mission is focused on assisting different Child Care Institutions in various districts, such as children's homes, observation homes, special homes, and open shelters, to effectively fulfill their role in providing care and protection to vulnerable children in need.

The Indian legal system has established an extensive framework to cater to the requirements of CCL through diverse Child Care Institutions (CCIs). These institutions are pivotal in the state's juvenile justice and rehabilitation strategy.

Observation Homes are a fundamental aspect of this framework, providing temporary shelter for children alleged to conflict with the law. They ensure a safe environment for these children during the inquiry process under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015, focusing on their well-being and rehabilitation.

Special Homes, another significant component, aim to provide long-term rehabilitation and protection to children who have been found to have committed an offense. The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) has jurisdiction over these children. Financial support is extended to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to expedite the establishment of special homes across the state.

Furthermore, the establishment of Places of Safety caters to children aged between 16 and 18 years who are accused of or convicted of committing heinous offenses in CCL. As per the JJ Act of 2015, the State Government holds the authority to designate Places of Safety, ensuring that these facilities are equipped to provide protective custody and necessary services for such children as deemed appropriate by the State Government. The legislation further empowers the State Government to prescribe the facilities and services mandated for such Places of Safety through regulatory frameworks.

Telangana:

Telangana, a state of deep historical importance, was created as the 29th state of India through the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, and is the focus of the study. This event, gaining approval from the President of India in March 2014 and becoming effective on June 2, 2014, signified a crucial moment in India's history. The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization (Amendment) Act, 2014 (No. 19 of 2014) made additional changes to transfer 327 mandals and towns from Khammam district to Andhra Pradesh, with the amendment becoming effective on May 29, 2014.

Located in the southern part of India, Telangana covers 112,077 square kilometers, ranking as the 12th largest state in India by size and population. In the past, the majority of Telangana belonged to the princely state of Hyderabad, which was ruled by the Nizam of Hyderabad during the British Raj. Hyderabad was incorporated into India in 1948. As part of the linguistic reorganization of states, Hyderabad was dissolved in 1956. Telangana, the region where Telugu is spoken, was later combined with Andhra state to create Andhra Pradesh. Telangana became a separate state from Andhra Pradesh on June 2, 2014, with Hyderabad as its capital city.

Telangana is strategically positioned in the southern region of India, sharing its borders with Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh to the north, Karnataka to the west, and Andhra Pradesh to the southeast and northeast. Its geographical characteristics, such as the Deccan Plateau and a semi-arid region with a primarily hot and dry climate, contribute to a diverse and dynamic landscape that can stimulate the intellect and imagination.

According to the 2011 Census conducted by the Government of India, Telangana has a population of approximately 35 million, comprising 17.61 million males and 17.39 million females. The sex ratio of the state is 988 females per 1000 males. The population is predominantly rural, with 61.12% residing in rural areas and 38.88% in urban areas. The overall population growth in Telangana from 2001 to 2011 was 11.58%, with urban population growth notably increasing by 38.12% during 2001-2011. In contrast, the rural population grew modestly by 2.13% according to the 2011 Census. Approximately 30% of the urban population lives in Hyderabad, the capital city.

This demographic and geographical profile underscores the significant urbanization trend in Telangana, emphasizing the importance of addressing rural and urban challenges in the context of rehabilitation and reintegration of CCL.

The sex ratio, which measures the number of females for every 1,000 males, is an important demographic metric. According to the 2011 Census, Telangana's sex ratio is 988 females per 1,000 males. Notably, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar, and Khammam districts report a sex ratio exceeding 1,000. Over the years, the state has shown an improvement in its overall sex ratio, rising from 967 in 1991 to 971 in 2001 and further to 988 in 2011.

Despite the positive trend in the overall population, the sex ratio among juveniles aged 0-6 years has declined from 957 in 2001 to 932 in 2011, raising concerns about gender disparities at a young age.

The sex ratio among the Scheduled Caste (SC) population is notably higher at 1,008 females per 1,000 males as of 2011, surpassing the state average of 988. However, this higher ratio is not consistent across all districts, being lower in Ranga Reddy, Hyderabad, and Mahbubnagar. Conversely, the sex ratio for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is slightly below the state average at 977, though higher in Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, and Khammam districts.

These findings underscore significant regional and demographic variations in sex ratios across Telangana, highlighting the necessity for targeted policies and interventions to address gender imbalances, especially among younger age groups and vulnerable populations.

Telangana, established in 2014 as one of India's youngest states following its separation from Andhra Pradesh, faces significant challenges, as evidenced by data from the NCRB. Despite its youthful demographic, Telangana grapples with concerning figures that underscore the imperative to prioritize the well-being and development of its youth population.

A predominant factor contributing to juvenile delinquency in Telangana is poverty. Many young individuals come from low-income households, lacking adequate access to education and avenues for personal growth. As a result, some may turn to criminal pursuits for financial gain or excitement. A study conducted

by the Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TSCPCR) underscores poverty as a critical risk factor for juvenile delinquency (TSCPCR, 2019).

In addition, family dysfunction constitutes another significant catalyst for juvenile delinquency in the state. Numerous young offenders come from broken homes characterized by experiences of abuse, neglect, or trauma. These adverse childhood encounters can precipitate behavioral issues and impulse control deficits, heightening the likelihood of involvement in criminal behavior. Research conducted by the Telangana Social Welfare Department (TSWD) underscores a strong correlation between family dysfunction and juvenile delinquency (TSWD, 2018).

The repercussions of juvenile delinquency in Telangana are profound, impacting not only the offenders themselves but also their families, communities, and broader society. Juvenile delinquents are more prone to academic underachievement, substance abuse, and unemployment, perpetuating a cycle of violence and crime that exacerbates social issues in the state.

A multifaceted approach is imperative to effectively address juvenile delinquency in Telangana. This necessitates implementing comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies aimed at providing at-risk youth with access to education, mental health services, and positive role models. Additionally, efforts should be directed toward bolstering familial and community support systems to foster an environment conducive to the holistic development of young individuals.

The Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TSCPCR) was established in March 2007 in accordance with the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act of 2005, which the Parliament promulgated in December 2005. Operating under the administrative purview of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, the TSCPCR is tasked with preserving and advocating children's rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Commission aims to harmonize laws, policies, programs, and administrative processes with a child rights perspective, employing a rights-based approach to integrate child rights principles into national policies and programs. Furthermore, the Commission advocates for increased community and household involvement, highlighting the significance of including grassroots experiences in decision-making at higher administrative echelons. It underscores the pivotal role of the state, the establishment of institutions, decentralization at local levels, and broader societal dedication to the welfare and well-being of children.

Telangana has set up Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and Observation Homes, showing the state's dedication to juvenile justice and children's well-being. These organizations are vital in offering important services and assistance to youth involved in legal conflict and those requiring care and protection, demonstrating Telangana's dedication to protecting the rights and well-being of juveniles.

Table: 2:

Shows the JJB Boards in Telangana:

S.NO	DISTRICT
1	Adilabad
2	Karimnagar
3	Khammam
4	Mahaboobnagar
5	Sangareddy
6	Nalgonda
7	Nizamabad
8	Ranga Reddy
9	Warangal
10	Hyderabad

The State Child Protection and Welfare of Women Development and Child Development Department in Telangana has embarked on a comprehensive initiative to ensure every child's holistic development within a safe and nurturing environment. This endeavor facilitated through the Integrated Child Protection Services

(ICPS) portal, represents a joint initiative between the government and civil society to create a safe space for children in challenging situations and other vulnerable populations.

The main goal of the ICPS is to create a nurturing space for all children in Telangana to thrive and achieve their maximum capabilities. The program aims to offer preventive, statutory, care, and rehabilitation services to various vulnerable children, encompassing those from potentially vulnerable families and socially excluded groups. These categories include migrant families, families in severe poverty, SCs, STs, OBCs, minority groups, children impacted by HIV/AIDS, orphans, child drug users, children of substance abusers, child beggars, trafficked or sexually exploited children, children of incarcerated parents, street children, and child laborers.

The aim of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) are multifaceted. Firstly, it seeks to consolidate prevailing child protection schemes within a comprehensive framework while incorporating additional interventions to safeguard children and prevent harm. The scheme endeavors to institutionalize vital services, fortify existing structures, augment capacities across all levels, establish databases and knowledge bases for child protection services, and fortify child protection efforts at the familial and communal levels. The goal is to guarantee a synchronized, multi-sector strategy in every aspect, create a strong system for handling child protection information to create and execute successful intervention strategies, and closely track results. Ongoing evaluation of programs and systems will be performed to implement necessary adjustments and enhancements.

Rehabilitation:

The stigmatization faced by delinquents can severely hinder their chances of reintegration and start anew, perpetuating negative stereotypes and denying them the opportunity for a fresh start. This societal perception may inadvertently push them towards further involvement in criminal activities, perpetuating a cycle of recidivism.

Rehabilitation offers a transformative approach to addressing juvenile delinquency by shifting the focus from punitive measures to accountability and holistic development. By instilling a sense of responsibility and providing necessary support and skills, rehabilitation aims to restore the lives of these children to a state of normalcy, equipping them with the tools needed to navigate society's challenges.

This process often involves a combination of educational interventions, therapeutic support, and skill-building initiatives tailored to each child's individual needs. Through education and therapy, rehabilitation endeavors to nurture these children's cognitive, emotional, and social well-being, empowering them to become productive and law-abiding citizens.

By addressing underlying factors contributing to delinquent behavior and fostering personal growth and development, rehabilitation offers a pathway toward reintegration and a second chance at a fulfilling life. Ultimately, rehabilitation seeks to break the cycle of criminality by providing CCL with the opportunity to chart a new course for themselves, contributing to our communities' overall safety and well-being.

Reintegration:

The effective reduction of juvenile delinquency starts with proactive prevention measures aimed at stopping negative behaviors before they start. A crucial and empowering part of this prevention strategy involves creating a positive environment where children are not just encouraged, but empowered to take responsibility for their actions and develop healthy ways to deal with difficult situations. During the rehabilitation process, children are given the skills and tools they need to reintegrate into society after they complete their sentence.

Regrettably, the successful reintegration of juvenile delinquents is often impeded by the stigma that surrounds their past actions. This stigma is exacerbated by sensationalized media coverage and societal reactions, further complicating the child's interaction with the justice system. To mitigate this stigma and facilitate a smoother reintegration process, it is imperative that every facet of the JJS adheres to the principles of child-friendly justice.

By prioritizing the child's well-being and rights from their initial interaction with law enforcement to the conclusion of their engagement with the justice system, we can greatly diminish the likelihood of stigma. The implementation of child-friendly justice principles, such as age-appropriate communication, considering

the child's best interests, and providing support services tailored to their needs, can create a more supportive environment for reintegration, reassuring the community and professionals alike.

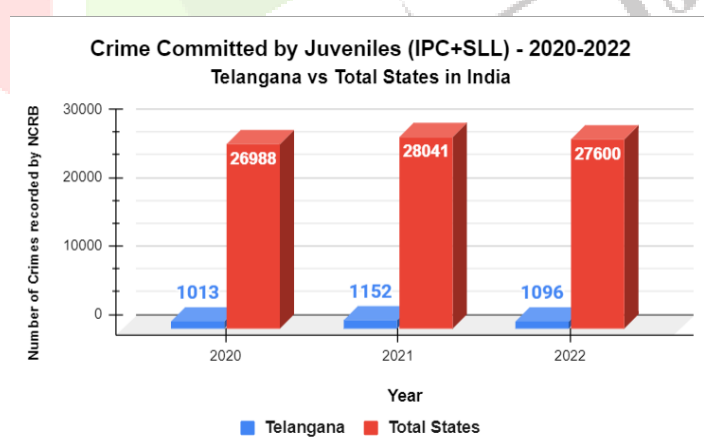
Moreover, the responsibility of educating the community about juvenile justice issues cannot be overstated. It is a crucial step in fighting negative stereotypes and creating a more inclusive and supportive response to reintegration efforts. By promoting empathy, understanding, and support, we can create an environment that helps CCL successfully reintegrate, ultimately benefiting both the individual and society.

According to the recent NCRB Report of 2022, numerous significant statistics underscore this study's critical importance. The data elucidates prevailing trends and patterns in juvenile delinquency, offering invaluable insights into the underlying factors that precipitate the involvement of young individuals in criminal activities. The report accentuates a notable incidence of juvenile offenses, thereby signaling the imperative requirement for efficacious intervention and rehabilitation strategies. Moreover, it delineates the categories of crimes most frequently perpetrated by juveniles, the socio-economic backgrounds of the perpetrators, and the regional disparities in juvenile crime prevalence. These findings underscore the essentiality of acquiring a comprehensive comprehension of juvenile delinquency to inform policies and practices aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration. The report also identifies deficiencies in the current JJS, such as inadequate resources, insufficient personnel training, and a dearth of tailored rehabilitation programs. These difficulties highlight the importance of thorough research to create evidence-based interventions that address the unique requirements of young offenders, aiding in their successful reintegration into society and lowering recidivism rates.

This suggests that the focus should be redirected towards the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of CCL. Juvenile delinquency is a multifaceted social issue that goes beyond individual behavior, reflecting broader societal challenges and complexities. As the widespread adage suggests, "Today's youth are tomorrow's citizens," underscoring the significance of directing attention toward young individuals to address behaviors that undermine society and to cultivate them into responsible future citizens. It is essential to recognize the uniqueness of each individual, as the underlying reasons for their delinquent actions are intricate and diverse, as evidenced in the scholarly literature. Therefore, the rehabilitation process must be customized to cater to each child's specific needs rather than employing a uniform approach. Just as a singular medication cannot remedy all ailments, a standardized rehabilitation method is inadequate in addressing the diverse issues faced by juvenile delinquents. A nuanced and personalized approach is indispensable for achieving effective rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

Figure: 2:

Crimes Committed by Juveniles (IPC+SLL) – 2020-2022



The bar chart, titled "Crime Committed by Juveniles (IPC+SLL) - 2020-2022: Telangana vs. Total States in India", is a visual representation of the incidence of juvenile crimes in Telangana compared to the aggregate number of such offenses across all states in India for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. The chart is designed with a color-coded scheme, where blue represents Telangana and red represents the total states in India, making it easy to distinguish between the two.

In 2020, Telangana reported 1,013 juvenile crimes out of 26,988 juvenile crimes across all states, constituting approximately 3.75% of the total. In 2021, the number of juvenile crimes in Telangana increased to 1,152 out of 28,041 total juvenile crimes in India, accounting for approximately 4.11%. By 2022, Telangana

recorded 1,096 juvenile crimes out of 27,600 total juvenile crimes in the country, contributing to around 3.97% of the national total.

The data reveals a grave concern: juvenile crimes in Telangana, despite minor fluctuations across India over the three years, consistently represent a significant portion of these offenses. This stark reality underscores the immediate need for ongoing and adaptable strategies to combat juvenile delinquency, as evidenced by the slight variations in the number of crimes year-on-year in Telangana. The consistent figures further highlight the urgent necessity for targeted interventions and robust rehabilitation programs specifically tailored to the needs of juveniles in Telangana.

Considering its population, the high incidence of juvenile offenses in Telangana points to underlying socio-economic and environmental factors that, with the right attention, can be effectively addressed to reduce delinquency rates. This understanding of the socio-economic backgrounds of juvenile offenders and the nature of the crimes committed is pivotal in formulating specific policies and practices aimed at prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration. The information highlights the importance of a holistic strategy in juvenile justice, including proper resources, staff training, and personalized rehabilitation programs, to reduce repeat offenses and aid in the successful reintegration of young offenders into the community.

Significance of the study:

The existing literature suggests that there is a dearth of research in India focusing on juvenile delinquency, rehabilitation, and the reintegration of young offenders. This study seeks to address this gap by gathering data from stakeholders in the JJS. The aim is to provide a comprehensive and realistic approach to comprehending and managing juvenile delinquency. While it is imperative to tackle delinquency across all age groups in society, this study centers explicitly on the distinctive challenges faced by juveniles.

Recidivism remains a pressing issue due to the continuity between juvenile and adult violence. Behaviors that manifest before the age of 18 continue to persist into adulthood. Existing studies suggest that the most violent adults have a history of committing violent crimes before the age of 18, frequently engaging in substance abuse during their youth, and having multiple involvements with juvenile institutions.

This study analyzes the diverse factors that influence juvenile rehabilitation and reintegration, encompassing vocational training, family engagement, education, and aftercare programs. By gaining insights into these factors, the study aims to inform more effective strategies for rehabilitating and reintegrating CCL.

One of the primary motivations for conducting this study is the compelling data uncovered by the NCRB regarding juvenile delinquency in Telangana. This data highlights the importance of addressing the area's root causes of juvenile crime. Hence, I have embarked on this study with a strong focus on comprehending the viewpoints of children and stakeholders within the JJS. This holistic approach is essential for developing more effective strategies for rehabilitation and reintegration.

Review of Literature:

In India, an individual under 18 is considered a juvenile. It's crucial to understand that the term 'juvenile' is not a label of condemnation, but a recognition of a stage of life. It's a legal term that refers to a minor who has committed an offense or requires care and protection. Juveniles in India are tried in juvenile courts, a system designed to protect their rights and ensure their rehabilitation. Children who are under 7 years old are protected by the doctrine of Doli incapax, which acknowledges that they are unable to have the intention to commit a crime.

The term 'juvenile' has been revised to 'children in conflict with the law' to accurately describe individuals under 18 who have violated legal statutes. A juvenile delinquent is a young person whose behavior violates the law. This shift in terminology reflects a move toward a more empathetic and precise understanding of young offenders, emphasizing their stage of development and potential for rehabilitation rather than stigmatizing them. The JJS in India aims to deal with the underlying reasons for their illegal actions and offer the necessary assistance and measures to steer them towards a lawful future, serving both punishment and rehabilitation purposes.

Socio - economic profile

Bhoomanagoudar (2015) offers insights into the socio-economic profiles of juvenile offenders, revealing intricate intersections between educational background, family structure, gender, age, religious

affiliation, urban-rural divide, socioeconomic status, parental punishment, social interaction, and peer influence. These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of juvenile delinquency and underscore the need for holistic interventions addressing various socio-ecological factors.

Causes or Factors

The study of juvenile delinquency in India presents a pressing need for a multifaceted examination of its causal factors, encompassing societal, familial, and individual dynamics. Researchers like Haveripet (2013), Chauhan et al. (2022), and Kumari (2007) underscore the urgency of understanding the nexus between family dynamics, societal influences, and juvenile delinquency. They identify inadequate family supervision, familial conflicts, neighborhood conditions, and media influences as key contributors to juvenile delinquency. Additionally, socioeconomic factors, such as poverty and lack of education, exacerbate the issue, as Bhoge et al. (2017) and Bagulia (2007) explored.

The interplay between family structure, peer relationships, and school dynamics emerges as a critical determinant of juvenile behavior, as discussed by Lawrence and Hesse (2010), Cox et al. (2022), and Pal (2011). These scholars underscore the family's pivotal role in shaping juvenile socialization and psychosocial development. Moreover, they emphasize the adverse impact of disrupted family structures and societal changes, such as urbanization and industrialization, on juvenile well-being and behavior.

Furthermore, scholars like Voisin et al. (2015) and Snehil and Sagar (2020) shed light on the intersectionality of juvenile delinquency with mental health issues and social inequities. They advocate for holistic interventions that address the underlying social determinants and mental health needs of CCL. This all-encompassing strategy coincides with the changing perspective on juvenile justice, prioritizing rehabilitation and social reintegration instead of punitive actions.

Snehil and Sagar (2020) explore the link between the JJS and mental health in delinquent juveniles. They note high rates of mental disorders like conduct disorders and ADHD among them. While the Juvenile Justice Act aims for their care and rehabilitation, challenges like staff shortages and funding gaps persist. The authors stress the need for mental health professionals' involvement and advocate for collaborative efforts and ongoing training. They call for more research to address these issues comprehensively, highlighting the importance of an integrated approach to juvenile justice and mental health.

Becker et al. (2012) contribute a nuanced exploration of the demographic and psychological factors influencing adolescent delinquency, with a focus on mental health issues such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Their findings underscore the prevalence of trauma exposure and PTSD symptoms among juveniles, particularly females, emphasizing the imperative of addressing mental health needs in rehabilitation efforts.

Vemuri et al. (2019) investigates factors contributing to juvenile delinquency in Telangana, highlighting the complex interplay of social, technological, and environmental factors in shaping delinquent behavior among adolescents.

Together, these studies enrich our understanding of juvenile delinquency by elucidating the complex interplay of individual, familial, social, and structural factors. They underscore the importance of holistic, multi-sectoral approaches prioritizing prevention, rehabilitation, and social inclusion in addressing juvenile offending behaviors.

Early intervention

Early intervention as a cornerstone in preventing adolescent delinquency (World Youth Report, 2003). This approach necessitates concerted efforts from diverse stakeholders, including governmental bodies, community organizations, and educational institutions, to safeguard young individuals from criminal activities.

The literature also underscores the potential for positive change through early intervention and systemic improvements within the JJS, as Kumar (2020) and Bagulia (2007) discussed. These scholars advocate for collaborative efforts among stakeholders, including mental health professionals, educators, and policymakers, to provide adequate juvenile support and rehabilitation. By addressing the complex array of causal factors and adopting a holistic approach, India can effectively mitigate juvenile delinquency and promote the well-being of its youth, inspiring hope for a brighter future.

Legal (History)

The literature review further delves into India's intricate juvenile justice landscape, encompassing legislative frameworks, rehabilitative practices, and the broader socio-legal context. Acknowledging children as pivotal assets to their families and the nation, Agarwal (2018) underscores the joint responsibility of parents and the government in guiding and nurturing youth for nation-building. However, a concerning trend emerges as juvenile delinquency escalates, particularly in violent crimes, prompting amendments to the Juvenile Justice Act to hold trials for serious offenders as adults.

In response to this escalating trend, legislative efforts such as the Juvenile Justice and Protection of Children Act of 2000 have been enacted, aiming to enhance the protection and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders (Sharma, 2022). These legislative endeavors reflect India's steadfast commitment to a progressive and enlightened JJS, as articulated by Das (2016) and Gulshan (2018), which prioritizes the reformation and restoration of children in conflict with the law.

Tripathi (2016) elucidates that India's Juvenile Justice Act of 2000 adopts unique social approaches to combat juvenile delinquency, emphasizing prevention and care for children in need of protection. This ethos permeates the JJS (JJS), renowned for its rehabilitative ethos and emphasis on child welfare (Abrams, 2013).

Parackal and Panicker (2019) contribute a comprehensive analysis of the Juvenile Justice Act's implementation and efficacy, advocating for a reformatory and restorative approach. Drawing from developmental psychology principles, they argue for community-based interventions over incarceration and holistic rehabilitation within the Juvenile Justice Board framework.

HAQ's report "Blind Alley: The JJS in India" highlights the nuances of CCL versus those in need of care and protection. It emphasizes the blurred line between these categories and the systemic challenges marginalized children face (HAQ, 2009). Notably, policy shifts recognizing vulnerable children involved in begging and prostitution as in need of care and protection signal positive strides yet necessitate a corresponding shift in societal attitudes (HAQ, 2009).

Under the JJS in India, a notable distinction from adult criminal justice systems is the prohibition of sentencing delinquent juveniles to imprisonment, indicative of a rehabilitative ethos that prioritizes reintegration over punitive measures. However, the system is not without its complexities and challenges. One significant contributor to juvenile delinquency in India is the prevalence of violence within their social circles.

A pivotal moment in shaping India's JJS occurred in the landmark case of *Hari Ram v. State of Rajasthan & Anr.* in 2009. This case established that individuals below 18 at the time of the offense, even predating the enactment of the JJ Act, 2000, are to be treated as juveniles, setting a precedent for juvenile justice proceedings. Studies by researchers such as Singh (2022) further our understanding of the JJ Act of 2000, focusing on provisions aimed at preventing youth delinquency through the care, protection, treatment, and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent juveniles.

India's JJS has not only evolved from within but has also been shaped by international conventions such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights of the Child. These conventions have guided India in developing a comprehensive framework aimed at protecting juveniles (Sarma, 2018). The ongoing debate between reformatory and retributive punishment in criminal justice discussions intersects with considerations regarding the age of criminal responsibility.

Recent legal amendments in India have introduced a more nuanced perspective to the JJS. These amendments now allow for the consideration of individuals aged 16-18 for treatment as adults in cases where they demonstrate a clear understanding of their actions, particularly in heinous crimes. This acknowledgment of varying levels of maturity and culpability within this age group reflects a shifting understanding of accountability in the justice system, showcasing the system's adaptability to changing societal needs.

Despite these legal developments, the Indian JJS predominantly espouses a philosophy of reformation over retribution. Emphasizing rehabilitation and opportunities for personal growth, the system recognizes the potential for positive change among young offenders, aligning with contemporary insights into adolescent development and the prospects for rehabilitation, even in cases involving serious offenses.

Agarwal and Kumar (2016) delve into the Act's efficacy in addressing a significant surge in juvenile-related crimes in India, a trend that has been a cause for concern in recent years. They commence by acknowledging this surge and scrutinizing the Act's rationale for setting the adulthood threshold at 18 years.

Central to their investigation is an exploration of the Act's capacity to discern juveniles' intentions within their social contexts and administer punitive and rehabilitative measures.

Their analysis extends to the Act's mechanisms for addressing juvenile crime, including establishing specialized entities like JJB and Children's Courts. They critically assess the Act's classification of juvenile offenses based on severity and provisions for subjecting juveniles to adult trials in heinous crimes. Additionally, they scrutinize the Act's oversight of environmental and social determinants contributing to juvenile delinquency, offering astute commentary on potential disparities in treatment based on age, which could lead to unequal justice and hinder rehabilitation efforts.

DK (2017) complements this discourse with a critical analysis of India's Juvenile Justice Act and system, emphasizing child delinquency's challenges and the inadequacies in safeguarding children's rights. They discern a disjunction between the paramountcy of children as valuable members of society and the insufficient provisions afforded to them, exacerbating the issue of child delinquency.

Their examination encompasses India's national policies and legislative frameworks to uphold children's rights, such as the National Policy for Children and the Juvenile Justice Act. However, the urgent need for adaptable sentencing protocols tailored to the unique circumstances of juvenile offenders within detention centers and residential facilities is underscored, demanding immediate attention.

Of pivotal significance is the introduction of the New Juvenile Justice Act in 2015, heralding significant amendments, including the legal option to prosecute individuals between 16 and 18 years old as adults. DK (2017) diligently dissects ensuing debates and anticipated ramifications, including its interplay with extant child protection statutes. They explore divergent perspectives from activists and judicial authorities regarding the Act's applicability date and the adjudication of juvenile offenders within the justice system, providing a comprehensive analysis of the Act's implications.

Lastly, DK (2017) delves into multifaceted theories outlining juvenile behavioral patterns, advocating for the utmost importance of integrating child-friendly amendments into the Juvenile Justice Act to effectively address the systemic deficiencies highlighted throughout the analysis. Together, these studies offer a comprehensive exploration of India's juvenile justice landscape, emphasizing the imperative of reformative approaches and holistic safeguarding the rights of children.

Meanwhile, Mousavi and Rastegari (2003) delve into the legal protections and systems governing juveniles in Iran and Malaysia, focusing on their obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). They highlight significant gaps in implementation, particularly concerning treatment that upholds the child's dignity and facilitates reintegration.

Reformation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Vocational development programs emerge as a proactive strategy within the economic sector, offering legal alternatives to underage employment and enhancing economic opportunities for teenagers and juveniles (World Youth Report, 2003). Similarly, educational initiatives play a crucial role in fostering positive self-assessment, conflict management, and aggression control among juveniles, steering them away from illegal behaviors (World Youth Report, 2003).

Moreover, recreation and youth development activities are advocated as essential components of prevention efforts, aligning with the principles outlined in the Riyadh Guidelines (World Youth Report, 2003). By establishing accessible recreational facilities and services tailored to young people's interests, communities can provide constructive outlets and deter juvenile delinquency.

Dasgupta (2010) critically examines the provisions for juvenile rehabilitation under earlier legislation, emphasizing rehabilitation over retribution. Through case studies, Dasgupta highlights disparities between stipulated rules and reality, offering recommendations for improvement. Paul's (2022) study investigates factors influencing the successful reintegration of CCL in Kerala, emphasizing family dynamics and protective factors.

Shali (2017) explores reformative methodologies for juvenile reintegration, focusing on techniques like group therapy and vocational training. Wahyudi et al. (2022) discuss the utilization of diversion within restorative justice, emphasizing tailored interventions. Alex (2019) examines the effects of rehabilitation and reintegration on children involved in criminal activities, underscoring the importance of supportive environments.

The study conducted by Paul (2022) focuses on investigating the factors influencing the successful reintegration of CCL in Kerala, India. By recognizing reintegration as a multifaceted process encompassing restoration, rehabilitation, and reintegration phases, the research delves into various dimensions including socio-demographic factors, personality traits, family dynamics, protective factors, and social support systems. Data collection was meticulously executed through interviews involving 110 CCL children alongside their parents and community case workers. The analysis revealed significant trends, particularly concerning the family environment of CCL individuals. It was observed that a considerable number of these children hailed from broken families, single-parent households, or environments marked by domestic violence and substance abuse issues. Additionally, personality profiles tended to exhibit traits associated with antisocial behavior and criminality.

The rehabilitation phase, aimed at skill development, and the subsequent reintegration phase, focused on effectively applying these acquired skills within society, were explored. Non-profit organizations emerged as pivotal actors in providing essential rehabilitation training, vocational guidance, and ongoing support for reintegration efforts. Protective factors, such as consistent follow-up, robust family support systems, cognitive abilities, and meaningful relationships, were identified as instrumental in mitigating risks and facilitating successful reintegration outcomes. However, despite these protective mechanisms, only a minority of CCL individuals—approximately 20%—were observed to achieve full reintegration. This underscores the challenges inherent in the reintegration process and highlights the need for continued support and intervention strategies to enhance successful outcomes for juvenile offenders in Kerala, India.

Singh (2022) argues that deterrence is ineffective in addressing juvenile delinquency, as children may not fully comprehend deterrent punishments, which could negatively impact their self-confidence and hinder their overall development. Instead, a holistic approach focusing on prevention, rehabilitation, and societal support is crucial. Ambre and Bhargava (2022) explore juvenile delinquency in India, emphasizing prevention measures and rehabilitation strategies. They outline various causative factors, including family dysfunction, lack of parental supervision, peer pressure, and poverty.

The analysis extends to the JJ Act, 2015, which aims to rehabilitate CCL through various committees and provisions, advocating for positive measures without stigmatization (Ambre & Bhargava, 2022). Das (2020) provides a comprehensive analysis of this Act, elaborating on the rights afforded to CCL and the roles of government and non-government organizations in rehabilitation. The study discusses the establishment and functions of different types of childcare institutions, such as observation homes and special homes, under the Act.

These studies collectively underscore the multifaceted nature of juvenile delinquency and the importance of holistic approaches to prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration in addressing this societal issue.

Methodology:

In this chapter, I outline the methodological approach used in my current study, which is of significant importance as it focuses on understanding the complexities of rehabilitating and reintegrating children involved in conflicts with the law within the socio-cultural context of Telangana. I provide a detailed explanation of the methodological foundations, research design, data collection procedures, sampling techniques, and analytical frameworks employed to address the research objectives comprehensively.

Methodological Framework

Epistemological and ontological factors lay the groundwork for the selected methodological path. The rationale for adopting a mixed-method approach is carefully outlined, demonstrating how it aligns with the specific needs of the research context. Furthermore, a detailed account of the methodological operationalization is provided, highlighting the seamless integration of qualitative and quantitative methods to address the diverse research inquiries and objectives effectively.

Objectives:

Stakeholders:

1. To obtain insights into the rehabilitation practices currently employed for CCL in Telangana.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of existing juvenile rehabilitation practices in Telangana.

3. To understand the strengths and limitations of reintegration practices for CCL in Telangana.
4. To identify and comprehend the challenges faced by stakeholders of CCL during the rehabilitation and reintegration process in Telangana.
5. To develop a conceptual framework based on analysis to suggest policy changes in the CJS.
6. To suggest measures to improve the rehabilitation and reintegration process from the stakeholders' perspective.

Children:

1. To obtain insights into the experiences and perspectives of CCL regarding the rehabilitation and reintegration process in Telangana State.
2. To Identify and understand the specific needs, concerns, and challenges children face during the rehabilitation and reintegration process in Telangana State.
3. To Explore the availability and quality of educational and health support opportunities for CCL in Telangana.

Research Questions:

1. How do people involved perceive the current rehabilitation and reintegration practices and programs for CCL in Telangana?
2. What are the significant challenges CCL face during the rehabilitation and reintegration process in Telangana, and what areas need improvement, according to stakeholders?
3. What suggestions do stakeholders have to reduce the recidivism rate and enhance the rehabilitation and reintegration process in Telangana?
4. How do the perspectives and experiences of stakeholders align with the JJS (JJS) principles in India, specifically regarding rehabilitating and reintegrating CCL?
5. How does the involvement of mental health professionals impact the rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles, and what challenges and opportunities do stakeholders identify in this regard?
6. How do different stakeholders work together and communicate to ensure a holistic approach to juvenile rehabilitation and reintegration in Telangana, and what barriers exist in this process?

Research Design

The study adopted a mixed-method research design, specifically using qualitative methods with Semi-Structured interviews and quantitative methods such as organizing the collected questionnaires. By integrating these approaches, we aim to better understand the complexities surrounding child rehabilitation and reintegration in Telangana. This approach allows us to gather data systematically while delving more deeply into individual perspectives and experiences. By combining these methods, I hope to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research topic.

Universe and Sampling:

In Telangana State, the government has established two children's homes, one special home, one special home cum children's home, and three observation homes. Among these, one special home is designated specifically for female delinquents. The interviews for this study were conducted between February and March 2024, based on the availability and schedules of the interviewees.

Table:3:

List of all homes and regions in Telangana

S.no	Name of the Home	Location
1	Children Home for Boys	Saidabad, Hyderabad
2	Children Home for Boys	Auto Nagar X Road, Warangal
3	Special home for Boys	Saidabad, Hyderabad
4	Special - cum - Children Home and Observation Home for Girls	Nimboliadda, Hyderabad
S.no	Name of the Home	Location
1	Observation Home for Boys	Saidabad, Hyderabad

2	Observation Home for Boys	Nagaram, Nizamabad
3	Observation Home for Boys	Auto Nagar X Road, Warangal
S.no	Child Guidance Bureau	Location
1	Child Guidance Bureau	Nampally, Hyderabad
S.no	State After Care Home	Location
1	O/o the Director of JWCS & WSC	Saidabad, Hyderabad

Source: Telangana Police Website

A purposive and convenience sampling strategy was meticulously chosen to ensure a diverse group of stakeholders is involved in the JJS across the Nizamabad, Nalgonda, and Hyderabad districts. This approach aimed to recruit 20 voluntary participants, including professionals and CCL, to guarantee broad representation. Special attention was given to minimizing disruption to the participants' schedules during the interview process, demonstrating a thoughtful and considerate approach to their involvement.

Data Collection

Data collection for this project involves conducting semi-structured interviews with various stakeholders, including professionals and CCL'S in the JJS. These interviews are meticulously scheduled to accommodate the participants' preferences and availability, and all participants were provided with informed consent before the interviews. This helps to create an environment conducive to open dialogue and the generation of rich, valuable data. This approach ensures that the insights gathered are thorough and reflect the diverse perspectives of those involved in the juvenile system. Notably, the interviews were conducted in Telugu to facilitate effective communication and comprehension among all participants.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data analysis uses statistical techniques to describe and interpret numerical data collected through surveys and structured questionnaires. This helps to summarize and draw insights from the data. On the other hand, qualitative data analysis takes an interpretative phenomenological approach, delving deeply into personal lived experiences to gain a nuanced understanding of the rehabilitation and reintegration process. This method allows for a detailed examination of individuals' experiences and provides valuable insights that may not be captured through quantitative analysis alone.

The mixed-method approach utilized in this study provides a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of child rehabilitation and reintegration in the Telangana region. The insights gained from this research offer valuable contributions that can significantly shape and improve policies and practices within the system. This study has the potential to pave the way for future advancements in this critical area, ultimately leading to positive developments and improvements in child rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

Limitations:

- The sample for this study was confined exclusively to Telangana State.
- The long official procedures created difficulties, as they were time-consuming and obtaining permission to communicate with children in observation homes required additional lengthy processes.
- There was a lack of permission to use electronic gadgets such as cameras and tape recorders, which would have facilitated data collection.
- The sample size is small, but this study serves as a foundational basis for further research in this field.
- The sample included more boys than girls, resulting in a limited representation of female delinquents.

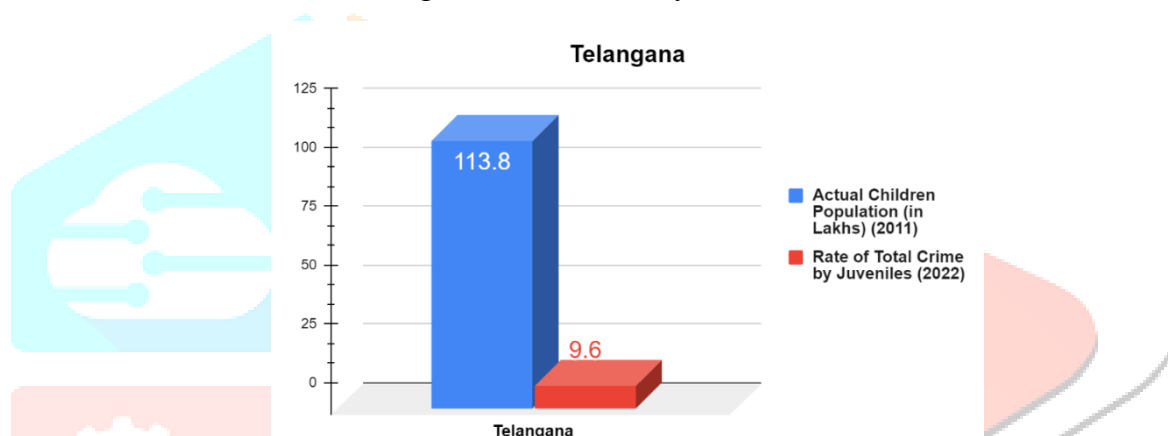
Results and Discussion:

This chapter presents and evaluates the study results, emphasizing the comprehensive analysis of the rehabilitation and reintegration of CCL in Telangana. The main goal is to illuminate the research findings, thoroughly analyzing the data collected from various stakeholders and the juveniles. Through a comprehensive discussion, this section aims to interpret these findings within the broader context of existing literature, theoretical frameworks, and the unique socio-cultural environment of Telangana. It seeks to provide a deeper understanding of rehabilitation and reintegration practices, focusing on the challenges striving towards a brighter future for children.

The study employed a mixed-method analysis involving the participation of 15 stakeholders and five juveniles. The selection of participants utilized purposive and convenience sampling. Focused on Telangana, a newly established state with a high incidence of juvenile delinquency, as evidenced by the National Crime Records Bureau. This deliberate selection facilitated a comprehensive exploration of the rehabilitation and reintegration processes in a region encountering significant challenges in addressing juvenile delinquency. The study aimed to comprehend the efficacy and hurdles encountered in rehabilitating and reintegrating CCL.

Figure: 3:

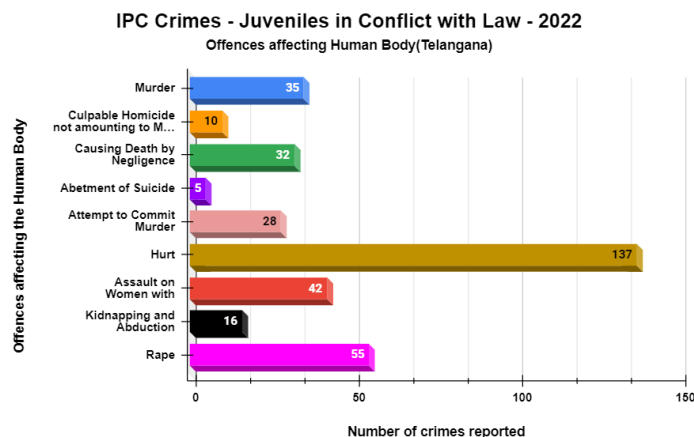
Telangana rate of crime by children in 2022



The bar chart entitled "Telangana" provides a comparative analysis of the actual child population in Telangana in 2011 and the juvenile crime rate in the year. The chart employs distinct color codes, using blue to represent the actual children population and red to depict the rate of total juvenile crime.

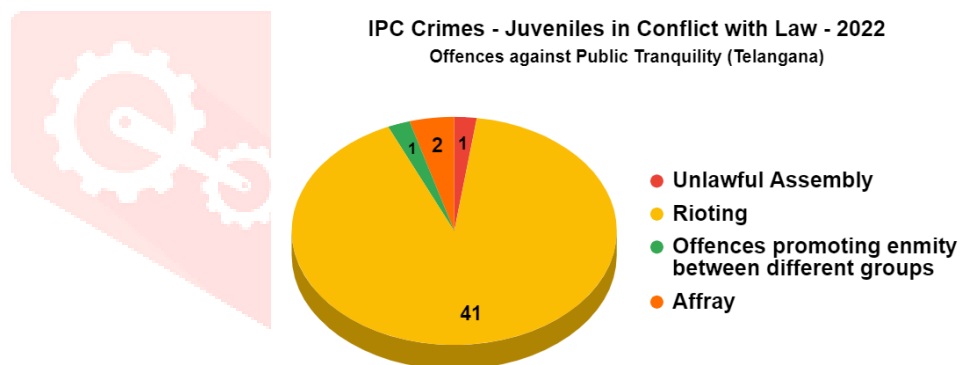
The data depicted in the chart reveals a striking contrast. The actual population of children in Telangana in 2011 was 113.8 lakhs (11.38 million), illustrated by a notably tall blue bar, signifying a substantial juvenile population in the state. In contrast, the rate of total crimes committed by juveniles in 2022 is represented by a significantly shorter red bar, measuring 9.6 per lakh of the population. This visual disparity emphasizes the difference between the overall child population and the incidence of juvenile delinquency.

The chart effectively highlights the scale of the juvenile population relative to the rate of juvenile crime, underscoring the necessity of addressing the specific needs of the significant number of children within the state. Furthermore, juxtaposing these figures suggests that while the absolute number of juvenile offenders might appear small compared to the total child population, the implications for policy and intervention are substantial. It underscores the critical importance of implementing effective rehabilitation and reintegration strategies to mitigate juvenile delinquency and foster a safer societal environment.

Figure: 4:**IPC Crimes - CCL – 2022 – Offences affecting Human Body**

The analysis of the incidence of IPC (Indian Penal Code) crimes as reported by the NCRB for 2022 in Telangana presents a comprehensive exploration of offenses affecting the human body committed by juvenile offenders. This dataset offers valuable insights into the convergence of juvenile justice and delinquent behavior among minors. By meticulously examining this dataset, we can better comprehend the intricate dynamics that influence juvenile criminal conduct and its broader implications for the CJS.

It is evident from the data that the primary offenses committed by juveniles in Telangana predominantly encompass crimes such as Hurt and Rape. These offenses not only represent grave violations of the law but also underscore substantial challenges in effectively addressing juvenile delinquency.

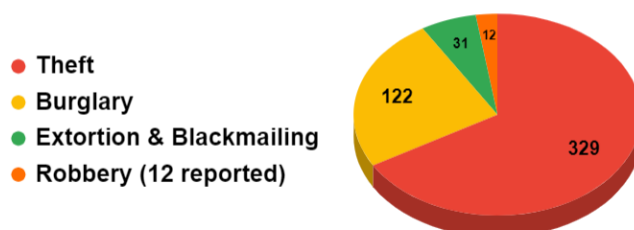
Figure: 5:**IPC Crimes – CCL – 2022 -Offences against Public Tranquility**

The pie chart above illustrates a thorough breakdown of offenses against public tranquility committed by juveniles in Telangana during 2022, with Rioting prominently highlighted due to its substantial presence. Offenses against public tranquility encompass a variety of disruptive behaviors that disturb societal peace and order, providing valuable insights into juvenile delinquency trends within the region.

Figure: 6:

IPC Crimes – CCL – 2022 – Offences against Property

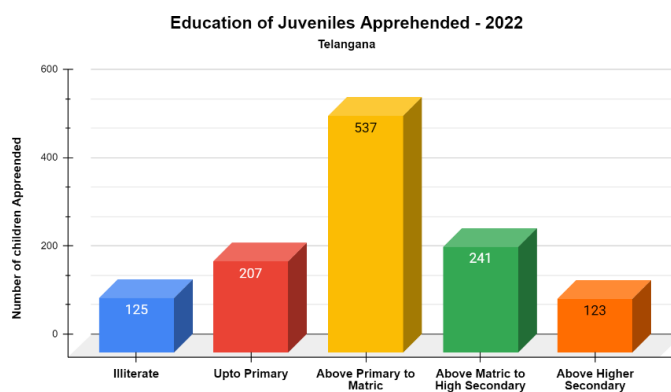
IPC Crimes - Juveniles in Conflict with Law - 2022
Offences against Property (Telangana)



The pie chart provides a visual representation of the prevalence of property offenses committed by juveniles. The numerical data depicted in the visual aid support the chart's assertion that theft is the most frequent offense among juveniles.

Figure: 7:

Education of Juveniles Apprehended – 2022



The data presented in the chart offers profound insights into the intricate interplay between educational attainment and family circumstances in the context of juvenile apprehension. The analysis of this data, which covers 537 apprehended juveniles, reveals a spectrum of educational backgrounds ranging from primary education to matriculation, with only 123 juveniles having completed higher secondary education. These statistics underscore the pivotal role of education in shaping the trajectories of juveniles and highlight the potential for targeted educational interventions to address delinquency.

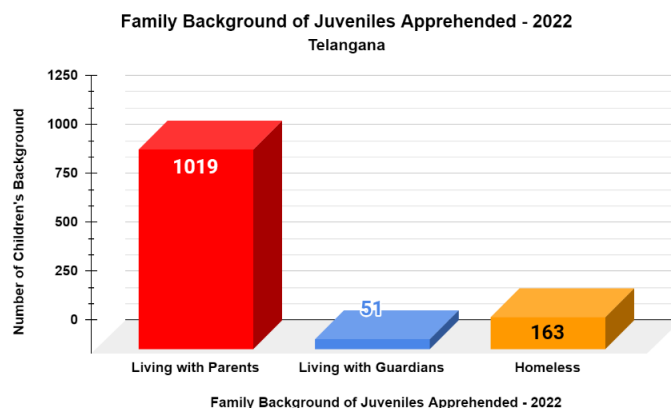
Moreover, a significant number of juveniles are observed to have attained education up to the higher secondary level, indicating a substantial cohort actively engaged in education beyond the matriculation stage.

It is crucial to fully grasp the socio-economic and developmental factors that influence juvenile delinquency. A comprehensive understanding of these educational trends is a significant first step in this endeavor. Variables such as access to quality education, socio-economic inequalities, peer dynamics, and family influences all play a role in shaping the pathways that lead children into conflict with the legal system.

From a policy perspective, these findings emphasize the critical need for tailored interventions and support mechanisms to address the educational requirements of juveniles, thus preventing future criminal activity and promoting rehabilitation. By mitigating educational disparities and providing avenues for ongoing learning and skill enhancement, stakeholders can strive to diminish recidivism rates and foster positive outcomes for apprehended juveniles within the justice system.

Figure: 8:

Family Background of Juveniles Apprehended - 2022



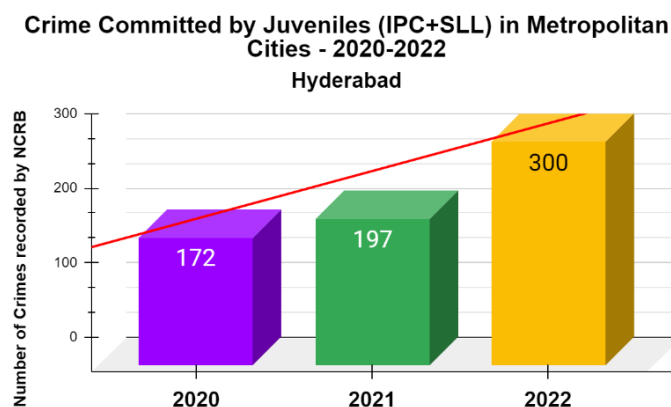
The data depicted in the graph offers a comprehensive analysis of the familial environments in which apprehended juveniles are situated, presenting a diverse range of living conditions. The statistics indicate that a majority, comprising 1,019 juveniles, are domiciled in parental households, underscoring the pivotal role of familial support structures in their upbringing. In contrast, a smaller cohort of 51 juveniles is under the care of non-parental guardians, thereby highlighting the varied family dynamics within this juvenile cohort.

The graph also notably delineates 163 juveniles as homeless, thereby emphasizing the confluence of socioeconomic adversity and heightened delinquency risk. This discovery underscores the intricate challenges confronting juveniles lacking stable housing, thereby highlighting the need for targeted interventions and support services to address their distinct circumstances.

A thorough examination of these family background insights is imperative for comprehending the broader social determinants impacting juvenile conduct and entanglement with the justice system. It underscores the complexity of the issue and the significance of holistic strategies that incorporate familial support, economic circumstances, and communal resources in endeavors to avert juvenile delinquency and foster favorable outcomes for at-risk young individuals.

Figure: 9:

Crimes Committed by Juveniles in Hyderabad – 2020- 2022



The chart provided presents a stark reality of juvenile offenses, encompassing both the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special Local Laws (SLL) violations, within the metropolitan confines of Hyderabad. The data reveals a disturbing trend of escalating juvenile delinquency, demanding our immediate attention and collaborative intervention.

In 2020, there were 172 documented juvenile offenses under IPC and SLL. This figure rose to 197 in 2021, marking a significant increase. However, the most alarming statistic is the projected count for 2022, which is a staggering 300. This projection serves as a wake-up call, indicating a sharp rise in juvenile offenses that demands our immediate and collective action.

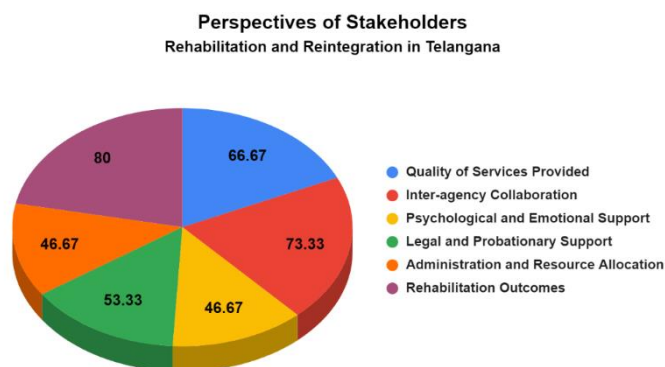
Such a consistent pattern of escalation underscores the pressing imperative for multifaceted intervention strategies intended to target the underlying factors of youth criminal behavior. Understanding the underlying socio-economic, familial, and community dynamics contributing to this surge in youthful transgressions is paramount for formulating effective preventive measures and rehabilitative initiatives.

In essence, this depiction serves as a clarion call for proactive engagement by stakeholders across law enforcement, social services, and educational spheres. It's not just a problem for one sector to solve, but a challenge that we must confront together, pooling our resources and expertise, to mitigate the burgeoning challenge of juvenile offending within the urban fabric of Hyderabad.

Quantitative data:

Figure: 10:

Perspectives of Stakeholders



1. Quality of Services:

Based on the research findings, a significant 66.67% of stakeholders agree that the services provided to juveniles are effective and prioritize the best interests of the children. This consensus is a clear indication of the positive impact of the existing services on the well-being and growth of young individuals. It also underscores the importance of continuing these services to ensure the continued positive development of the children.

The comprehensive services, which are a testament to the significant input from stakeholders, encompass various elements, including educational aid, psychological counseling, legal support, and rehabilitation initiatives. These services are tailored to address the complex needs of CCL. Stakeholders can rightfully take pride in the fact that these services not only attend to the immediate needs of the children but also significantly contribute to their long-term welfare. However, while these services are robust in theory, their implementation in reality is lacking, as evidenced by the recurring issue of children becoming repeat offenders.

Furthermore, this favorable evaluation underscores the unwavering dedication of the personnel involved in juvenile justice to maintain high standards of care and support. It attests to their commitment to ensuring that the facilities and programs provided foster the comprehensive development of the children, empowering them to reintegrate into society as accountable members. This dedication is anticipated to evoke confidence and a sense of reassurance among the stakeholders.

Nevertheless, the study implicitly points to the necessity for continual improvements and ongoing monitoring to sustain and elevate service quality. While the current services prioritize the implementation of regulations and addressing the mandated requirements, there is an imperative need for further training to better cater to the needs of the children. **Ongoing training for staff, particularly in trauma-informed care and other specialized areas, can significantly enhance the effectiveness of these services, guaranteeing that all facets of the children's well-being are thoroughly attended to.** Furnishing stakeholders with trauma-informed training is critical for effectively supporting CCL who are CNCP. This specialized training would empower stakeholders to comprehend and address the distinct challenges faced by these children, supporting them in their recovery and effective return to society.

1.1. Staff Training and Competence:

As per the responses, stakeholders are committed to undergoing annual training to ensure compliance with the law and any subsequent amendments. However, it's clear that there is a crucial need for more training in trauma-informed approaches. While stakeholders are adept at following protocols and providing facilities CCL, there is an immediate need for additional training focused on

comprehending and responding to the best interests of these children. Notably, stakeholders may not fully grasp that CCL often perceive themselves as victims, thereby highlighting the need for specialized training to effectively manage such scenarios.

1.2. Infrastructure and Facilities:

During my visit, I found that the locations I toured were well-equipped to host sessions. Nonetheless, a notable concern arises when children are required to travel between districts for these sessions. In Telangana, despite 33 designated Juvenile Justice Boards by guidelines, only 10 of these boards are fully operational due to personnel shortages. This logistical issue impacts the convenience of children and creates difficulties for their parents to visit them. Despite these challenges, the board members are trying to accommodate children by providing housing closer to their residences or, at the very least, within the same district.

The observation home for boys in Hyderabad showcased a comprehensive range of facilities that not only met but exceeded the requirements outlined in the Juvenile Justice Act, all under one roof, ensuring convenient access to essential services. While the position of a medical staff member was vacant during my inspection, it's important to note that a temporary arrangement was in place to meet the children's medical needs. This temporary solution effectively underscores the critical need for permanent staff to ensure continuous and reliable medical service provision.

Observation homes are equipped with essential facilities, though there are variations in quality. Upgrades and maintenance are needed to ensure a conducive environment for rehabilitation.

1.3. Individualized Care Plans:

The individualized care plans are meticulously crafted to cater to each child's distinct needs, encompassing educational, psychological, and vocational training elements to nurture their comprehensive development. Remarkably, the children are involved in activities that align with their interests, such as archery and other practical skills, to cultivate vocational training with a long-term outlook, facilitating the acquisition of skills conducive to a sustainable future career pathway.

For example, the superintendent has accentuated providing a dedicated area for archery practice at the boys' observation home. Furthermore, the girls are afforded the opportunity to refine their archery skills under the tutelage of proficient instructors. This inclusivity promotes physical and mental discipline, fostering the children's sense of accomplishment and self-esteem.

Notwithstanding these affirmative endeavors, there is an evident necessity for more robust psychological assistance to diminish recidivism rates further. Augmented psychological counseling and support services are imperative in addressing the underlying issues that predispose children to re-offend and in averting their subsequent incarceration in correctional facilities upon their departure from the observation homes. By delivering comprehensive mental health support, the system can enhance its capacity to equip children with the emotional and cognitive resources requisite for successfully reintegrating into society and cultivating auspicious, productive lives.

1.4. Accessibility of Programs:

The programs are intended to be accessible to all children, but certain barriers, such as location, disabilities, and other factors, hinder access for some. Notably, only 10 out of 33 districts in Telangana have operational Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), signaling a significant lack of facilities to cater to the needs of CCL in many districts. Although provisions for JJBs exist in other districts, the limited number of operational boards creates challenges for children to avail themselves of the programs. This also presents difficulties for parents, who often need help to visit their children regularly due to long distances, particularly considering that most CCL come from low-income families, making frequent travel financially burdensome.

Moreover, the issue of accessibility and regular parental visitation is further exacerbated by the fact that there are only three observation homes available. This scarcity of observation homes significantly hampers the ability of parents to visit their children, thereby impeding the rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles into society. To address these challenges, it is crucial to increase the number of observation homes and ensure the functionality of Juvenile Justice Boards in all districts. Such expansion would not only improve program accessibility for children but also facilitate more

frequent family visits, thereby providing enhanced support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles into society.

2. Inter-agency Collaboration

The aspect delineates the significance of fostering collaboration among various stakeholders including government bodies, NGOs and community groups, to bolster the rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles. Notably, 73.33% of stakeholders perceive the interagency collaboration as effective, signifying the potential for a robust and harmonious network committed to juvenile rehabilitation.

Nonetheless, opportunities for improvement exist. While stakeholders generally acknowledge the importance of collaboration, they tend to operate within their respective domains without thoroughly amalgamating the efforts of other agencies. Strengthening this collaborative approach can, in turn, augment the efficacy of rehabilitation programs. By cultivating a more inclusive and cooperative environment, stakeholders can harness each other's strengths and resources, thus enabling a more comprehensive support system for juveniles.

Promoting joint initiatives, organizing regular interagency meetings, and implementing shared training programs could help bridge these gaps and fortify a unified endeavor toward successful juvenile rehabilitation and reintegration.

2.1.Collaboration with NGOs and External Agencies:

The provisions of the Act stipulate that the JJB and the CWC may coalesce in addressing pertinent cases. However, in practice, the autonomy of the Board is frequently evident, with minimal to no instances of referrals to the CWC. The JJB routinely solicits the aid of local government medical colleges for psychological or psychiatric expertise.

According to the Superintendent, the observation home has made significant strides by partnering with prestigious institutions like the Tata Institute of Social Sciences(TISS). This collaboration has led to notable improvements in providing specialized assistance and enhancing the reintegration process for CCL. Strengthening the cooperation among JJB, CWC, and other professional entities can further enhance the support system, ensuring comprehensive care and rehabilitation for these juveniles.

2.2.Multi-Disciplinary Approach:

A collaborative approach involving a multidisciplinary team comprising social workers, psychologists, educators, and law enforcement is essential to provide comprehensive support for children. All stakeholders concur that this holistic approach is vital for the child's best interests. However, this collaborative model often resides in the realm of theory rather than in practical application, with limited real-world implementation. There is a pressing need for greater integration and active cooperation among stakeholders to translate these principles into practical action. The enhancement of collaboration will be pivotal to the success of these endeavors, ensuring that children are provided with the necessary care and support to ensure their well-being.

3. Psychological and Emotional Support

According to interviews, 46.67% of stakeholders expressed the perception that children receive satisfactory psychological services or counseling for their well-being. This suggests that a majority of stakeholders believe that children are not receiving adequate mental health support. This underscores a notable disparity in the existing support framework, highlighting the necessity for enhanced mental health services to more effectively cater to the requirements of CCL.

3.1.Mental Health Services:

The current protocol, which involves only three sessions per child to evaluate their mental health, is a significant limitation. This is primarily due to the shortage of available psychologists within the board. Psychologists are faced with the challenge of balancing their regular caseloads with their responsibilities toward juvenile individuals, consequently restricting the time they can allocate to these cases. It is evident that a thorough assessment of mental health cannot be accomplished within a mere three sessions, thus emphasizing the importance of more effective strategies. To address the

psychological issues, trauma, and behavioral challenges faced by these individuals, it is imperative to establish a framework for regular counseling sessions. This approach would ensure a more comprehensive and supportive system tailored to the mental well-being of each child.

3.2.Supportive Peer Networks:

Rehabilitative programs and vocational training play an important role in promoting the growth of a supportive peer group among children. Within the context of sports, it is evident that individuals often engage in mutual encouragement and develop resilience in their pursuit of victory. Similarly, such an environment is being cultivated among children undergoing these programs, fostering a positive and inclusive collaborative atmosphere that promotes personal growth and encourages mutual support.

3.3. Cultural Sensitivity:

Efforts are diligently undertaken to incorporate children's cultural backgrounds into their rehabilitation plans conscientiously. The duration of my visit coincided with the Ramzan season when Muslims fast (Roza) and partake in meals after prayers. The observation home demonstrated thoughtful consideration for the religious practices of the children, ensuring that the fasting requirements were appropriately catered to. This high regard for religious beliefs underscores the facility's dedication to nurturing an inclusive environment devoid of cultural biases. Such an environment plays a pivotal role in engendering a sense of belonging and fostering acceptance amongst the children, which are integral to their rehabilitation and personal development.

4. Legal and Probationary Support

According to the data, 53.33% of stakeholders affirm that children receive legal and probationary support as needed. This suggests that most stakeholders recognize the delivery of crucial legal and probationary assistance while highlighting the need for further enhancement to guarantee consistent support for all children.

4.1.Legal Protections:

My interaction with a Legal cum Probation officer who emphasized their responsibility to assist and guide children through the legal process. However, in many districts, their services must be more utilized and integrated into the board's activities. Free legal assistance is accessible to all children under the Act, offering vital support to those who cannot afford external legal representation. Ensuring access to legal aid is essential for safeguarding the rights of children throughout the judicial proceedings.

4.2.Probationary Support:

Probation officers' oversight and support are essential for monitoring children's progress as they reintegrate into society. These officers regularly visit children and supervise those transitioning out of the system for a specified period. However, a scarcity of personnel often hinders their ability to provide individualized attention when needed. This shortage emphasizes the need for additional probation officers to guarantee that each child receives adequate care and supervision during reintegration.

5. Administration and Resource Allocation

According to findings, 46.67% of stakeholders think adequate administrative measures and resources are allocated for the well-being of children. However, a notable portion of stakeholders emphasizes a significant shortage of personnel dedicated to children's welfare. This discrepancy underscores the urgency for addressing staffing deficiencies to guarantee adequate support and care for children.

5.1.Funding and Resource Allocation:

Adequate funding is crucial for maintaining facilities, recruiting competent staff, and ensuring the necessary resources. State government funding is instrumental in the provision of these facilities and services. Appropriate financial backing facilitates the efficient operation of programs and initiatives to promote the welfare and reformation of juveniles involved in legal conflicts.

5.2.Personnel Resource Allocation:

The consensus among stakeholders is that there is a need for increased personnel. A striking example is the presence of only nine probation officers across the Telangana region. These officers play a crucial role in the reintegration of children, but their scarcity imposes a significant burden. At times, a single probation officer may be tasked with overseeing two districts, highlighting the immense responsibility placed on them.

Additionally, the absence of a dedicated psychologist within the Juvenile Justice Board necessitates immediate attention. Presently, psychologists are drawn from government medical colleges, a suboptimal arrangement. The inclusion of a specifically trained psychologist who addresses the unique needs of juvenile cases would notably enhance the board's efficacy.

The shortage of dedicated judges is another aspect of this issue. The incumbent Principal Junior Civil Judge, who also serves as a Juvenile Justice Board Magistrate, faces significant challenges in managing both roles. The different levels of operation and the unique demands of juvenile cases make it clear that a separate judge exclusively devoted to the Juvenile Justice Board is necessary. This measure would allow for more focused attention on juvenile matters, leading to improved outcomes for the children involved.

6. Rehabilitation Outcomes

The majority of stakeholders, i.e., 80%, believe that current rehabilitative facilities yield positive results, but they recognize the persistent issue of recidivism. Stakeholders point out that despite undergoing multiple rehabilitation programs, going back to the familiar family and peer surroundings can lead to reoffending. However, an emphasis on the success of reintegration shows that many children with vocational skills are less likely to reenter the system. This underscores the significance of vocational training in breaking the cycle of delinquency and supporting the long-term integration of these children into society.

6.1. Educational Continuity:

The observation home plays a crucial role in enabling educational continuity for children under its care. Through structured programs, the facility ensures that children have access to education through traditional schooling or alternative systems such as the Telangana Open School Society. The individuals aged 18 and above who desire to continue their studies further are provided with specialized support within a distinct educational environment recognizing the importance of education for young adults.

Moreover, the observation home places significant emphasis on vocational skill development. This method is created to meet the various requirements and desires of the children under its supervision, demonstrating the institution's understanding of the unique paths to success that each child may choose.

The educational framework is enriched through morning and evening classes, creating a conducive environment for formal education and the inculcation of moral values. This comprehensive method seeks to promote the overall growth and welfare of children, preparing them for successful inclusion in society.

6.2. Vocational and Life Skills Training:

The training provided to children in observation homes encompasses a wide range of trades to equip them with the necessary skills for future employment and independent living. Moreover, these facilities offer platforms where the children can showcase their talents and abilities. Notably, the observation home in Hyderabad has received recognition for the outstanding accomplishments of its residents in disciplines such as carrom, basketball, and archery. Both male and female residents are actively encouraged and trained based on their interests, engaging in daily sessions lasting 3 to 4 hours.

The superintendent reports that this targeted training approach has led to a discernible positive shift in the behavior of the residents. Formerly aggressive individuals have marked improvements in friendliness, kindness, and composure. Many of these children hail from environments characterized by familial neglect, negative peer influences, parental mistreatment, and bullying, factors that frequently precipitate their involvement in petty criminal activities and subsequent placement in observation homes. As part of their rehabilitation, stakeholders

prioritize nurturing the children's interests to foster their talents. A noteworthy outcome of these efforts is that several children have excelled in both state and national-level tournaments, underscoring the efficacy of these programs in effecting transformative changes in their lives and opening up new avenues of opportunity for them.

6.3.Reintegration Success Rates:

The reintegration success rate for children from observation homes is approximately 50-50. After showcasing their talents and receiving robust support, some children reintegrate into society with significant achievements. These success stories underscore the potential for change and the positive impact of tailored rehabilitation programs. It's a clear indication of their effectiveness and a compelling reason for stakeholders to continue their support and investment in these programs.

However, a significant number of children returning to their families tend to repeat offenses and might find themselves in the adult criminal justice system. The environment they return to often plays a critical role in this outcome. Children from neglectful or abusive families or those influenced by hostile peer groups face a higher risk of recidivism. This underscores the crucial need for continued support and monitoring, even after they leave the observation homes. It's a call to action for all stakeholders to advocate for this essential post-reintegration care.

Programs must concentrate on the children's talents and skills and ensure a stable and supportive environment post-reintegration. Strengthening family support systems, providing ongoing counseling, and maintaining a connection with positive peer groups are crucial elements that can help mitigate the risk of reoffending. Reiterating this importance can help stakeholders feel reassured and committed to these aspects of the reintegration process.

Children's perspective:

A qualitative observation was conducted with five children residing in an observation home, where each child disclosed receiving adequate care and treatment. The juveniles were found to be detained for a range of offenses, with some expressing their belief of being wrongly accused. It was revealed that some children had been brought in due to familial conflicts. In contrast, others were implicated in cases under the POCSO Act, often stemming from inter-caste relationships. Furthermore, it was noted that many of these children hail from low-income backgrounds, rendering it challenging to secure bail and resulting in prolonged stays at the observation home.

The offenses attributed to these minors encompassed a broad spectrum, including robbery, sexual assault, homicide, complicity in criminal activities, dacoity, and involvement in street altercations. Despite the severity of these allegations, the children asserted that they were treated fairly during their time at the observation home.

Children in Conflict with the Law: Current Status and Rehabilitation Journey

Case 1:

A young individual who completed 10th grade but discontinued further studies is involved in a POCSO case where he is accused of assaulting a woman in the fields. Currently, he is undergoing initial counseling sessions to assess his mental state and understand the events that resulted in the offense. Following the legal proceedings and sentencing, rehabilitation efforts will focus on addressing his behavior and providing necessary support.

Case 2:

A constable caught another child during a robbery attempt. He is in the initial stages of the legal process, receiving counseling to evaluate his situation and prepare for sentencing. Rehabilitation programs will help him comprehend the consequences of his actions and facilitate his reintegration into society.

Case 3:

An individual, aged 17, who left school after completing 5th grade was involved in a street fight near alcohol sellers, though he was not intoxicated. He is currently in the observation home, undergoing counseling

to assess his behavioral issues and prepare for legal proceedings. Rehabilitation plans will focus on addressing his behavioral challenges and providing educational opportunities to support his development.

Case 4:

A young adult faces two separate POCSO cases, one at 18 and another at 20 years old, indicating repeated offenses. He is currently participating in counseling sessions as part of the legal process. Rehabilitation efforts will be essential in addressing the underlying factors contributing to his repeated delinquency and in preventing future incidents. These cases highlight the initial stages of intervention for CCL, emphasizing the role of counseling before sentencing and subsequent rehabilitation efforts. Each individual's journey through the legal and rehabilitation process is critical for guiding them towards positive behavioral changes and successful reintegration into society.

Case 5:

A cohort of juveniles was detained for committing dacoity on highways, specifically targeting high-value items from vehicles such as cars and high-end motorcycles, including chains, rings, gold accessories, and cash. This grave transgression led to their placement in an observation home pending legal processes and efforts aimed at their rehabilitation.

Case 6:

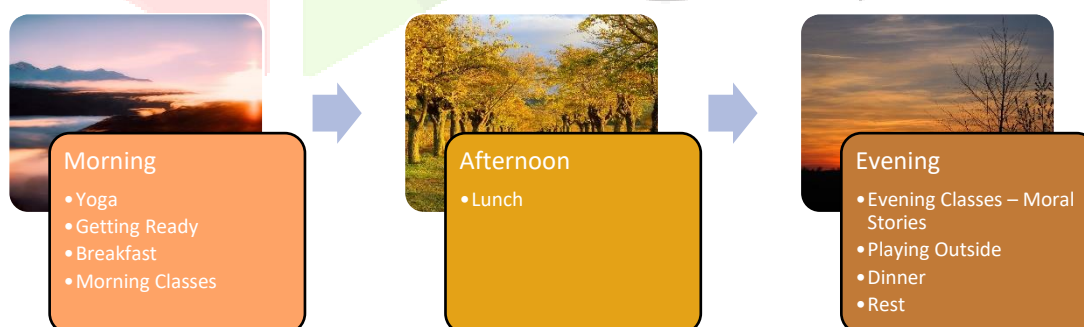
In a separate incident, two juveniles—one in 10th grade and the other in 8th grade—perpetrated their initial offense by stealing a motorcycle. Although they later returned the vehicle, they still encountered legal repercussions from the owner. As a result, the 10th-grade student missed his board exams due to ongoing legal proceedings, prompting stakeholders to consider alternate avenues, such as open school exams, to complete his studies. When interrogated about their actions, the juveniles revealed a yearning for the excitement associated with riding the motorcycle, highlighting the need for a deeper understanding of their motivations.

The cases above underscore the imperative nature of tailored interventions that encompass educational requirements, psychological support, and rehabilitation endeavors. It is our collective responsibility to guide these juveniles toward constructive and law-abiding societal trajectories through these crucial interventions.

The structured daily schedule confirmed by the Superintendent plays a vital part in safeguarding the children's welfare. Sustaining and enhancing this aspect is imperative for improving the children's overall welfare.

Figure 11:

Daily Schedule of Children in Observation Home in Hyderabad



Stakeholders Perspective:

It's essential to approach each child based on their awareness of the implications of their behavior. If a child is dealing with addiction or other issues beyond the scope of the JJB, they are referred to the CWC for further assessment and to create a comprehensive plan.

Education and vocational training are pivotal in our rehabilitation process. For children who have left school, we focus on providing them with the necessary education and skills. For those still in school, we make every effort to support their academic journey.

Though it's inappropriate to allow children to work, rehabilitation efforts include training programs in trades such as electrician work, plumbing, and vehicle mechanics. These vocational training programs are

designed to provide juveniles with practical skills to facilitate their reintegration into society and minimize the chances of reoffending.

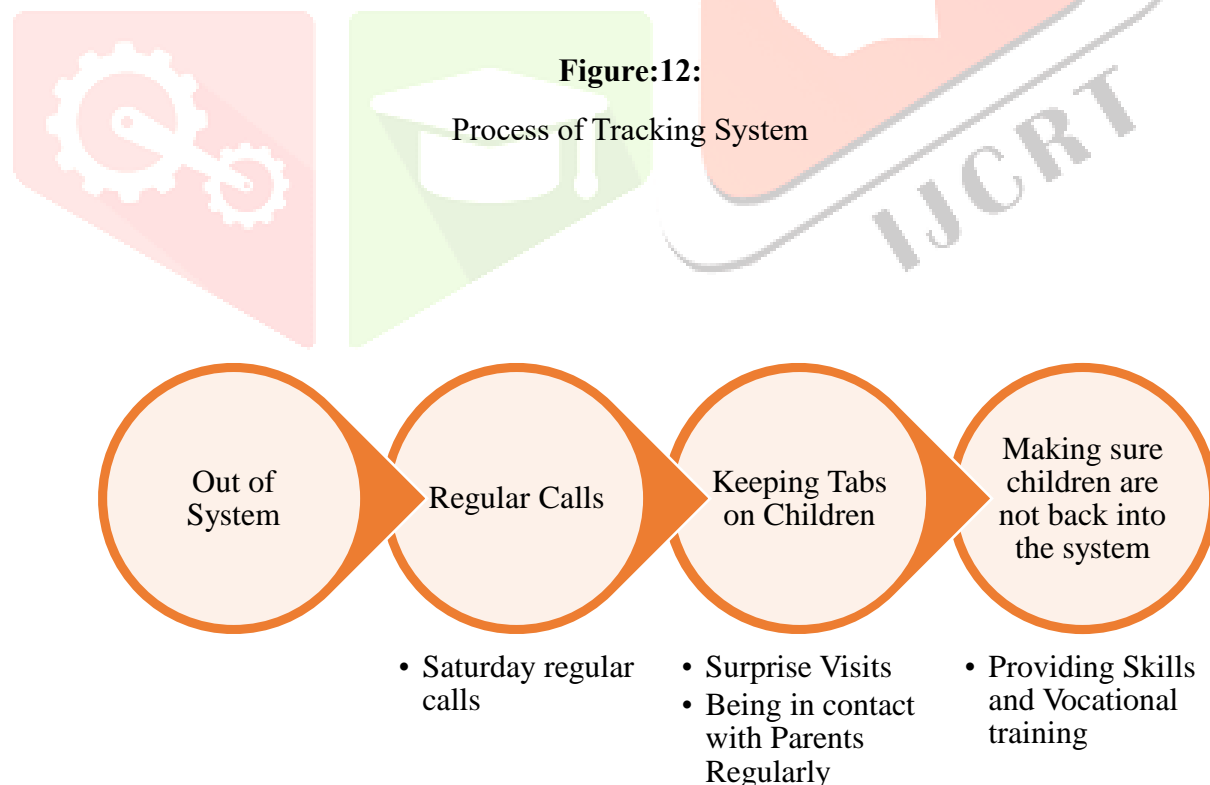
Judge:

The primary concern brought to light by the magistrate pertains to the effective management of responsibilities as a junior civil judge and magistrate. A particular challenge arises due to the limited frequency of sessions of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), which convenes only once or twice a week. This restricted schedule presents complications in adhering to the stipulated four-month timeline outlined in the JJ Act. The gradual progress in case disposal and frequent non-attendance of assigned hearings by parents and children contribute to further delays in the judicial process. To expedite case resolution, the magistrate advocates for establishing a regular JJB, augmented by increased observation homes in each district. Such measures would significantly alleviate the burden on the judiciary and the affected families, fostering a more efficient and effective legal system.

Social Workers:

The scheduling constraints faced by social workers, where only one or two days a week are designated for case management and counseling, pose a significant challenge. In some instances, high caseloads prevent stakeholders from adequately addressing individual cases, necessitating an extension of the four-month timeline and increasing overall caseloads due to the regular emergence of new cases. Moreover, certain districts need more functioning juvenile justice boards, placing additional burdens on existing boards to compensate for the shortfall. The absence of aftercare programs, as noted by some social workers, is also identified as a contributing factor to recidivism.

A "Tracking System" was implemented to address these challenges in January 2023. This system allows stakeholders to monitor children who have transitioned out of the system for approximately a year. It is designed to track the children's progress, including their educational pursuits, employment status, punctuality, and behavioral patterns. When children appear to fall back into negative peer influences, stakeholders collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to intervene.



Despite the need for additional personnel to widen the system's coverage, the 'Tracking System' has proven remarkably successful, effectively monitoring 900 cases thus far. This initiative showcases the

potential for enhanced monitoring and support for post-rehabilitation children. It is evidence of the system's efficacy in reducing recidivism and facilitating positive reintegration into society. The need for additional personnel underscores the system's scalability and potential for further success.

Psychologist:

In the JJS, every child undergoes a comprehensive mental status examination to assess a variety of cognitive and psychological aspects. This examination evaluates the child's IQ, memory, and behavioral patterns. Additionally, observations are made regarding the child's appearance and speech, and assessments are conducted for potential personality or mood disorders. Higher cognitive functions, orientation, and concentration levels are also subject to scrutiny. The examination further encompasses tests for intelligence, interpretation skills (abstract or concrete), and social judgment. By thoroughly examining these facets, the system aims to comprehend the child's mental and emotional state, ultimately informing the development of tailored rehabilitation plans.

The absence of designated psychologists on Juvenile Justice Boards necessitates the recruitment of psychologists from government medical colleges on an ad hoc basis. However, there is a critical necessity for a more significant number of specialized personnel to adequately address the rehabilitation and mental health requirements of Permanent assignment CCL. dedicated psychologists specializing in juvenile mental health to these boards is essential to ensure consistent and targeted support for these vulnerable children.

District Probation Officers:

District probation officers need help in providing effective services due to overwhelming workloads, which often lead to a primary focus on completing case-related paperwork. This administrative burden detracts from their capacity to effectively monitor and guide the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. An ongoing issue highlighted by probation officers is the propensity of juveniles to revert to prior behaviors upon returning to their original environments, peer groups, and familial settings.

An instance shared by a probation officer involved a minor who was caught for reckless driving, resulting in the deaths of pedestrians sleeping on the footpath. The parents were held accountable in this case, and the child underwent counseling sessions. However, despite these interventions, the officer observed the same child driving again three days after the incident. This example underscores the limitations of current rehabilitative measures when juveniles return to unchanged environments that reinforce negative behaviors.

To effectively address these challenges, it is paramount to implement strategies that target the root causes of delinquency. This necessitates involving the community in rehabilitation efforts, creating supportive networks, and fostering environments discouraging recidivism. By engaging the community and addressing underlying issues at their core, rehabilitation programs can enhance their effectiveness in promoting lasting behavioral change and reducing the likelihood of reoffending. Enabling a deeper understanding of the factors contributing to delinquency and carefully tailoring interventions to address these factors are crucial steps toward improving the outcomes of rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders.

The Legal cum probation officer I met mentioned that the board does not make use of its services, as it functions autonomously and does not fall within the board's purview. Nevertheless, they think that if they were to engage in collaborative efforts with the council, it would mitigate the workload of district probation officers and enhance the effectiveness of the rehabilitation and reintegration process for juveniles. This synergistic approach would consolidate endeavors and guarantee a more unified support framework, benefiting the juveniles and ameliorating results.

The CWC emphasizes the importance of its primary role in addressing the needs of CNCP, noting that this category also includes CCL. The CWC asserts that every child entering the JJS fundamentally requires care and protection. However, a notable challenge lies in the infrequent referral of cases from the JJB to the CWC. This scarcity hinders the CWC's capacity to furnish essential support and protection to these children, thus highlighting a need for improvement in the current system.

The District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) plays a vital role in assisting CNCP, particularly those grappling with substance addiction. However, the lack of dedicated de-addiction centers for children in Telangana highlights a significant gap in the state's infrastructure. The DCPO recounted a poignant case of an 11-year-old boy addicted to "kallu" (a local type of alcohol) who was unable to access an appropriate treatment facility within the state.

This case underscores the pressing necessity for the establishment of de-addiction centers explicitly tailored to meet the requirements of children in Telangana. Furthermore, the DCPO underscored the significance of engaging the broader society in endeavors to curb substance abuse among children. Community involvement and support are pivotal in addressing and alleviating the underlying causes of addiction, thus ensuring that children receive comprehensive care and rehabilitation essential for overcoming their dependencies.

According to the study, it is clear that the staff treats the children with respect and engages with them in a polite manner. However, it is notable that there needs to be more psychologists on board. The inclusion of a dedicated psychologist is not just a suggestion, but a necessity that would significantly enhance the home by providing specialized care to address the diverse and complex psychological needs of the children. Given the diverse backgrounds of the children, aged between 9 - 17 years, a trauma-oriented approach is essential as they not only have legal conflicts but also require care and protection.

Furthermore, it is commendable that the children receive hygienically prepared, nutritious meals. During my visit, I had the opportunity to speak with some parents who expressed appreciation for the treatment their children received from the staff. One parent articulated relief that their child was placed in the observation home, as it prevented them from associating with a negative peer group and potentially getting into further trouble. This supportive environment underscores the significance of compassionate care and its potential positive impact on the children's future.

Summary:

The current study aims to comprehend the obstacles encountered and assess the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reintegration procedures for juveniles entangled in the legal system. The research incorporates a mixed-method analysis to understand the issue comprehensively. It encompasses the involvement of stakeholders within the system and CCL residing in observation homes in Telangana.

This study comprises a relatively small sample size of 20 voluntary participants. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to acquire detailed insights, allowing for interactive exchanges rather than purely eliciting interrogative responses.

Key findings of this study:

1. **Implementation of a Tracking System:** Telangana has recently introduced a tracking system to monitor juveniles transitioning out of the JJS. This system monitors each individual's education, employment, and behavior weekly and maintains regular contact with their parents. Aligned with the principles of the Good Lives Model, this system focuses on the child's holistic development, contributing to reduced recidivism rates.
2. **Vocational Skills and Talent Development:** Rehabilitation and reintegration programs in Telangana are designed to provide juveniles with vocational skills and encourage them to showcase their talents. This has led to several juveniles achieving success in various sports at state and national levels, fostering a positive environment and offering hope for successful reintegration into society.
3. **Lack of Personnel:** A significant shortage of personnel, with only 10 of the 33 districts having functional Juvenile Justice Boards, poses a challenge. The absence of assigned psychologists is particularly concerning, as mental health care is crucial for effective rehabilitation and reintegration.
4. **Insufficient Observation Homes:** Telangana has only three observation homes in Hyderabad, Nizamabad, and Warangal. While these homes are operational, the challenge lies in accommodating children from different districts. Repetitive travel costs make it difficult for parents, especially those from low-income families, to participate actively in the rehabilitation process.
5. **Stakeholder Involvement:** The study emphasizes the significance of involving various stakeholders in the system, including law enforcement, social workers, and educational institutions, to create a more supportive network for juveniles. Effective collaboration among stakeholders is essential for enhancing rehabilitation and reintegration processes.
6. **Holistic Approach to Rehabilitation:** The programs not only focus on vocational training but also encompass the overall development of juveniles, including their physical, emotional, and social well-being. This comprehensive approach aims to prepare juveniles for successful reintegration into society, ultimately reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

7. **Community Engagement:** Engaging the community in the rehabilitation process is crucial. It provides juveniles with a sense of belonging and acceptance. This engagement also reduces stigma and promotes positive societal change, empowering the community to be an active part of the solution.
8. **Policy Recommendations:** The study underscores the urgent need for policy changes, including increasing the number of functional Juvenile Justice Boards, appointing more trained personnel – especially psychologists, and expanding the number of observation homes. These changes are essential to ensure active parental participation in the rehabilitation process.

In conclusion, the study underscores the pressing necessity for additional resources and personnel to augment the rehabilitation and reintegration processes. It also emphasizes the significance of extending the operational scope of Juvenile Justice Boards to encompass all districts within Telangana to provide comprehensive support CCL. By tackling these concerns, the system can better support the overall growth and seamless reintegration of these young offenders into society, highlighting the critical nature of the issue.

Conclusion:

In the context of juvenile justice, it is crucial for Telangana, as a newly evolving state of India, to prioritize the well-being and rehabilitation of its youth. This research aimed to assess the efficacy of rehabilitation and reintegration programs for CCL in Telangana. The study engaged 20 voluntary participants and employed semi-structured interviews to foster interactive and insightful dialogues, thus adopting a mixed-method approach.

According to the NCRB, the number of juvenile crime cases in Hyderabad rose from 172 in 2020 to 300 in 2022. Most juvenile offenders had attained an education level between primary and matriculation, totaling 537 cases. In 2022, the juvenile crime rate stood at 9.6 per 100,000 children. The findings provide insight into the successes and challenges of the state's initiatives. In Telangana, a post-release tracking program has been implemented to monitor children for up to a year after leaving the system, which aligns with the principles of the Good Lives Model. However, concerns have been raised due to data from the NCRB showing a worrying increase in crime rates by juveniles in Hyderabad. Many of these juveniles had an education level ranging from primary to matriculation. These statistics emphasize the pressing need for effective intervention and support systems.

Unique to this study is its emphasis on incorporating the perspectives of stakeholders, addressing a notable gap in the existing literature. The research revealed that while 66.67% of stakeholders perceived the quality of services for children as good, only 46.67% believed that adequate psychological and emotional support was provided. Furthermore, 80% of the respondents agreed that rehabilitation and reintegration programs are designed and functioning well for the children's well-being. However, 53.33% cited needing more personnel as a significant barrier.

Despite the aforementioned challenges, the study highlighted the overwhelmingly positive impact of the rehabilitation and reintegration programs. Vocational training initiatives have empowered children uninterested in formal education, allowing them to develop and utilize their skills successfully. Observation homes provide a platform for children to display their talents, leading to notable achievements at state and national levels. These accomplishments underscore the potential for positive outcomes when children are provided adequate support and opportunities for engagement in constructive activities, instilling a sense of hope and optimism in the audience.

The research stresses the need for additional resources and personnel to bolster rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. Expanding the scope of JJBs across all districts in Telangana is essential to providing comprehensive support for CCL. Recommendations outlined in this study aim to inform policy and practice improvements, contributing to the development of a more effective JJS and the overall well-being of children involved in criminal activities.

In conclusion, while Telangana has made significant progress in rehabilitating and reintegrating CCL, there remains room for improvement. Addressing challenges such as insufficient personnel and the need for extended support systems is imperative to ensure the holistic development and successful reintegration of these children. This research underscores the necessity of continually evaluating and adapting rehabilitation programs to meet the evolving needs of the youth in conflict with the law, thereby facilitating their successful transition back into society and highlighting the importance of ongoing improvement in the audience.

Recommendations:

The research findings have underscored various crucial areas necessitating attention to enhance the reintegration and rehabilitation of juveniles. Additionally, they also shed light on the challenges stakeholders encounter in this endeavor. This chapter proposes recommendations from data analysis and discussions to offer practical and actionable steps for stakeholders to effectively address the identified challenges and improve rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

1. **Daily Court Sessions:** Implement daily court sessions to alleviate the caseload and expedite case resolutions.
2. **Enhancement of Aftercare Programs:** Improvement of aftercare programs to facilitate better rehabilitation and reintegration of children into society.
3. **Educational Provisions:** Establishment of provisions to ensure continued support for school and college admissions for children transitioning out of the system.
4. **Referral to CWC:** Referring children from dysfunctional families, neglected parenting, or orphans to the CWC as CNCP to provide them with comprehensive support.
5. **Police Awareness Program:** This program trains police officers to effectively monitor children who have transitioned from observation homes, with the goal of reducing recidivism.
6. **District Requirements:**
 - One Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) per district.
 - One observation home per district.
 - Separate observation homes for girls.
 - Notably, Telangana has only three observation homes in Nizamabad, Warangal, and Hyderabad.
7. **Collaboration with NGOs:** Partnering with NGOs to enhance aftercare programs and provide additional support to children.
8. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Ensuring effective collaboration among all stakeholders for the seamless and efficient functioning of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB).
9. **On-Board Psychologist:** A psychologist will be included as a member of the JJB, supplementing the existing three-member team.
10. **Differentiated Punishment:** Implement and act to establish differential punishment protocols for first-time and repeat juvenile offenders.
11. **Drug Deaddiction Centers:** Establishment of drug-deaddiction centers in each district to provide essential treatment for children battling addiction.
12. **Separate Rehabilitation Centers:** Creation of separate rehabilitation centers specifically tailored to the needs of girl victims of the POCSO Act.
13. **Trauma-Informed Care Training:** Provision of trauma-informed care training to shelter home staff to promote empathy and support for trauma victims.
14. **Unique practices of other countries:** The potential integration of practices from international juvenile systems into the Indian context is not just a possibility but a feasible and promising approach. Despite their origins in differing cultural contexts, these practices can be effectively adapted to the Indian juvenile system. This adaptability is a testament to the robustness of these practices and their potential to make a positive impact in the Indian setting.

International Practices

The **Volunteer Probation Officer (Hogoshi) System** from Japan involves volunteers supporting the rehabilitation of offenders and delinquent juveniles, complementing the work of a probation officer. This system has shown effectiveness in facilitating reintegration.

The **Good Lives Model (GLM)** from Thailand uses five core indicators of successful reintegration:

- Engagement in study or work.
- Participation in productive leisure or recreation.
- Association with conventional peers.
- Positive relationships with family.
- Having a suitable place to live.

This model provides a holistic framework for evaluating and encouraging the smooth transition of young individuals back into the community.

In Norway, the **restorative justice and welfare-oriented system** prioritizes rehabilitative, educational, and social reintegration approaches. This system emphasizes respecting children's rights and adheres to the principles of restorative justice, aligning with international juvenile justice standards.

Family Group Conferences (FGCs) in Belgium, a unique form of restorative justice, involve the family and community in the rehabilitation process. This inclusive approach, which addresses serious juvenile offenses such as arson, carjacking, armed robbery, serious physical violence, and aggravated theft, makes the community an active participant in the solution, fostering a sense of involvement and responsibility.

Thailand's **Individual Routing Counselor (IRC) program** provides intensive intervention by monitoring, supervising, and supporting youths from their arrival at a facility until one year after their release. This approach ensures continuous guidance and assistance, aiding in their successful reintegration.

In Australia, the reintegration and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders are guided by the '**what works**' principles, which are customized to fit the unique requirements of juvenile delinquents. These evidence-based programs take an individualized approach, meaning that each young offender's unique circumstances and needs are taken into account when designing their rehabilitation plan. This focus on effective interventions to reduce recidivism provides reassurance about their effectiveness. The Tracking System used in Telangana follows a similar principle.

Singapore's **Reformative Training (RT) and Reformative Training Centre (RTC)** provide a rehabilitative environment for children, offering education, vocational training, and counseling services. RT inmates are regularly reviewed by the RTC Review Committee, which offers suitable rehabilitation programs during the Release on Supervision (ROS) phase to address their specific needs.

Additionally, Singapore's **Youth Enhanced Supervision Scheme (YES)** helps drug abusers reintegrate successfully into society and reduce recidivism by introducing differentiated pathways of rehabilitation and treatment tailored to individual needs.

The adaptability and success of these international practices in diverse cultural contexts demonstrate their potential for enhancing the Indian JJS. By integrating these approaches, India can help juveniles to achieve positive results by supporting their rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

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Annexures

Interview Schedules:

Juvenile Justice Board Members:

- Could you share with us your career trajectory in the legal profession, including the duration of your service as a judge?
- How does the existing legal framework guide you in handling CCL cases?
- How do you balance justice with the best interests of the child?
- How is the child's participation and voice considered in legal proceedings?
- How do you ensure that children can access legal aid during rehabilitation?
- Are there any specific initiatives to improve children's legal education?
- Are there significant legal or procedural challenges you face?

Rehabilitation

- What are the rehabilitation programs that are existing here?
- What are the challenges you face in ensuring successful rehabilitation?
- Is there any criteria used to assess progress and outcomes of rehabilitation?
- Are there any aspects that you think need attention for more effective rehabilitation?
- In your opinion are there any interventions that can help reduce children entering into conflict with the law?
- How do you consider each child's circumstances when formulating rehabilitation plans?
- Do you have a mechanism to monitor the rehabilitative plan?
- If yes, What mechanism do you use to monitor and evaluate rehab plan effectiveness?

- If no, Why is it lacking?
- Are there any measures you take to ensure that educational components are included in rehabilitation plans?
- If Yes, How do you do it?
- Do you work with educational institutions to address the children's educational needs?
- What happens after a child completes their rehabilitation plan? Do they get follow-up support?
- What is your criteria for decisions in regards to rehabilitating children in conflict with the law?

Family support

- Are there any family support programs existing in the rehabilitation process?
 - Yes
 - No
- If yes, how do you involve and collaborate with the families of children in conflict with the law during the rehabilitation process?
- If no, what are your views on including families into the rehabilitation process?
- What role do you think family support plays in successful rehabilitation?

Reintegration:

- Whether they have any Reintegration programs?
- From their personal what can be reintegrated
- Do you have any reintegration programs existing in place?
- If yes, could you brief how it works?
- What challenges do children usually face during reintegration, and how do you address those challenges?
- Are there long-term support mechanisms in place to mitigate reintegration difficulties?

Restorative Justice:

- Do you encourage victim-offender mediation as part of the rehabilitation?
- How do you think mediation help the child's overall well-being and accountability?
- What approaches are used as alternatives to detention in rehabilitating children?
- Do you think restorative justice practices can be incorporated in the present system?

Training and Capacity Building:

- Are there any training and capacity programs for you?
 - Yes
 - No
- If yes, who is responsible for the training?
- Do you receive training on trauma-informed approaches?
- Do you use trauma-informed practices when interacting with children who have experienced conflict with the law?

Technology:

- Do you use technology to help rehabilitate and reintegrate children?
- Are there any technological innovations that you (Judge/Social worker) has found helpful?

Collaboration:

- Do you collaborate with professionals in creating comprehensive rehab plans?
- Are there any collaborations with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to enhance rehabilitation efforts?
- What areas of expertise do you seek to enhance among members?
- Can you share any challenges or successes in cross-agency collaborations?
- What mechanisms are in place for communication and coordination with stakeholders?

International:

- Do you get any cases that need international agency coordination?
- If yes, How do you align with international standards for rehabilitating children in conflict with law?
- Are there any considerations or challenges that you face when dealing with cases involving children who are nationals of other countries?
- How do you coordinate with international entities or agencies in these cases?
- Are there international models that you find informative or compelling?

Psychologists:

- What specific expertise or experience do you need to have to work with children in conflict with the law?
- Can you explain your approach to assessing the psychological needs of children in this situation?
- How do you tailor your therapeutic interventions to meet the unique needs of each child?
- What are some common psychological challenges faced by children in conflict with the law, and how do you address them?
- Can you discuss the importance of trauma-informed care in the rehabilitation process for these children?
- What strategies do you use to foster trust and rapport with children who may be resistant to therapy or skeptical of adults?
- How do you involve the families or support networks of these children in the rehabilitation process?
- Can you provide examples of successful rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes you've observed or facilitated?
- What role do you see education playing in the rehabilitation and reintegration of these children?
- How do you support children in developing positive coping mechanisms and decision-making skills to prevent future involvement in criminal behavior?
- What challenges do you encounter in your work with these children, and how do you address them?
- How do you advocate for the rights and well-being of children in conflict with the law within the legal and justice systems?
- How do you ensure cultural sensitivity and competence in your work with diverse populations of children?
- Can you discuss any research or evidence-based practices that inform your approach to rehabilitation and reintegration?
- What advice would you give to policymakers or stakeholders seeking to improve the support and services available to children in conflict with the law from a psychological perspective?
- In your experience, what are some of the key risk factors that contribute to children becoming involved in criminal behavior, and how do you address these factors in your therapeutic approach?
- Can you discuss the importance of building resilience in children who have experienced trauma or adversity, particularly in the context of rehabilitation and reintegration?
- How do you collaborate with other professionals, such as social workers, educators, or probation officers, to ensure a holistic approach to supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration process?
- What role do you see community-based interventions playing in the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law?
- How do you address issues of stigma and discrimination that may be faced by children who have been involved in criminal behavior, both within the community and within their own self-perception?
- Can you provide examples of therapeutic modalities or interventions that have been particularly effective in helping children develop positive self-esteem and a sense of identity outside of criminal behavior?
- How do you assess and address any mental health disorders or substance abuse issues that may be present in children who are in conflict with the law?
- What support do you provide to children who may have experienced neglect, abuse, or other forms of trauma prior to their involvement in criminal behavior?
- How do you approach the topic of accountability and responsibility with children who have engaged in criminal behavior, while still emphasizing their potential for growth and change?
- What are some of the long-term challenges that children in conflict with the law may face during the reintegration process, and how do you support them in navigating these challenges?

- Can you discuss any innovative or alternative approaches to rehabilitation and reintegration that you have found to be effective in your practice?
- How do you ensure continuity of care and support for children as they transition from the JJS back into their communities?

Child welfare committee:

- Did you identify any deviant behaviour in children in need and care?
- Do you see any deviant behavior who are in need and care for shelter?
- How do you help the children?

Introduction:

- Can you briefly explain the role and responsibilities of the CWC?
- How would you define a child in conflict with the law?
- Do you believe that children in conflict with the law are also children in need of care and protection?

Understanding the CWC's Work:

- What are the primary objectives of the CWC?
- How does the CWC differentiate between children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with the law?
- Can you describe the process of assessing and determining the care and protection needed for children in conflict with the law?
- What are the key challenges faced by the CWC in providing care and protection to these children?

Challenges Faced by the CWC:

- In your opinion, what are some potential challenges faced by the CWC in providing care and protection to children in conflict with the law?
- How does the CWC handle cases where the child requires both care and protection as well as rehabilitation or justice?
- Can you elaborate on any legal or systemic barriers that hinder the CWC's ability to effectively support these children?
- What resources or support would you suggest to enhance the CWC's capacity in addressing these challenges?

Personal Opinion:

- Based on your understanding of the CWC's work, do you agree that children in conflict with the law should be considered as children in need of care and protection? Why or why not?
- How has this interview influenced your perception of the CWC's role in supporting children in conflict with the law?
- In what ways do you think the CWC could improve its approach to better serve the needs of these children?

Lawyers:

- What legal rights do children in conflict with the law have during the rehabilitation and reintegration process?
- Can you explain the differences between JJSs and adult criminal justice systems, and how these differences impact the rehabilitation of children?
- How do you advocate for fair and appropriate sentencing for children in conflict with the law, taking into account their age, maturity, and individual circumstances?
- What role does diversionary programming play in the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law, and how do you advocate for its use?
- How do you ensure that children in conflict with the law have access to legal representation and due process rights throughout the rehabilitation process?
- Can you discuss any recent changes or reforms in juvenile justice laws that have impacted the rehabilitation and reintegration of children?

- What strategies do you employ to address systemic issues within the JJS that may hinder the rehabilitation and reintegration of children?
- How do you advocate for the removal of barriers that may prevent children in conflict with the law from accessing education, employment, or housing opportunities upon reintegration into society?
- Can you provide examples of successful cases where you have advocated for the rights and rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law?
- How do you collaborate with social workers, psychologists, and other professionals to ensure a comprehensive approach to the rehabilitation and reintegration of children?
- What challenges do you encounter in your work with children in conflict with the law, and how do you address them from a legal standpoint?
- How do you advocate for the use of restorative justice practices in cases involving children, and what benefits do you see in this approach?
- What legal protections are in place to prevent discrimination and stigma against children who have been involved in criminal behavior?
- Can you discuss any initiatives or programs aimed at preventing recidivism among children in conflict with the law, and how you support their implementation?
- How do you advocate for the consideration of mitigating factors, such as a history of trauma or mental health issues, in the sentencing and rehabilitation of children?
- What legal mechanisms are available to ensure that children in conflict with the law receive appropriate rehabilitative services while in custody or under supervision?
- How do you address disparities in the JJS, particularly regarding race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, in your advocacy work?
- Can you discuss the role of family involvement in the rehabilitation and reintegration process, and how you support positive family dynamics within legal proceedings?
- How do you advocate for the rights of children in conflict with the law to be treated in a developmentally appropriate manner throughout the legal process?
- What strategies do you use to advocate for the sealing or expungement of juvenile records to facilitate the successful reintegration of children into society?
- Can you provide insights into any legal challenges or barriers that exist in the rehabilitation and reintegration of children, and how you work to overcome them?
- How do you ensure that children in conflict with the law have access to effective legal representation, even if they come from marginalized or disadvantaged backgrounds?
- What legal safeguards are in place to protect the rights of children in conflict with the law during interactions with law enforcement and in detention facilities?
- How do you advocate for the implementation of evidence-based practices and programs in the JJS to support the rehabilitation of children?
- Can you discuss the role of advocacy in shaping public policy related to juvenile justice and the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law?
- How do you support the transition of children from the JJS to adult life, including accessing educational and vocational opportunities?
- What advice would you give to policymakers or stakeholders seeking to improve the legal framework surrounding the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law?

Juvenile home Official:

- Can you provide an overview of the rehabilitation and reintegration programs offered at this juvenile home?
- How do you assess the individual needs of children upon their arrival at the juvenile home, and how does this assessment inform their rehabilitation plan?
- What types of educational programs are available for children in conflict with the law at this facility, and how do you ensure that their educational needs are met?
- Can you discuss the role of mental health services in supporting the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law, and how these services are integrated into the program?
- How do you address the social and emotional needs of children during their time at the juvenile home, and what therapeutic interventions are available to support their well-being?

- What strategies do you employ to promote positive behavior and personal development among children in conflict with the law?
- Can you discuss any vocational training or job readiness programs offered to children in the juvenile home to support their successful reintegration into society?
- How do you involve families or guardians in the rehabilitation process, and what support services are available to them?
- Can you provide examples of successful rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes achieved by children who have been through your program?
- How do you address any challenges or barriers that children may face in accessing rehabilitation and reintegration services?
- What measures are in place to ensure the safety and security of both staff and children within the juvenile home?
- How do you promote a supportive and respectful environment within the juvenile home, and how do you address any instances of conflict or disciplinary issues?
- Can you discuss any restorative justice practices or approaches used within the juvenile home to address harm caused by children's actions?
- How do you prepare children for their transition out of the juvenile home and back into their communities?
- What efforts are made to provide ongoing support and follow-up services to children after they leave the juvenile home?
- How do you ensure that cultural sensitivity and diversity are incorporated into the rehabilitation and reintegration programs offered at the juvenile home?
- Can you discuss any partnerships or collaborations with community organizations or agencies that support the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law?
- How do you measure the effectiveness of your rehabilitation and reintegration programs, and what data or outcomes do you track?
- Can you provide insights into any challenges or limitations faced in providing rehabilitation and reintegration services within the JJS?
- How do you support children who may have experienced trauma or adverse childhood experiences in their rehabilitation and reintegration journey?

Children:

- Can you tell me about your experiences before coming into contact with the justice system?
- What led to your involvement in the situation that brought you here?
- How have your experiences in the justice system impacted your life?
- Can you describe the programs or activities you've been involved in while you've been here?
- What parts of your time here have been most helpful or meaningful to you?
- Have you faced any difficulties or obstacles during your time here, and if so, how have you dealt with them?
- How do you feel about the support you've received from the people you've interacted with here?
- What are your hopes and goals for the future?
- How do you feel about the idea of returning to your family?
- What kinds of things do you think you'll need to succeed when you leave here?
- Can you talk about any worries or concerns you have about going back to your family?
- How do you think your experiences here have changed you?
- What advice would you give to other kids who might be going through similar situations?
- Can you share any positive experiences or things you've learned while you've been here?
- How do you feel about the way people treated you in the justice system?
- Can you talk about any changes you'd like to see in the way things are done here?
- How do you stay focused on your goals when things get tough?
- What strengths or talents do you have that you think will help you in the future?
- How do you feel about the future, and what do you think it holds for you?
- Can you talk about any people or relationships that have been important to you during your time here?

Action Oriented Photos

