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IJSKSRP is an NGO non government organization which was started in 1997 august 6th it is registered under the Karnataka societies registration act 1960 which was legal binding by the Indian societies registration act 1860 Which was monitor by the government of India constitution .

The society registered body is consisting by the Prof.Dr. Shivalingaiah Mallappa. During post doctoral degree program 1996-1997-98 in Jnanabharathi campus BUB, Bangalore.560056. initially constitute with 9 member of classmates. those who are all discussed and finalised in the name of Suvarna Karnataka Institute of Studies and Research Center[R]. Irrespective of cast creed color and religious with un bonding of geographical area across the globally establishment it aims and objectives of the activities.

Thane came to the native district of Tumkur Madhugiri Taluk Nittarahalli village given communication/contact address for register address to the district registrar office Tumkur. Prepared by-law for legal registration with 9 executive body members for the various programs are sorted which are like health education economic social cultural religious development where has reach to the unreachable area of underprivileged people in the globally.

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Juvenile Delinquency in Contemporary India: A Sequential Explanatory Mixed-Methods Study of Psychosocial, Family, and Forensic Risk Factors

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Abstract

India continues to grapple with the public health problem of juvenile delinquency. While there is an abundance of research in this area, it generally remains siloed with little attempt to explore the psychosocial, family and the various forensic risks in an integrated manner within a culturally sensitive mixed-methods framework. The study further examines the psychosocial, family, social and the corresponding forensic factors together forming an integrated explanatory model known as 'Vortex of Delinquency Model' for the risk assessment and the rehabilitation of the juvenile offender. A sequential explanatory mixed-methods research approach was adopted. Standardized self-report measures for 200 adolescents (ages 12–17, 50% males) in contact with juvenile justice system and 100

community controls were used to assess adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), family, support, impulsivity, behavior (SDQ), peer, digital and substance use risk. Comparison between the two groups, Pearson correlations and a multivariable logistic regression were conducted using SPSS. Follow-up qualitative interviews were conducted with a purposively selected subgroup of 15 high- and low-risk cases including recidivists and those who were successfully rehabilitated. A comparison between delinquent and control adolescents revealed several significant differences, with delinquent adolescents reporting greater numbers of ACEs ($d = 0.66$), family difficulties ($d = 0.69$), SDQ total difficulties ($d = 1.31$), peer risk ($d = 0.84$), impulsivity ($d = 0.54$), and digital risk ($d = 0.37$) and lower levels of social support ($d = -0.55$). Findings related to socioeconomic status,

school and substance use are presented also. Results from the multivariable model revealed that SDQ total difficulties (OR = 1.42, 95% CI 1.26–1.61), peer risk (OR = 1.25, 95% CI 1.10–1.42) and substance use (OR = 2.81, 95% CI 1.16–6.78) were predictors of delinquency. Qualitative findings outlined pathways of childhood adversity through family dysfunction and delinquent peer influences which led to offending and discussed both barriers and facilitators to the rehabilitation process of juvenile offenders. Juvenile delinquency in contemporary India, as represented by the Vortex of Delinquency Model can best be understood by recognizing and addressing the several interrelated vulnerabilities at different levels. Consequently, research finding supports a model of rehabilitation at different levels which is also in line with the principles of trauma-informed, family-inclusive, and risk-need-responsivity as may be required to be operationalized within the four walls of the juvenile justice system of India.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, Psychosocial factors, Adverse childhood experiences, Family dysfunction, Forensic risk, Recidivism, Rehabilitation, India, Mixed methods.

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is a serious and complex psycho-social and forensic issue in

contemporary India. On the one hand there are a host of individual differences that could explain delinquent behavior of adolescents; on the other hand, a host of adverse developmental experiences in family and environment. Interplay of psychological vulnerabilities and adverse environmental factors on the one hand and, systemic limitations of the existing juvenile justice framework on the other also seem to play significant role in this behavior of adolescents.

Over the years, the approach of dealing with juvenile justice in India has seen a vast transformation from the colonial era of a punitive justice system to a child-friendly justice system under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. However, the risk factors and vulnerabilities that are inimical to the well-being of children in conflict with law and those in need of care and protection, need to be culturally specific. The present study attempts to explore why some youth reintegrate into the mainstream and others do not despite being on rehabilitation. Moreover, there is a lacuna in the existing body of knowledge which is predominantly framed within fragmented approaches towards juvenile justice and drawn from limited research that seeks to integrate the assessment of risk with the psychological and social perspective of the young person.

Adverse childhood experiences, trauma, problems with impulse control, child's behavior problems, and family problems including parental misconduct or inadequacy could potentially interact with adverse childhood experiences to increase the vulnerability to delinquent behavior of a child. Furthermore, increasingly children are growing up in a digital environment which could expose children to different forms of social influence. This study, therefore, examines the psychological, social, and forensic factors in juvenile delinquency using a multidisciplinary approach, drawing from major theories in criminology, psychological models and strategies of forensic rehabilitation.

In this study, we examine psychosocial, family and forensic determinants of juvenile delinquency in India using a sequential explanatory mixed-methods approach. We aim to inform risk assessment, rehabilitation, prevention and policies and programs within juvenile justice system through the application of evidence-based practice.

Objectives

Primary Objective

The aim of the present study was to explore various psychosocial, family, social and forensic factors contributing to the behavior of juvenile delinquents in contemporary India and to develop an integrated

framework for their behavior and rehabilitation.

Specific Objectives

1. Examine the relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and juvenile delinquency of youngsters in conflict with law.
2. What is the nature of psychological and behavioral risk factors, including the presence of emotional and behavioral difficulties, problems with impulse control, and certain personality traits that are associated with delinquent behavior?
3. What is the influence of family-related factors, like family structure, parental supervision, family dysfunction and the socioeconomic status of the family, in cases of juvenile delinquency.
4. Forensic risk factors that might account for repeated offending by juveniles against whom charges have been filed and factors associated with delinquent behavior in the juvenile's environment.
5. To identify the various forensic risk factors and assess their impact in inciting repeat offenses or recidivism.
6. To compare psychosocial and forensic characteristics of adolescents who are in conflict with law and of non-delinquent controls.

7. To understand the effects of contemporary digital media and behavior related to juvenile delinquency.

8. To integrate the quantitative data with qualitative findings and accordingly propose an evidence-based “Vortex of Delinquency” framework which seeks to explain interaction between psychosocial and forensic risk factors of juvenile delinquency in India.

9. To propose appropriate, evidence-based risk assessment, rehabilitation, prevention and reintegration programs for juveniles in conflict with law within the Indian context.

Working Hypotheses

H1: The mean score for adverse childhood experiences will be greater for juveniles in conflict with the law than for the non-delinquent controls.

H2. Children with higher levels of psychological and behavioral problems will be identified as juvenile offenders compared to children who are not offenders.

H3: To what extent do family dysfunction and parental supervision predict delinquent behavior?

H4. To what extent do peer-related and socioeconomic adversity predict delinquency?

H5: Individuals with higher scores on the variables that forecast the risk for offenses against the criminal law (substance use and prior disruption) will be more often found in

the delinquent group than in the other groups.

H6. A combination of psychosocial, family, and forensic variables would account for delinquency and rehabilitation failure better than individual variables.

H7: Childhood adversity influences delinquency via psychological/behavioral deficits.

H8: The qualitative data from this study will elucidate the quantitative data and explain the various paths that adverse circumstances in childhood have created for delinquency and failure in rehabilitation efforts.

Conceptual Framework: The Vortex of Delinquency

The Vortex of Delinquency model of juvenile delinquency views the development process as a cascading, multilevel process.

Level 1: Foundational Vulnerability: ACEs, trauma, neglect, abuse.

Level 2: Family/Social Environment: Family with serious dysfunction, parenting with serious deficits, socioeconomic disadvantage, school failure, and peer groups with serious dysfunction.

Level 3: Psychological Processes: Impulsivity, emotional dysregulation, behavioral problems, personality characteristics.

Level 4: Contemporary Exposure: The influence of digitalization of daily life, of online peer groups and of social media.

Level 5: Forensic Risk: Offending history, risk scores and substance related risk.

These levels of influence all culminate to produce the phenomenon of juvenile delinquent behavior. Importantly, however, the Vortex of Delinquency Model also identifies a number of influential protective counter-forces, such as family support, formal and informal education, psychological intervention, and support from positive peers and programs, to name but a few. These factors can intervene in the vortex and begin to reverse the individual's trajectory of behavior leading to desistance from crime and re-integration into lawful and productive behaviors and ways of life.

Materials and Methods

Study Design

This research utilizes a sequential explanatory mixed-methods research design. In the first phase of the research a quantitative comparative study of young people who are in conflict with the law and a community sample of young people of similar age was conducted. In the second phase of the research purposeful qualitative sampling was used to explore pathways into offense, experiences of offense and processes of and barriers to rehabilitation. Quantitative findings from Phase I of the research were

used to inform the sampling for Phase II and to develop questions for in-depth interviews; findings from the qualitative research were used to explain the patterns identified in the quantitative data (joint display integration).

Study Population

Group A consists of 100 CICL (Children in Conflict with the Law) of 12-17 years of age from observation homes/special homes under the Juvenile Justice system.

Group B consists of 100 non-delinquent community controls, of the same age and sex as those in Group A, recruited from schools and communities all over the country, and of the same geographic location as Group A's participants. None of the participants in Group B have ever had any contact with police nor have they ever been involved within the formal Justice system as a defendant.

For the qualitative component of the study, the same quantitative samples will be selected purposefully on the basis of their risk profiles. In addition to the high-risk multi-domain, low-risk delinquent, and recidivist youth, there will also be subjects who have been successfully rehabilitated.

Sampling Framework

In order to collect data quantitatively, geographic regions with a mixture of metropolitan and non-metropolitan settings were chosen. Within each of these regions,

all institutions for observation or special homes as well as all community sites such as schools and community centers were sampled. In the selected sites, participants were stratified by age (12-17 years) and sex. Stratification variables included geographic region, urban/rural setting, institutional versus community setting, age category, and sex. To assess medium sized effects (Cohen's d of 0.40/0.50) with adequate power (0.80 and above) using two tailed t-tests with alpha set to 0.05 as well as to support a multivariable logistic regression with approximately 10 predictors while maintaining an adequate events per variable ratio, the target was set for 100 participants per group resulting in a total of (N=200). In the study under review the required number of participants/subjects was even surpassing this target with 100 participants per group.

Inclusion Criteria

- Age 12–17 years.
- Ability to comprehend and respond to assessment measures in the language of administration.
- Adolescent has given assent to participate in the assessment.
- Parent/Guardian of adolescent has given consent to his/her participation in assessment.
- For Group A: He/She is a current or recent CICL as per Juvenile Justice Act.

- For Group B: The youths have no history of police contact, of having been formally charged for an offence or of having been institutionalized for offending.

Exclusion Criteria

- Acute psychiatric crisis or severe intellectual disability precluding valid assessment.
- Incomplete core measures after reasonable attempts at completion.

Control Selection

Frequency matched to controls by sex and age band. Community based sampling from a range of socio-economic backgrounds with recognition that perfect matching for all indicators would not be possible.

Dependent Variables

Juvenile delinquency= CICL membership (1) vs community control (0). Within the CICL group, a variety of offense history indicators are available when recorded.

Independent Variables

- Psychological: ACE total score, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SDQ total), impulsivity total.
- Family: Total family difficulties, Number of caregivers, Total social support.

- Social: Peer risk total, school disruption, SES (low SES indicator), residential setting (urban/rural).
- Forensic / behavioural: Substance use (any; yes/no).
- Contemporary: Digital risk total, daily screen hours.

Instruments and Measures

- Sociodemographic proforma [Age, Sex, Location of residence (urban/rural)], Socioeconomic Status indicator, Family structure, Schooling disruption.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Scale: total score out of 10 (higher is worse).
- Family difficulties scale: total score (0-20; higher = greater difficulty).
- Social support scale: total score (0-16; higher = greater support).
- Impulsivity scale: total score (0-16; higher = greater impulsivity).
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire: Total Difficulties Score (SDQ; 0-40; higher = greater difficulties). Where available an India-adapted version of SDQ was used.
- Peer risk scale: total score (0-16).
- Digital risk scale: total score (0-16).
- Daily screen time (hours).
- Substance use (binary).

For multi-item scales, the internal consistency was examined and expressed by means of Cronbach's α and/or McDonald's ω . Content validity was checked by means of an expert review; for construct validity, the inter-correlations between the scales as well as known-groups-differences were checked.

Data Collection Procedure

Phase I – Quantitative: Institutional permission and ethics approval were granted. Participants were recruited according to the sampling frame. Written informed consent and adolescent assent were obtained from the parent/guardian or competent authority of participants younger than 18 years of age. Participants were assessed in a private setting using standardized measures that were administered in a consistent order. Official records of CICLs were extracted where authorized. All data were double-entered and cleaned for error before analysis.

Phase II – Qualitative: The qualitative sample consisted of young people selected on the basis of quantitative risk profiles, including those classified as high multi-domain risk, relatively low-risk, repeat offenders and those showing positive trajectories of rehabilitation. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with young people to explore a range of issues including childhood, family, peer and digital influences, emotional and behavioral difficulties encountered within justice

systems and processes and experiences of and barriers to rehabilitation. Interviews were recorded with participants' permission, transcribed and anonymized for data analysis purposes.

Qualitative Domains

These theme domains were used as both an interview guide and an analytical framework for the resulting data from the interviews with young men who had been accused of or were found guilty of committing crimes in Norway. The eight theme domains explored in the current study are: (1) Childhood adversity and developmental experiences; (2) Family relationships and parental supervision; (3) Peer influence and social identity; (4) Psychological vulnerability and emotional regulation; (5) Digital environment and contemporary influences; (6) Justice-system experiences; (7) Rehabilitation barriers; (8) Protective factors and pathways to desistance.

Statistical Analysis

All quantitative analysis was conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics version 27. For all tests of significance, a 0.05 alpha was used.

Statistics: Means (M), Standard Deviations (SD), Median, Interquartile Range (IQR), Frequency and Percentages for each variable where appropriate.

For group comparison between groups, independent-samples t-tests (or Mann-

Whitney U tests where appropriate) were used for continuous data and Pearson's χ^2 (or Fisher's exact tests where appropriate) used for categorical data with corresponding effect sizes reported (Cohen's d for continuous data and ϕ or Cramer's V for categorical data).

Correlation analysis: Pearson (or Spearman) correlations are calculated between the continuous variables that are used as predictors, and between each predictor variable and the group variable.

Multivariable logistic regression: A binary logistic regression model would be specified with group (CICL vs. control) as the outcome variable. All relevant predictors would be included on a theoretical and empirical basis. Results would be presented as odds ratios (OR) and the corresponding 95% confidence intervals for each predictor. Assessment of model fit would include the -2 log likelihood, Nagelkerke R^2 and Hosmer-Lemeshow test. Multicollinearity would be assessed by the tolerance and VIF of each predictor.

Qualitative analysis: Thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke) including some elements of narrative analysis. The coding would start with open coding, move on to axial coding and in the end selective coding. Credibility would be ensured by investigator triangulation, data triangulation, an audit trail and – wherever possible – member checking.

The researcher's reflexivity would also be documented.

Results

Sample Characteristics

The final sample included 200 adolescents: 100 CICL and 100 community controls. There were an equal number of boys and girls in each sample (50 males and 50 females). The mean age was 14.38 (SD = 1.73) with a range of 12 through 17 years. There were no significant differences between the two groups with respect to the adolescents' ages (Control M = 14.52, SD = 1.79; CICL M = 14.25, SD = 1.66; $t(198) = 1.10$, $p = .271$).

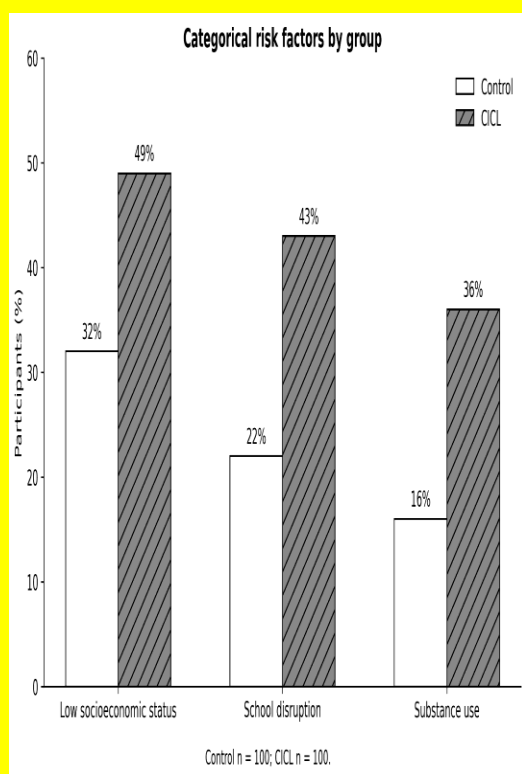
Table 1. Sociodemographic Characteristics by Group

Variables	Control (n=100)	CICL (n=100)	Test statistic	p
Age, M (SD)	14.52 (1.79)	14.25 (1.66)	$t = 1.10$	.271
Sex, n (%)			$\chi^2 = 0.00$	1.000
Male	50 (50.0%)	50 (50.0%)		
Female	50 (50.0%)	50 (50.0%)		
Residence, n (%)			$\chi^2 = 0.33$	.564
Rural	38 (38.0%)	43 (43.0%)		
Urban	62 (62.0%)	57 (57.0%)		

Low SES, n (%)	32 (32.0%)	49 (49.0%)
Family structure, n (%)		
Two caregivers	62 (62.0%)	60 (60.0%)
One caregiver	23 (23.0%)	29 (29.0%)
Other	15 (15.0%)	11 (11.0%)
School disruption, n (%)	22 (22.0%)	43 (43.0%)
Substance use, n (%)	16 (16.0%)	36 (36.0%)

Note. CICL = children in conflict with the law; SES = socioeconomic status. Significant p -values ($p < .05$) are bolded in interpretation.

Figure 1. Categorical Risk Factors by Group



Participants from both groups came from low socioeconomic status backgrounds and experienced school disruption. Furthermore, the majority of participants from both groups had used any substance previously. The family structure distributions for both groups did not differ significantly from each other.

Psychological, Family, Peer, Digital Characteristics

Table 2 represents the group comparison of continuous variables assessing psychosocial outcomes and risk.

Table 2. Comparison of Psychosocial and Risk Variables by Group

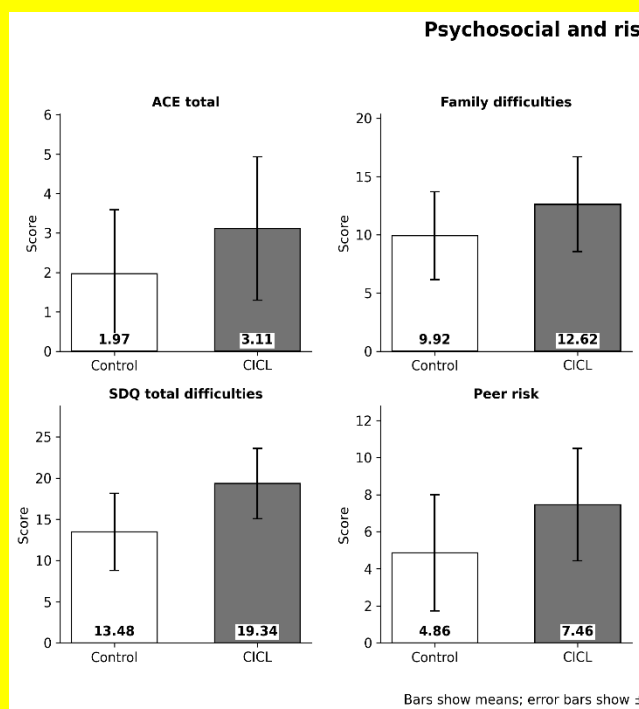
Variable	Control	CCL	t	p	Cohen's d
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	M	(SD)			
ACE total	1.97 (1.62)	3.11 (1.82)	-4.67	<.001	0.66
Family difficulties	9.92 (3.77)	12.62 (4.07)	-4.87	<.001	0.69
Social support	10.65 (3.11)	8.97 (2.99)	3.89	<.001	-0.55
Impulsivity	7.07 (2.94)	8.72 (3.14)	-3.84	<.001	0.54
SDQ total difficulties	13.48 (4.69)	19.34 (4.25)	-9.26	<.001	1.31
Peer risk	4.86 (3.14)	7.46 (3.03)	-5.96	<.001	0.84
Digital risk	4.96 (2.82)	6.05 (3.08)	-2.61	.010	0.37
Seriousness	3.1	3.3	-1.	.11	0.22

en	7	9	59	4	
hour	(1.	(0.			
s/day	01)	98)			
y					

Note. ACE = adverse childhood experiences; SDQ = Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire. Positive d indicates higher scores in the CICL group (except social support, where negative d indicates lower support in CICL).

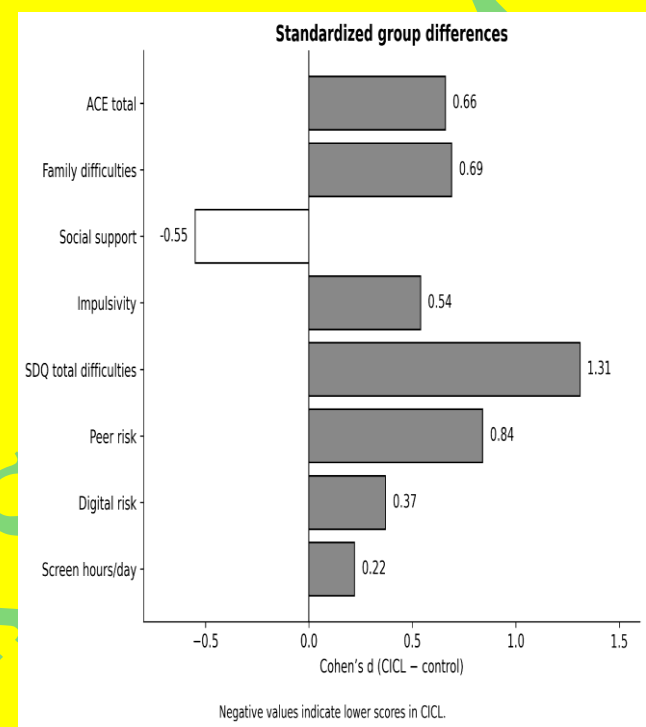
Figure 2. Group Means with SD Error Bars



Participants in the CICL group reported higher levels of ACEs, family problems, impulsiveness, SDQ total difficulties, peer risk and digital risk than other child participants in the study. The CICL group reported lower levels of social support than other child participants in the study. The largest effect size was for SDQ total

difficulties ($d = 1.31$) followed by peer risk ($d = 0.84$) and family problems ($d = 0.69$). There were no significant differences between participant groups for daily screen time.

Figure 3. Cohen's d Effect Sizes

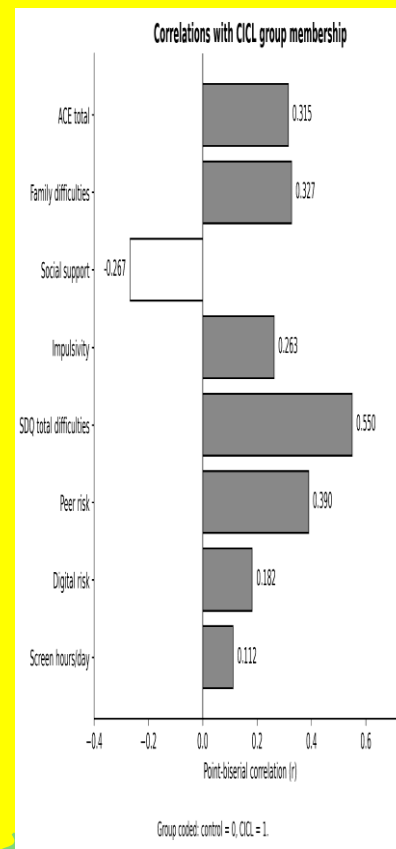


Correlation Analysis

Point-biserial (Pearson) correlations were calculated for all continuous predictors against group status (control = 0, CICL = 1). Results are shown below: ACE total $r = .315$ ($p < .001$); family difficulties $r = .327$ ($p < .001$); social support $r = -.267$ ($p < .001$); impulsivity $r = .263$ ($p < .001$); SDQ total $r = .550$ ($p < .001$); peer risk $r = .390$ ($p < .001$); digital risk $r = .182$ ($p = .010$); screen hours $r = .112$ ($p = .114$). The SDQ total difficulties score showed the largest correlation with group status.

Figure 4. Correlations with CICL Membership

Predictor	B	SE	Wald	p	OR	95% CI
ACE total	−0.48	0.18	7.10	.008	0.62	0.43–0.88
Family difficulties	0.08	0.06	1.77	.183	1.09	0.96–1.23
Social support	−0.07	0.07	1.06	.304	0.93	0.82–1.07
SDQ total	0.35	0.06	31.65	<.001	1.42	1.26–1.61
Peer risk	0.22	0.07	11.36	.001	1.25	1.10–1.42
Digital risk	0.07	0.06	1.23	.267	1.07	0.95–1.22
School disruption	0.80	0.42	3.56	.059	2.23	0.97–5.12
Substance use	1.03	0.45	5.29	.021	2.81	1.16–6.78
Constant	−7.14	1.47	23.73	<.001	—	—



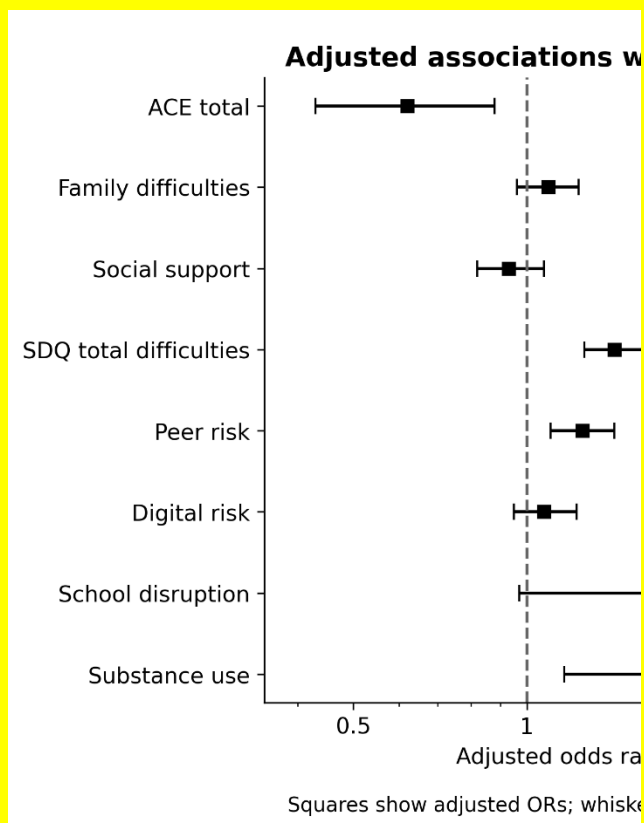
Multivariable Logistic Regression

A binary logistic regression model was developed to predict group status with the following predictors included in the model: ACE total, family difficulties, social support, SDQ total difficulties, peer risk, digital risk, school disruption and substance use. The model was significant [$\chi^2(8) = 106.94$, $p < .001$; Nagelkerke $R^2 = .386$] and had excellent classification for a prediction model.

Table 3. Multivariable Logistic Regression Predicting CICL Group Membership

Note. OR = odds ratio; CI = confidence interval. Model Nagelkerke $R^2 = .386$.
Dependent variable: group (1 = CICL).

Figure 5. Adjusted Odds Ratios with 95% CIs



When adding all variables to the model, SDQ total difficulties (OR = 1.42), peer risk (OR = 1.25) and substance use (OR = 2.81) were significant predictors of group membership in the final model. In the model ACE total had a negative coefficient which was significantly different from zero after controlling for psychological problems for the effect of childhood adversity on delinquent behavior. In contrast to the results of the previous models, family difficulties, social support, digital risk and school disruption did not remain significant predictors of group membership in the final model. However, school disruption

approached significance in this model ($p = .059$).

Summary of Quantitative Findings

Support for the hypotheses H1-H5 was found on the bivariate level. CICL youth experienced high levels of adversity, family problems, psychological/behavioral problems, peer problems, and substance use, and low levels of social support. The multivariable model provided support for H6, and the coefficients partially supported H7 (i.e., the effects of ACEs were partially mediated through the psychological difficulties of the youth). Thus, the quantitative findings from the analysis served as the basis for the purposeful qualitative sampling.

Overview of Qualitative Findings

Results from the thematic analysis of the Phase II interviews yielded 8 interlocking themes relating to the a priori themes of the youth's high-risk narratives and the corresponding low-risk, delinquent and successfully rehabilitated, as well as recidivism narratives. These themes describe in some depth the high-risk youth's narratives of cascading negative events such as early neglect/abuse and subsequent negative experiences in their unstable/fight-filled and often neglectful families, school failure, delinquent peer affiliation, increasing impulsivity and related emotions, and

substance use/digital exposure to further support delinquent behavior. Contrastingly, the narratives of the low-risk, delinquent and successfully rehabilitated youth described in some depth positive residuals that prevented further descent into negative behavior such as a supportive adult, continuing attachment to education, and timely psychological and/or family-based intervention(s). Additionally, the recidivism accounts from Phase II described several negative aspects of aftercare as well as ongoing negative family interactions and return to negative peer groups of the past. These qualitative accounts further describe the Vortex of Delinquency Model's quantitative risk gradients.

Discussion

Principal Findings

This sequential explanatory mixed-methods study examines predictors of juvenile delinquency in a present-day sample of Indian children in conflict with the law. Findings indicate that juvenile delinquency is associated with a set of elevated childhood risk factors including childhood adversity, family risk, child behavior and emotional problems, peer risk and substance use as well as low levels of social support. Quantitative findings revealed that of all variables tested against SDQ total difficulties score and peer risk score, the latter produced the largest effect size. Multivariable logistic regression

revealed that in the presence of all other variables, child behavior and emotional problems, peer risk, and substance use were individually predictive of group status. Attenuation of the ACEs coefficient following covariation with the psychological risks assessed revealed a mediational pathway for these adversities impacting via increased psychological risk.

Psychological Risk Factors and ACEs

The SDQ score for CICL was found to be elevated as well as impulsivity score. The study found that the ACEs in the study contributed to the high levels of psychological risk found in the CICL. In fact, the difference in ACEs between the CICL and NCYB ($d = 0.66$) is a good indicator of the long-term effects of early adversity. Furthermore, the multivariable model's pattern of effects suggests that the ACEs in the CICL mainly increased their psychological vulnerability to later delinquent behavior.

Family Dysfunction and Social Support

Youth in the CICL group reported higher levels of family difficulties and lower levels of social support than their non-offending counterparts. This set of findings is significant not so much because they achieved significance in the end-model, as family difficulties did not, but rather because family processes are a critical target for

intervention, to name but a few goals, to alter in order to interrupt intergenerational patterns of problem behavior.

Peer, Socioeconomic, and Digital Influences

Youth in the CICL sample reported more peer risk than non-delinquent youth, a finding in line with social learning theory and the differential association theory of delinquency. Low SES and school disruption were reported by more CICL than non-delinquent youth, providing a second, structural, layer of disadvantage which also requires further research. Digital risk, although modestly higher for the CICL youth than for non-delinquent youth in the bivariate analyses, formed a unique aspect of their risk profile and is also a feature of their everyday lives, in which online environments can heighten peer influence and provide novel behavioral models.

Forensic Implications and Recidivism Risk

Substance use was a significant predictor of group membership, a well-established dynamic risk factor for recidivism. Hence a risk assessment, using a structured developmentally appropriate psychological measure is useful for assessing the total risk for recidivism (i.e. combining psychosocial and legal/forensic aspects) within an RNR (Risk Need Residue) framework.

The Vortex of Delinquency Model

A sequential explanatory mixed-methods study of a sample of present Indian juvenile delinquents (CICL) therefore identified a particular set of risk domains including a set of childhood and prior family adversity (ACEs), family dysfunction and reduced support, current behavioral and emotional distress, peer and relationship risk, substance use and digital risk, which, individually and in combination, were found to increase risk of offending, with the largest effects for peer risk and for substance use as a dynamic or predictor variable for future offending. Impediments to positive desistance in the form of psychological difficulties, developmental and context drawbacks and anomalies were furthermore found to interact to form a vortex of delinquency which however also had particular points of intervention by way of family support, by way of educational provision and in terms of helping young people to form positive relationships with peers, in terms of reducing and preventing problem substance use and in terms of positive use of digital technologies.

Rehabilitation Framework

Findings support a multilevel rehabilitation model: (1) Individual-trauma-informed psychological care, emotional regulation and impulse-control interventions; (2) Family-counselling, parenting support, monitoring, and reintegration; (3) Social-educational continuity, vocational training, prosocial peer

opportunities, community reintegration; (4) Forensic-structured risk assessment and RNR-guided case management; (5) Digital-literacy, risk awareness, and healthy online behaviour. Coordinated delivery across these levels is likely to maximize impact.

Policy and Practice Implications

A routine risk/needs assessment, which is developmentally sensitive and covers the various areas of risk (ACEs, family, peer etc.) would be of value to the practice of clinical psychology within the juvenile justice system. Work with CICL and their families should focus on a range of trauma-informed and family-focused interventions. Schools could also contribute to the area of early identification and of the work of prevention in the clinic. Intervention within the juvenile justice system should focus on prevention and intervention within the community using a variety of interventions and a range of multi-disciplinary teams.

Strengths of the Study

A number of strengths can be identified including a good sex balance, a sample size large enough to detect medium effects, the use of multiple well validated domains and the use of a sequential mixed-methods approach that allows for explanation of the quantitative findings within the context of the model developed from the qualitative findings.

Limitations

The cross-sectional quantitative design is subject to reverse causality. Recall bias and social-desirability bias in self-report measures are exacerbated by the institutional setting in which the study was conducted. The digital risk measure consisted of relatively few items. The purposeful qualitative sample was of limited size and thus of limited transferability. Findings are to be treated with caution regarding generalizability to settings and contexts beyond those studied in this research. Future longitudinal and multi-site studies are recommended.

Conclusion

Youth delinquency in India today is a multifaceted phenomenon created by a mix of psychosocial, family, peer, digital and even forensic risk factors. The Vortex of Delinquency Model helps to understand the various trajectories created by these risk factors and identifies points for intervention in order to develop a multilevel approach to intervention and rehabilitation which is trauma-informed and family-inclusive. Such a model of intervention can draw from both quantitative risk assessment and qualitative understanding of children and their families in order to develop effective practices within the context of the juvenile justice system in India.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
ACE / ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experience(s)
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
CI	Confidence Interval
CICL	Children / Juveniles in Conflict with the Law
<i>d</i>	Cohen's <i>d</i> (effect size)
JJ Act	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act
LS/CMI	Level of Service / Case Management Inventory
M	Mean
OR	Odds Ratio
PCL-YV	Psychopathy Checklist – Youth Version
RNR	Risk–Need–Responsivity
SD	Standard Deviation
SDQ	Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
SEM	Structural Equation Modelling
SES	Socioeconomic Status
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
YSR	Youth Self-Report

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