



Research Article

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Examining the Relationship between Poverty and Juvenile Delinquency Trends in a Developing Country

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Abstract

This study examines the multifaceted relationship existing among poverty and juvenile delinquency in a developing country like Bangladesh, which has been phenomenally encountering economic disparity. The increased phenomenon of Juvenile Delinquency has great importance in the society especially amongst minority youth. This is an exploratory study, which includes both qualitative approach for data collection where 300 responses (N= 300) was collected through the primary source of gathering information. To determine the direct and indirect effects of variables on juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh SPSS and SmartPLS 4.0 are used, based in Structural Equation Model (SEM). This paper uses the empirical perspectives to investigate the association between poverty conditions and delinquency among Bangladeshi youth. The paper employs the multi-dimensional approach that focuses on root causes through constructs such as Economic Deprivation (ED), Family Dysfunction, Community Disorganization, Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency. The results highlight the strong relationship between poverty and delinquency, suggesting efforts to target interventions as well as other support systems. Suggestions range from public awareness campaigns and training of judges to promotion measures for economic self-determination, as well as legislative changes that would protect the rights of minors. It also highlights that stakeholders working together are a major rescue in preventing juvenile delinquency and promoting the overall well-being of younger minds. The research provided empirical facts, theoretical insights, and practical recommendations to inform Bangladeshi juvenile justice and poverty reduction policies, social initiatives, and academic discussion and policy making for the reduction of juvenile related crimes.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Poverty, Economic Deprivation, Family Dysfunction, Community Disorganization, Peer Influence, Educational Challenge

1. Introduction

In the recent times, one of the social problems is Juvenile Delinquency where juveniles commit crime (youth criminality or minor offenders) which matters in the backdrop of overall development scenario considering its effect on sociology stability as well as personality formation (Patchin & Hinduja, 2006). It can also be described as the perpetration of an offence by a child, something that has increasingly become worrisome in Bangladesh which is marred with poverty and various social problems (Rekker et al., 2015). Poverty and juvenile delinquency interact through multiple mechanisms, with poverty serving as a common cause that encourages the criminal behaviour of young individuals; Farrington et al. (2017) stated that a large section of the population in Bangladesh lives below national poverty line and many find them difficult to meet their most elementary needs for food, shelter or education (BBS, 2021). It causes a more disaffected youth who often find themselves turning to crime for one of two reasons: because they are unable to physically provide the means necessary with which to sustain their person and lives or criminal activity can serve as an outlet from what may be seen by individuals as "less than ideal circumstances" (UNICEF, 2021).

Juvenile delinquency customs in Bangladesh have been linked to misdeeds due a number of irregularities including burglary, wandering, fighting, and involving sexual behaviours as well as homicide (Riaduzzaman, 2017). Youth crime has been a major concern in Bangladesh, which resulted from family issues exposure to affected localities and friends influences peer constrain poverty over media impression societal response (Haque et al., 2020). In Bangladesh, 44% of the child offenders are drug paddlers and more than one-third have been involved in pickpocketing (35%), mugging (12%), prostitution gangs or human trafficking racketeers contribute to about 11%, and other different criminal activities add up to another twenty-one percent among street children. In BD the Problems of juvenile delinquency especially street children (Rekker et al., 2015). These children, who are often runaways or abandoned by their families suffer the brutalities of poverty, exploitation and violence in the streets.

This results in them becoming impoverished with no access to basic amenities, education or social support leaving the way open for criminal activities whether as a means of their survival or due to stress emanating from life (Rekker et al., 2015). Juvenile delinquency has consequences that are relayed to not only the juvenile delinquents but their families, communities and society at large (UNODC, 2020). Delinquent behavior harms victims and their families by causing bodily injury, property damage or emotional trauma. In addition, youth crime is a factor of social disorganization and chaotic in community safety as well as it disrupt the economic growth. That would be a multifaceted solution to the problem since juvenile delinquency ought not to treat as an independent entity (Bhuiyan et al., 2024), Juvenile Delinquency Rehabilitation Services). The objective to eradicate poverty is a long-term one, but there are critical needs for immediate interventions targeted at family members in the community who live below or near the poverty line and youth identified as being vulnerable through poor participation in education employment occupation & social support (Farrington & Welsh, 2005). Similarly, the rule of suitably reinforced family construction, inspirational role examples and advances community-based deterrence programs can support to reduce juvenile delinquency (Catalano et al., 2009).

It is important to understand how juvenile delinquency and poverty level are correlated in terms of knowing the origins of delinquent behavior (Hossain, 2024). Hopefully, we can better target solutions and support systems to the young men most likely get into real trouble by also looking at poverty as an underlying factor in juvenile delinquency. The aim of this paper is to examine the intricate relationship that exists between juvenile delinquency and poverty, current trends, while also seeking solutions to help combat what has become a serious societal crisis (Poli, 2024). It has been demonstrated in researched that two things are part of causes of juvenile delinquency, which one and another is the strong connection between poverty as well (Rekker et al., 2015). Across Cumberland County, children and youth living in poverty too often lack access to quality education, extracurricular opportunities or may be challenged by their surroundings with negative influences.

Attributes that are typically associated with risk factors can compound an adolescent's predisposition to delinquency (Bhuiyan et al., 2023).

While the country has one of the lowest juvenile crime rates in comparison to other nations, there are some types of youth offenses that have been steadily rising over the past decade (Hossain 2014; Khan 2021). Poverty and economic deprivation may largely explain the rise of delinquent behavior in poor and marginalized youth (Hossain, 2010; Saber, 2021). By utilizing delinquency rates in empirical data (Riaduzzaman, 2017), demographic profiles of juvenile offenders and relating literature on the subject, this thesis will assess how poverty conditions are linked with reasons that drive Bangladeshi youth to become engaged in crime (Akter et al., 2023). Among total population, according to Asadullah (2016) over one-third of the Bangladesh are adolescents and youth. The anticipated dividend and disaster of this largest number represents at once an opportunity for growth but the absence of suitable employment generation (Rekker et al., 2015). Yet poverty in all its dimensions impacts many young people as families experience a high prevalence of multidimensional poor (UNICEF, 2019). This extreme form of poverty, it is argued by experts that provided a matrix to criminality breeding conditions like school drop outs, family breakdowns and absent social capital which creates facilitation for deviant sort (Hossain, 2010) Liberals, on the other hand, say that only looking at poverty compensates for individual choice and total agency, but ignoring also tends to ignore people are not entirely good or bad; after all crime rates usually decrease as morality does. A more detailed investigation is warranted into the convoluted relationship between poverty conditions and juvenile delinquency trends in Bangladesh (Milon, 2024).

2. Background of the Research Problem

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable economic and social progress over the past decade, with GDP growth averaging over 6% and poverty rates declining by nearly one-third (World Bank, 2020). However, poverty remains entrenched, with 20% still living below the national poverty line. This disproportionately impacts the country's large youth population of over 34 million adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years, comprising one-third of the total population (UNICEF, 2019). Police records over the past decade show rising arrests and detention of minors, especially from urban slums, for offenses like drug peddling, theft, violence against women, and gang activities (Saber, 2021). The number of juveniles detained in correction centers increased by over 15% between 2015 and 2020 (Khan, 2021). Experts warn that such early delinquent behavior, if unaddressed, may transition into more hardcore criminality and organized gangs, undermining social order and youth development (Akter et al., 2023). Poverty and juvenile delinquency, an entangled association all over the world as a crucial issue that requires extensive research to identify its mechanisms underlying poverty and result in other violent behaviours with effective interventions (Bhuiyan et al., 2024).

So, the key research question this study intends to address is; what prospective dynamics in context of rapid increase juvenile delinquency trends lead poverty to higher levels of crime among adolescents and youth may can underpin changing crime scenario into environment exposed same on as it contradictory (Mani, 2024). An in depth study on this nexus can provide theoretical insights and context specific evidence based policy solutions (Riaduzzaman, 2017). In the face of such socioeconomic vulnerabilities, it is crucial to act in protecting Bangladesh's next generation from falling into criminal behaviour and typical human capital-building (Khan 2021).

3. Review of the Literature

Concept of juvenile delinquency (Xu et al., 2023) in the perspective that this leads to social ugly face problems and disturbances societal growth process (Aazami et al. According to Li et al. (2023), during the Covid-19 pandemic, world got all activities disrupted and youth Crime was less comparatively as mentioned in previous studies (Rahman & Salam, 2023; Salam et al., 2021, 2022). There is a burgeoning problem of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh and identifying its relation to poverty

may enable for proper planning on intervention strategies. In this perspective, Alam et al., 2022 conducted a literature review to synthesize the current research evidence on juvenile delinquency trend by poverty in Bangladesh and identify potential gaps of knowledge need future research directions (Rekker et al., 2015). However, interactive and predictive technology, such as artificial intelligence (Salam et al., 2024), Big Data and Blockchain (Azad et al., 2022), and machine learning technology (Satu et al., 2023) have been changing the world in many aspects. Consequently, youth crime has also increased online (Adesina et al., 2022).

Haque et al. (2020) suggests that poverty plays a major role in youth deviance in Bangladesh. The study also highlights how limited access to education, healthcare and basic needs in impoverished conditions can push children into delinquency as adolescents. The same is true for the reported study of Haque, et al. Poverty is one of the biggest problems and makes younger people in Bangladesh more vulnerable to delinquent activities as highlighted by (2020). Second proposed statement of Jackson and Goossens (2020). The poverty perspective in juvenile delinquency the authors argue that teens who are poor grow up with fewer opportunities, surrounded by crime and suffering economic hardships.

Bangladesh has been struggling to deal with proper childcare facilities which can make millions of children more susceptible to engaging in illegal activities and crimes (Abdullah & Ferdousi, 2024). According to Khan and Tang (2023), family factors are the most powerful predictors of student delinquency, followed by neighbourhood variables. Measures to control the minors indulged into criminal acts (Baimakhanov et al., 2018) are crucial with respect to their origins and implications for appropriate prevention strategies developments in Bangladesh juvenile delinquency (Sarker, 2023). The transformation of life in the consequence of urbanization and industrialization is said to give rise Socio-cultural change with deep impact upon family lives causing social disorganization, juvenile delinquency makes a downward-trend as well (Khuda, 2019). While the previous studies have shed some light on how poverty and juvenile delinquency are related in Bangladesh, there knowledge gaps remain open for further research as well (Mani, 2019).

There is also a need to understand the specific impacts of economic hardship on family dynamics and the role of peer networks or social environment in the context of Bangladesh (Rekker et al., 2015). Juvenile delinquency has been associated with the need to overcome poverty by pursuing illegal means (Wickrama et al., 2010). At the same time, the author fails to provide a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between delinquency and poverty in the context of Bangladesh. In addition, recommendations regarding the approach to researching a relationship between delinquency and poverty are not viable since they are based on existing evidence that insufficiently discusses the social context of juvenile crime in Bangladesh. Notably, the rest of the data provided by Bhuiyan et al. (2024) is relevant to the research topic since economic hardship and poverty are prerequisites for juvenile delinquency in, whereas the lack of social support systems in poor communities exposes children to the traditional dual disadvantage.

Additionally, "there are community-based programs that provide educational and recreational opportunities for poverty-stricken youth". They provide safe environments and structured activities aimed to prevent delinquent behavior among the youth and facilitate their overall positive development (Meah & Hossain, 2023). To promote the use of such programs, federal, state, and local governments and private organizations should fund interagency consortia to carry out research on and implement these programs.

4. Hypothesis Development

As the consequence of existing educational policies initiated by the colonial government, education was largely a privilege of the Europeans and Christian missionaries who owned schools in the colonial age (Wickrama et al., 2010). Even with the introduction of free primary education in Kenya in 1974, which aimed at giving all children a chance to learn and acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills as well as potential for emotional and cognitive growth, little was done in terms of changing the

situation. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, poor and arid districts in Kenya have less access to education at all levels as compared to wealthier and more urbanized districts yet these are the very areas characterized by statistics as having the highest levels of poverty in the country (Rekker et al., 2015). High enrollment rates with less progression to higher classes is also much higher in these standard eight to form one transition classes (Bhuiyan et al., 2023). This according to the bureau, is evidence that students drop out at the end of upper primary education with the major policy guidelines being to improve transition rates and increase retention in secondary schools. Dropout rates among children from poor families are higher as compared to those of the well-to-do families (Wickrama et al., 2010). Therefore, figure 01 represents the proposed research framework.

4.1 Economic Deprivation

Poverty often leads to economic deprivation, which can result in limited access to education, healthcare, and basic amenities (Wickrama et al., 2010). This lack of resources can contribute to feelings of hopelessness and frustration among youth, potentially leading them towards delinquent behaviors. Income inequality has converted an important focus area for empirical analysis in criminology concept. Research in the recent years has provided evidence on the strong link between income inequality and various social problems, including crime and juvenile delinquency (Khanom et al., 2022). Our hypothesis is that higher income inequality results in higher rates of crime and juvenile delinquency.

Ahmadi (2005) stated that the sensation of relative deprivation is a contributing factor to delinquency. Due to the limited availability of welfare schemes and facilities for lower socioeconomic classes, teenagers belonging to these classes are more likely to experience frustration. This is because they perceive the dominant values and norms of society as hindrances to achieving their goals (Molla et al., 2023). Aggression is the typical response to feelings of frustration and deprivation. According to Walklate (2003), strain theory suggests that crime is a result of the challenges faced by individuals in poverty who struggle to achieve socially desirable goals using legal methods. Individuals with low educational attainment face challenges in attaining wealth and status through well-compensated employment, which increases the likelihood of resorting to criminal methods to achieve these objectives. Minority youths may retaliate in hostility against society (Islam & Bhuiyan, 2022). From the above discussion, research has stated that:

Hypothesis 1: There is a positive correlation between economic deprivation and Juvenile delinquency.

4.2 Family Dysfunction

Poverty can strain family dynamics due to financial stressors, which may increase the likelihood of family dysfunction such as parental conflict, neglect, or abuse. According to Robert (2002), children who experience risk factors like behavioral difficulties and familial dysfunction follow a clearly defined and well-documented trajectory. This trajectory starts with behavioral signs and behaviors such as defying parents, lacking preparation for school, and displaying hostility towards classmates. These variables contribute to school failure and eventual dropout, resulting in unfavorable and destructive attitudes such as delinquency, adult criminality, and violence (Bhuiyan, 2019).

Hagan (2001) suggested that experiencing different forms of violence is a significant factor in early teenage disengagement from societal roles. The presence of discord and divorce in two-parent households has a significantly greater disruptive impact compared to stable and affectionate one-parent households (Wickrama et al., 2010). The experts contended that socioeconomic status was a substantial explanatory factor for tendencies towards delinquency (Bhuiyan, 2017). Nevertheless, certain resources indicate that delinquency is also prevalent among middle class youth (Rekker et al., 2015). The primary factors contributing to juvenile horrific crime are land disputes, honor killings, inferiority mentality, huge family size, wealth difference, and the motivation of friends. From the

illustrations of the study, the hypothesis would be like:

Hypothesis 2: Juvenile delinquency has a positive association with family dysfunction.

4.3 Community Disorganization

Poverty-stricken neighborhoods often experience higher levels of social disorganization, characterized by factors such as high crime rates, inadequate social services, and limited access to positive role models and recreational activities. Juvenile delinquency then becomes a common characteristic in society (Wickrama et al., 2010). However, it is crucial that counselors and other professionals in the social health fraternity first understand the interplay of various aspects of the social problem before they establish viable interventions for this problem. Bond (2015) states that areas with high levels of crime and adolescent delinquency are characterized by physical disorder, poverty, and a wide range of cultural variety. Another tenet of the social disorganization hypothesis posits that involvement in illicit activities does not originate at the individual level (Rekker et al., 2015). According to this view, individuals who commit crimes are not necessarily required to have prior records connecting them to such offenses. The study conducted by Hadjar, Baier, Boehnke, and Hagan (2007) found that the behavior of young individuals can be attributed to the influence of both their parents and society. Upon careful scrutiny of these underprivileged areas, it becomes evident that the poverty factor mentioned in the theory of social disorganization does indeed impact the choices made by young individuals to engage in criminal activities as a means to acquire material possessions or money in order to meet their basic needs, such as housing, nourishment, and clothing (Kennedy et al., 2020). Based on the above explanation, the research hypothesis can be summarized as follows:

Hypothesis 3: There is an association between Juvenile delinquency and community disorganization.

4.4 Peer Influence

Peer influence plays a significant role in shaping behavior during adolescence, and exposure to deviant peers can increase the likelihood of engaging in delinquent behavior (Kennedy et al., 2020). When youngsters are unable to be accepted by their peers, they frequently encounter a persistent cycle of social exclusion and lack of success throughout their lives (Schaeffer and Lamm, 1995). Furthermore, it is evident that during their middle teenage years, the peer group exerts a significant and potentially the most influential impact on attitudes, objectives, and behavioral standards (Youniess, 1980). Put simply, through peer judgments, an individual's self-perception is constantly shaped and reshaped. Bond (2003), Henslin (2008), and Gravira and Raphael (2009) have suggested that peer groups possess such significant influence that individuals are willing to deviate from societal norms in order to safeguard the interests, values, norms, and expectations of their group (Jarjoura et al., 2002). Le Blanc (2003) suggests that the relationship with deviant peers can occur in two ways: firstly, by having friends who engage in criminal activities, and secondly, by joining a somewhat organized group of delinquents, commonly known as a gang (Kennedy et al., 2020). Teenagers who identify as gang members likely to have a higher level of engagement in criminal activities, especially in terms of the severity and range of offenses committed (Thornberry et al., 2003). Several subsequent research has utilized similar objective peer measures in their models, uncovering a persistent correlation between peer deviance and delinquency (McGloin 2009). From the preceding explanation, the research hypothesis may be concisely expressed as:

Hypothesis 4: Peer Influence has a favorable relationship with Juvenile Delinquency.

4.5 Educational Challenges

Poverty can negatively impact educational opportunities, including lower-quality schools, inadequate resources, and higher dropout rates (Wickrama et al., 2010; Sarwanto, 2023). There exists a correlation between the mistreatment and disregard of young individuals and their involvement in criminal behavior (Kennedy et al., 2020). The quality of children's upbringing is significantly impacted by the economic capabilities of their parents (Islam et al., 2024). These adolescents frequently experience self-esteem problems and are prone to rebellion and involvement in antisocial activities. Guerrieri and Dell (2008) argue that the majority of juvenile offenders with severe criminal behavior have a background of parental substance addiction and maltreatment when they enter the juvenile justice system (Gunuboh, 2023). The presence of poverty raises the probability of young individuals fleeing their homes, which in turn dramatically heightens their likelihood of participating in delinquent behavior. Roy et al. (2007) report that homeless kids engage in detrimental activities, such as substance misuse, as a means to alleviate the harsh reality of their situation (Kennedy et al., 2020).

Hypothesis 5: Education challenges contribute to the occurrence of juvenile delinquency.

4.6 Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is a frequently used phrase in academic literature to describe a young individual who has engaged in criminal behavior (Sarwanto, 2023). However, the exact definition of this term may differ depending on the specific jurisdiction (Rekker et al., 2015). The precise causes for these disparities are uncertain, but they could stem from the absence of a universally accepted global benchmark (Gunuboh, 2023). Author has described the detailed studies on Juvenile delinquency. Children raised in poverty are more likely to acquire an underclass status, which increases their likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior (Kennedy et al., 2020). Pagani, et al. (1999) discovered a noteworthy interaction between persistent lower social class rank and recurring engagement in severe criminal activities among young individuals (Jarjoura et al., 2002). Based on the categorization of psychological kinds (Sarwanto, 2023), there are three distinct sorts of adolescents that commonly fall victim to violence: incidental victims, individuals prone to become victims, and innate victims (Alam et al., 2022). Research has indicated that in most instances where physical harm occurs, the perpetrator and the victim have a pre-existing relationship and may be married, related, or friends. This holds true for 80 percent of homicides and 70 percent of sexual offenses (Kennedy et al., 2020).

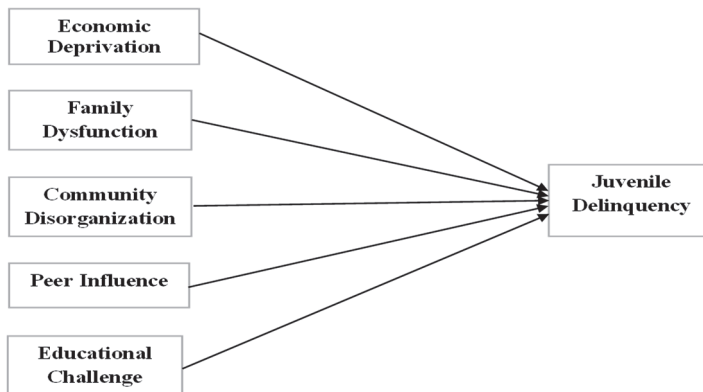


Figure 1: Proposed research framework
Source: Author Work

4.7 Quantitative Component

For the quantitative aspect, a cross-sectional research design has been adopted. The study utilized structured surveys administered to a representative sample of Bangladeshi adolescents, ensuring a diverse representation across different regions and socio-economic strata (Gunuboh, 2023). The surveys included standardized measures to assess the prevalence and nature of juvenile delinquency, socio-economic status, family dynamics, educational background, and community influences (Kennedy et al., 2020). The quantitative data has been statistically analyzed using appropriate tools, such as regression analysis, to identify significant correlations and patterns within the dataset (Sarwanto, 2023).

Table 1:

Variable	Items	Source
Economic Deprivation	ED 1: How does poverty contribute to the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh from your opinion?	(Nisar et al., 2015)
	ED 2: How do economic disparities influence the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency?	
	ED3: Lack of employment opportunities contribute most significantly to variations in juvenile delinquency rates across districts.	
	ED4: Income instability contribute most significantly to variations in juvenile delinquency rates across districts.	
Family Dysfunction	FD 1: Family dysfunction has a stronger impact on the behavior of impoverished youth compared to those from more affluent backgrounds.	(Higgins & McCabe, 2003; Gunuboh, 2023)
	FD 2: I think that youth from low-income families are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviors due to family-related stressors and conflicts	
	FD 3: Conflict and tension between family members leading to delinquent behavior.	
	FD 4: Do you think it is for intervention programs targeting juvenile delinquency to address family dysfunction and provide support to families in poverty?	
Community Disorganization	CD 1: How does the community environment, characterized by poverty-related challenges, influence the likelihood of youth engaging in delinquent behavior in Bangladesh?	(Alanezi, 2010)
	CD 2: What role does community infrastructure and access to recreational facilities play in mitigating the impact of economic disparities on juvenile delinquency rates across districts?	
	CD 3: Community disorganization, such as high crime rates and lack of recreational facilities, creates an environment conducive to juvenile delinquency.	
	CD 4: Do you believe that lack of community cohesion and collective efficacy in addressing social problems.	
Peer Influence	PI 1: I believe that peer pressure plays a significant role in influencing juvenile delinquency among youth living in impoverished communities.	(Sarwanto, 2023)
	PI 2: I think that youth from low-income backgrounds are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviors due to pressure from their peers.	
	PI 3: Pressure from peers to engage in illegal activities.	
	PI4: Peer groups exerting influence on decision-making related to illegal activities (e.g., theft, drug abuse).	

Variable	Items	Source
Educational Challenge	EC 1: To what extent do disparities in access to educational resources and opportunities contribute to variations in juvenile delinquency rates across different districts in Bangladesh?	(Ward & Williams, 2015; Gunuboh, 2023)
	EC 2: What are the long-term consequences of poverty-driven juvenile delinquency in terms of criminal justice system involvement, educational attainment, and employment prospects in Bangladesh?	
	EC 3: Collaborative efforts between schools and communities are crucial in combating juvenile delinquency.	
	EC4: Adequate funding for educational programs is necessary to address poverty-related issues effectively.	
Juvenile Delinquency	JD 1: Juvenile delinquency is more prevalent in economically disadvantaged communities.	(Gomes et al., 2022)
	JD 2: Poverty increases the likelihood of engagement in criminal activities among juveniles.	
	JD 3: Poverty is a significant factor in the cycle of crime and incarceration.	
	JD 4: Juvenile delinquency can be mitigated through effective educational interventions.	

5. Research Methodology

5.1 Research Design and sampling

This study employs a qualitative approach to provide a comprehensive analysis of juvenile delinquency trends influenced by poverty within the Bangladesh context (Gunuboh, 2023). In the case of the research population, overall, Bangladesh aspects have been targeted. However, regarding data collection, the Dhaka and Rangpur districts were chosen randomly. Therefore, based on the random sampling technique, the researcher has gathered data exclusively from the districts of Dhaka and Rangpur (Akter et al., 2023). The sample is determined to be juveniles who are conducting delinquency due to poverty or crisis. To make it persuasive, the survey contains two sections: where the first section contains demographic and descriptive data, and the second part is quantitative data. In social science aspects, the Likert scale is one of the most common psychometric tools. Regarding the quantitative 5-scale, Likert has been adopted where 1 represented strongly disagree, and 5 represented strongly agreed (Salam, Rayun, & Leong, 2024). The sample was distributed 400 data, but the response rate was 320 data where 20 datasets were cleaned to analyze the data. In this study, the response rate is 80 percent. The questionnaire has been delivered online to the specific respondents relevant to this research aspect (Kennedy et al., 2020). Stratified random sampling technique has been employed to ensure representation from different socio-economic backgrounds, regions, and age groups (Sarwanto, 2023). This approach is crucial for capturing the diversity within the Bangladeshi aspects and allowing for meaningful comparisons.

5.2 Analysis Instruments

Regarding data analysis, data has been refined first. Out of 320 responses, 300 have been found eligible for data analysis for this study (Amin et al., 2024; Bhuiyan et al., 2024). The data was analyzed using SPSS and SmartPLS 4.0 to establish correlations with the research objectives (Bhuiyan et al., 2024). Regarding multivariate data analysis, SEM (structural equation modelling) has been used to analyze the relationship among constructs, and the most common estimations are partial least squares SEM (PLS-SEM) and covariance-based SEM (CB-SEM) (Hair Jr et al., 2021). However, regarding PLS-SEM-based analysis, SmartPLS is one of the best applications for data analysis (Ringle, 2015).

6. Analysis and Discussion

Table 1 shows demographic responses. 80% of respondents were male students (240) while 20% of students are women (60). 38 juveniles surveyed fall into the age range of 9 to 12, which constitutes approximately 12.7% of the total surveyed. 72 individuals surveyed fall into the age range of 12 to 14, which constitutes approximately 24% of the total surveyed. 76 individuals surveyed fall into the age range of 14 to 16, which constitutes approximately 25.3% of the total surveyed. 114 juveniles surveyed fall into the age range of 16 to less than 18, which constitutes approximately 38% of the total surveyed. A total of 188 persons who are considered to be juveniles were the subjects of a study that was carried out in Dhaka. This represents approximately 62.7% of the total population.

Table 2: Demographic Information (Total N=300)

Items	Categories	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	240	80
	Female	60	20
Age	9-12	38	12.7
	12-14	72	24
	14-16	76	25.3
	16- less than 18	114	38
Study Area	Dhaka	188	62.7
	Rangpur	112	37.3
Level of Education	PSC	126	42
	JSC	64	21.3
	SSC	89	29.7
	HSC	21	7

There were a total of 112 juveniles included in the survey that was conducted in Rangpur. This represents approximately 37.3% of the total population in Table 1. The Primary School Certificate (PSC) was administered to 126 participants, representing approximately 42% of the total sample size. A total of 64 persons, which accounts for roughly 21.3% of the total, were surveyed for the Junior School Certificate (JSC). Out of the total number of participants surveyed, which was 89, approximately 29.7% held a Secondary School Certificate (SSC). HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate): A total of 21 persons were surveyed, which represents approximately 7% of the overall sample size in Table 1.

6.1 Measurement Model

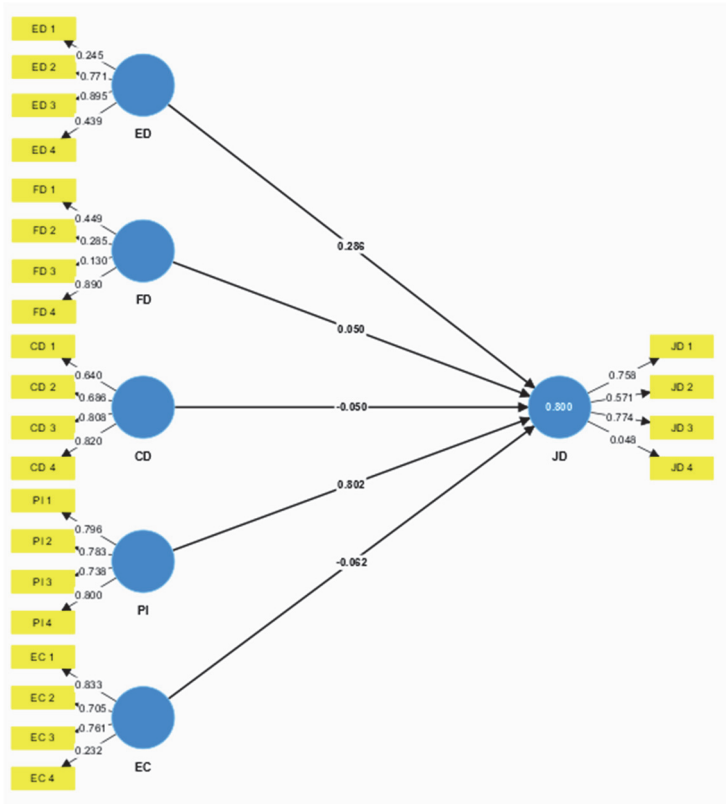
The quality of constructs is assessed using the measurement model, which commences with the measurement of factor loadings. This process aids in establishing the reliability and validity of the model analysis (Kabir et al., 2024). According to Vinzi et al. (2010), a factor loading greater than 0.7 is considered desirable in the research model. However, Hair et al. (2020) argue that the factor loadings of all the items in the measurement model should be at least 0.40 in order to be considered acceptable in Table 2. However, it is common for researchers in social science studies to obtain lower outer loadings, often around 0.70. According to Pett et al. (2003), each element inside the correlation matrix exhibits a connection with the principal component, as evidenced by the factor loading (Amin et al., 2024). The factor loadings span from -1.0 to +1.0, with higher values indicating a stronger link between the item and the construct in Table 2. As per Hair et al. (2020), it is recommended to only consider removing items within constructs that have outer loadings between 0.40 and 0.70 if their removal results in an increase in the composite reliability (CR) or average variance extracted (AVE) over the acceptable threshold in the following table.

Table 3: Measurement Model Result

Construct	Items	Outer Loadings	Cronbach's Alpha	CR (rho_c)	AVE
JD	JD 1	0.758	0.495	0.747	0.501
	JD 2	0.571			
	JD 3	0.776			
ED	ED 2	0.774	0.551	0.766	0.539
	ED 3	0.904			
	ED 4	0.448			
FD	FD 1	0.399	0.653	0.831	0.713
	FD 4	0.928			
CD	CD 1	0.639	0.731	0.829	0.551
	CD 2	0.685			
	CD 3	0.808			
	CD 4	0.821			
PI	PI 1	0.796	0.786	0.861	0.608
	PI 2	0.783			
	PI 3	0.738			
	PI 4	0.800			
EC	EC 1	0.848	0.676	0.821	0.607
	EC 2	0.713			
	EC 3	0.769			

As a result of the fact that certain of the factor loading results are lower than the desired point, such as being lower than 0.40, certain item results, including JD4, ED1, FD2, FD3, and E4, have been removed. After careful consideration, a total of five items have been removed from the measurement model in Table 2. Cronbach's alpha, often known as rho_c, is the standard method for determining dependability. According to Suboor and Anjum (2005), the optimal value for rho_c is more than 0.50. In contrast, the scores of the Composite Reliability assessment ranged from 0.747 to 0.861, while the Cronbach's Alpha measurements ranged from 0.495 to 0.786. Furthermore, the AVE values, which range from 0.501 to 0.713, not only meet but also exceed the suggested cut-off value of 0.50 that was established by Fornell and Larcker (1981). The convergent validity of the theoretical components contained within the proposed model is demonstrated by these findings, which provide empirical support for this validity in Table 2.

6.2 Results of Research Model



Source: Author Work

The use of SmartPLS 4.0 to the research model has produced this outcome in Figure 2. The graphic that was just provided shows the results of each of the constructions and items that were used.

Table 4: Result of Discriminant Validity (HTMT Matrix) Criterion

	ED	FD	CD	PI	EC	JD
ED	.734	.563	.361	.558	.821	.514
FD	.563	.844	.272	.299	.364	.274
CD	.361	.272	.742	.429	.367	.219
PI	.558	.299	.429	.779	.686	.601
EC	.821	.364	.367	.686	.779	.654
JD	.514	.274	.219	.601	.654	.707

In accordance with the data that are presented in Table 3, it is possible to make the observation that the square root of the AVE for each theoretical construct is greater than the correlations between the different constructs (Hossain et al., 2024). The findings of this study lend credence to the hypothesis of discriminant validity proposed by Fornell and Larcker (1981). As a result, the approach for measuring indicates strong construct reliability and validity, both of which are necessary conditions for evaluating the structural model shown in figure 3.

Table 5: Regression Analysis and hypothesis test result

Hypothesis	Relationship	β	R ²	P Values	Decision
H ₁	ED->JD	.503	.317	<.001	Accepted
H ₂	FD->JD	.281	.130	<.001	Accepted
H ₃	CD->JD	.605	.312	<.001	Accepted
H ₄	PI->JD	.787	.674	<.001	Accepted
H ₅	EC->JD	.489	0.264	<.001	Accepted

To test the hypotheses of the study (Uddin et al., 2024), Smart PLS 4.0 has been utilized. In addition, the relationship between constructs, β , R², and P Values have been measured in order to ascertain whether or not the hypotheses are supported in Table 4. SPSS is also deployed to conduct the hypothesis test. According to the first hypothesis, there is a positive link between the notions of ED and JD. According to the data, ED has a substantial and positive influence on JD ($\beta = 0.503$, $t = 11.769$, $p < 0.001$) in Table 4. This is in line with the prediction made by Hypothesis H₁, which states that ED has a significant and favorable impact regarding JD. As a result, Hypothesis 1 is supported in Table 4. The second hypothesis, which states that there is a positive connection between the concepts of FD and JD, makes this assertion. As indicated by the results, it can be observed that FD exerts a significant and favorable impact on JD ($\beta = 0.281$, $t = 6.680$, $p < 0.001$), as illustrated in Table 4. According to the forecast that was produced by Hypothesis H₂, which suggests that FD has a significant and favorable impact regarding JD, this is in agreement with the prediction. As a consequence of this, the second hypothesis is upheld by Table 4.

According to the first hypothesis, there is a positive link between the notions of CD and JD. According to the data, CD has a substantial and positive influence on JD ($\beta = 0.605$, $t = 11.615$, $p < 0.001$) in Table 4. This is in line with the prediction made by Hypothesis H₃, which states that CD has a significant and favorable impact regarding JD. As a result, Hypothesis 3 is supported in Table 4. The fourth hypothesis, which states that there is a positive connection between the concepts of PI and JD, makes this assertion. As indicated by the results, it can be observed that PI exerts a significant and favorable impact on JD ($\beta = 0.787$, $t = 22.844$, $p < 0.001$), as illustrated in Table 4. According to the forecast that was produced by Hypothesis H₄, which suggests that PI has a significant and favorable impact regarding JD, this is in agreement with the prediction. As a consequence of this, the fourth hypothesis is upheld by Table 4.

The ultimate hypothesis posits a positive correlation between the notions of EC and JD, hence asserting this claim. Based on the findings, it is evident that EC has a statistically significant and positive influence on JD ($\beta = 0.489$, $t = 10.335$, $p < 0.001$), as depicted in Table 4. Based on the forecast generated by Hypothesis H₄, which posits that EC exerts a substantial and advantageous influence on JD, this aligns with the anticipated outcome. Table 4 is supported the fourth hypothesis as a result of this.

6.3 Discussion

The objective of this study is to examine the Bangladesh's juvenile delinquency trends, causes, and effects, focusing on poverty. The main goal is to understand how socio-economic factors, cultural dynamics, and legal frameworks shape juvenile delinquency trends. The thesis provides empirical facts, theoretical insights, and practical recommendations to inform Bangladeshi juvenile justice and poverty reduction policies, social initiatives, and academic discourse using constructs of ED (Economic Deprivation), FD (Family Dysfunction), CD (Community Disorganization), PI (Peer Influence), EC (Education Challenge), and JD (Juvenile Delinquency). Moreover, the objective is to examine variations in juvenile delinquency rates among different districts in Bangladesh and determine if poverty is a contributing factor to these discrepancies (Sarwanto, 2023).

This study aims to analyze gender-specific patterns in juvenile delinquency that are associated

with poverty, with a specific focus on identifying any discrepancies in the influence of economic situations on male and female juveniles. Insufficient educational opportunities, limited resource availability, and societal influences are the distinct disadvantageous socio-economic factors in underprivileged neighborhoods that associated with an increased risk of juvenile delinquency. The conclusions that are provided in the study are proven using SPSS and SmartPLS to carry out the relationship and validity of the research model that is demonstrated here. The findings that resulted in our analysis are proven to be directly influencing the variables that are forms of Juvenile Delinquency. In this study, all the hypothesis tests are supported by our constructs.

7. Implications

The implications of the study, utilizing constructs of Economic Deprivation, Family Dysfunction, Community Disorganization, Peer Influence, Education Challenge, and Juvenile Delinquency, offer valuable insights into addressing youth crime within a Bangladeshi context (Bhuiyan et al., 2024). In the first place, recognizing the significant correlation between economic deprivation and juvenile delinquency supports the incredible importance of poverty reduction. Social agencies should focus on creating job opportunities, raising income distribution, and meeting basic needs of the poor. Second, given the impact of Family

Dysfunction on juvenile delinquency, the need for family-targeted programs should be recognized. To support a positive family environment, programs may focus on the development of support among family members and may educate better parenting, along with addressing issues like domestic violence and substance abuse. Third, community disorganization should be addressed through social programs, utilization of communities' resources, and the building of collective cohesion. Policy measures should be targeted at community participation in activities, neighborhood revitalization, and crime prevention partnerships (Bhuiyan, 2024). The fourth point presents the need to recognize the impact of Peer Influence on juvenile delinquency to ensure positive peer relations. There is a need to design programs that would encourage the membership in a pro-social peer group, promote mentorship, and provide alternative positive activities to avoid negative peer influence.

Addressing educational challenges requires improving access to quality education, reducing dropout rates, and enhancing educational opportunities for marginalized youth. Investments in education (Sarwanto, 2023), including vocational training and life skills development (Wickrama et al., 2010), can empower youth and reduce their susceptibility to engaging in delinquent behavior. The study underscores the multifaceted nature of juvenile delinquency, highlighting the interconnectedness of various social determinants. Effective strategies for reducing juvenile delinquency must address underlying risk factors comprehensively, taking into account the interplay of economic, familial, community, peer, and educational influences.

8. Recommendations

The national task group has compiled a roster of vital concerns that need to be tackled in the juvenile justice system, although there is a lack of a well-defined plan that focuses on taking action (Sarwanto, 2023). Furthermore, the concerning authorities of the Bangladesh can examine the following proposals to avoid juvenile misbehavior in Bangladesh and enhance the juvenile justice system.

The government and NGO's should conduct comprehensive campaigns to raise awareness and distribute information about current regulations, utilizing established community networks.

Merely establishing a juvenile court is insufficient; the judges and magistrates assigned to the court must possess specialized knowledge or training in child psychology or child welfare.

The name of the juvenile court needs to be altered due to the prevailing unfavorable perception of courts in our country, particularly when it comes to handling criminal cases. The name of the council could perhaps be Juvenile Justice Council.

The government should formulate methods to economically empower the urban underprivileged by

offering fundamental business training and facilitating accessible financial assistance with a low interest rate.

A medical testing system will be implemented to determine the age of juveniles. It is imperative to implement the mandatory birth registration system.

The legislation concerning the safeguarding of children's rights should prioritize that specific area.

The government must take action to create a dedicated police unit. In the meantime, they should assign officers who have received specialized training in handling juvenile cases to each police station (Bhuiyan et al., 2024).

There should be a globally enforceable authority in laws concerning the rights of children.

Juveniles at the penal institute should be classified based on age, crime, and mindset. The repair procedure will be revised in accordance with the guidance provided by experts.

Bangladesh requires the establishment of an autonomous human rights agency that is tasked with the promotion and safeguarding of children's rights.

9. Conclusions

The concept of juvenile delinquency prevention in Bangladesh encompasses a comprehensive range of initiatives that seek to deter young individuals from engaging in criminal or other forms of antisocial behavior (Sarwanto, 2023). Preventive services encompass a range of interventions, including but not limited to substance addiction education and treatment, family counseling, youth mentorship, parental education, educational support, and youth sheltering (Bhuiyan et al., 2024). The enhancement of accessibility and utilization of planning services, encompassing educational initiatives and contraceptive methods, contributes to the mitigation of unexpected pregnancy and unwanted births, both of which are recognized as risk factors for delinquency. The results emphasize the pressing necessity for focused initiatives that attempt to mitigate poverty and tackle its correlated impacts on the conduct of young individuals (Akter et al., 2023). The prioritization of access to education, vocational training, and employment opportunities, together with the provision of support for disadvantaged families and communities, should be emphasized in such interventions. The implementation of sustainable solutions and the creation of a favorable environment for the beneficial development of kids necessitate the involvement of government agencies, non-profit organizations, and local communities in collaborative endeavors (Sarwanto, 2023).

10. Limitations of the Research

Although the presented thesis seeks to increase our understanding of the relationship between juvenile delinquency trends and the variable of poverty as it pertains to Bangladesh, certain limitations should be considered (Wickrama et al., 2010). Primarily, the use of available data might be considered a constraint since there may be gaps and weaknesses of the source of this information, primarily the existing Bangladeshi datasets on juvenile delinquency (Sarwanto, 2023). The next limitation is related to the study's cross-sectional design, as the causation between poverty and juvenile delinquency cannot be identified in a reliance-producing relationship. The other study restraint is due to the changing socio-economic situation in Bangladesh (Akter et al., 2023), potentially affecting the trends in juvenile delinquency over time. Finally, the research's limitation is due to the identified contextual constraints, meaning that changes in the conceptual framework might be needed. Despite these limitations, the findings are expected to contribute meaningfully to the existing literature and inform targeted interventions aimed at addressing juvenile delinquency in impoverished settings in Bangladesh.

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