

A Study on Juvenile Delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School **Soe Wuttye Htoo¹**

Abstract

The survey conducted in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School revealed interesting results pertaining to juvenile delinquency. The study concerns itself with a sample of 100 juvenile delinquents randomly selected from four hostels in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The survey was carried out through a pre-coded questionnaire, administered to four hostels with the assistance of the responsible persons in this training school. A large number of respondents are between the age of 16 and 18 years. Most of the respondents (43.0%) come from semi-urban of Yangon and almost all are Myanmar Buddhists. Among the 100 respondents, 10 respondents have never attended school and nearly one fourth (22.0%) of the remaining 90 respondents only has the primary level education. Furthermore, the majority of the respondents (50.0%) come from intact families that have faced the domestic violence. Most respondents (70.0%) committed theft case. Among 100 respondents, (30.0%) of them committed theft case because of financial difficulty and another (30.0%) committed theft case due to the peer influence.

1. Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is closely associated with fundamental changes in modern society to see the problem in its broader perspective. It is necessary to take into consideration the society's disruptive forces and process, as contrasted with the processes of integration; to consider the society social problem, of which delinquency and if a conspicuous example; and to note the changing attitude towards the problems of delinquent and deviant behavior. More than one million children worldwide are detained by law enforcement official.

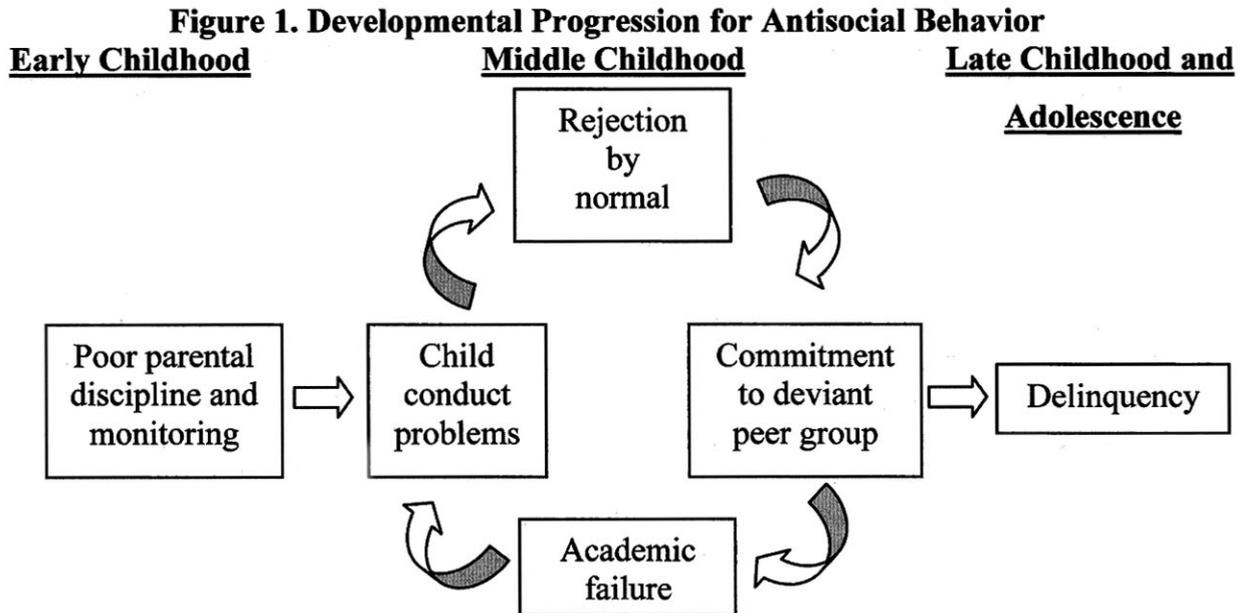
In Myanmar, the government organized the National Committee on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) in order to implement effectively and successfully the provisions of Myanmar child law in 1993. The main functions of NCRC are to protect the right of the child and to carry out measures for the best interest of the child with the cooperation and coordination of GOs, NGOs and INGOs. And also the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and government organization under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR). The DSW is carrying out social welfare services through preventive, protective and rehabilitative measures focusing on juvenile delinquents. There are eight training schools for boys/girls run by the DSW.

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Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School is a stated-owned institution or training center as it is operated by the DSW that is under the support of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The main objectives of the establishment of Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School by the Social Welfare Department are to reform the children's antisocial behavior, to provide formal education (FE), non-formal education (NFE) and vocational training for those who have the interest and capacity, to gain self-reliance and self-confidence to be able to stay independent in their future life. The types of children at this training school are the children in need of special protection (CNSP) who are sent by Social Welfare Department and juvenile delinquents who are sent by all juvenile courts in Myanmar for temporary care. In this study, the juvenile delinquents in this training school are observed. The Supreme Court has established five special Juvenile Courts at five townships in for Yangon metropolitan area. And also, the township judges are vested with the power to judge juvenile cases in other townships. Therefore, the juvenile delinquents in this training school come from various areas in Myanmar. Hence, the causes and situations of juvenile delinquency in Myanmar were discussed by studying the juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School.

2. Conceptual Framework on Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile Delinquency refers to antisocial or illegal behavior by children or adolescents. Delinquency is a legal term for criminal behavior carried out by a juvenile. It is often the result of escalating problematic behavior. The United Nations General Assembly defined "youth" as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years inclusive. This definition was made for the international year of Youth, held around the world in 1985. All United Nations statistics on youth are based on this definition, as illustrated by the annual yearbook of statistics published by the United Nations system on demography, education, employment and health.



Source: Patterson, Debaryshe, & Ramsey, 1989

In a nutshell, these early-occurring delinquents trigger the anger of their parents; alienate peers by their refusal to play by the rules, anger teachers with their disobedient and disruptive behavior, and short-circuit their own ability to master more prosaically skills (Prothrow-Stith & Weissman, 1991). These behaviors appear to be quite stable, beginning during preschool and continuing through old age (Moffitt & Harrington, in press). Overtime, the negative consequences snow-ball; these early delinquents lack the social skills necessary to find work or marriages that might enable them to drop out of crime (Caspi, Elder, & Bern, 1987; Patterson & Yoerger, 1993). Those who continue to commit crimes at the age of 25years are more apt to become dependent on alcohol and other drugs, abuse their spouse and children, and suffer from psychiatric disorder (Moffit, 1993).

3. Circumstances of Children in Myanmar

In Myanmar, children rights recognize immediate rights (civil, political rights and fundamental rights) as well as progressive rights (economic, social, cultural rights and rights to health and education) like human rights.

The category of rights provided by the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) are as follows:

- (1) Survival Rights: right to life and right to the highest standard of health and medical care
- (2) Protection Rights: protection from discrimination, abuse, neglects protection for children without families and refugee children.
- (3) Development rights: formal and non-formal education and the right to a standard of living which is adequate for child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development
- (4) Participation rights: right to express his/her view about all matters which concern him/her.

Without any consideration of sex, nationality and culture, a special protection is provided for children because of their age and development. This protection is afforded by States, institutions and individuals.

3.1. Children's Rights Institutions and National Coordinating Mechanism

The government ministries concerned with children are the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, and Ministry of Religious Affairs. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is the leading ministry in implementing the national functions for children.

For abused and exploited children who are in need of protection from the Government, the Department of Social Welfare has established eight training schools for boys and girls to provide physical and mental rehabilitation services and reintegration programmes. One thousand two hundred and ninety-eight children are being taken care for all-round development. In doing so, after they are given formal education and vocational education, they have to return to parents/guardians. The reintegration programmes are also implemented. In addition, 13,836 children are being looked after in 158 Youth Development Centers.

The Department of Social Welfare focuses on rehabilitation for persons with disabilities. For the rehabilitation, specialized training schools have been established for the physically handicapped, hearing handicapped and mentally retarded- two schools for the blind, a school for the deaf, and a vocational training school for the disabled adults and a school for disabled children.

Twenty-seven youth development training schools have been established for the children in border areas to enable them to have access to education. Thirty-four women vocational training schools have also been provided with vocational training to girl children. The Nationalities Youth Technical Schools have been established for the youths from national races in the border areas. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Relief and Resettlement and other NGOs specially provided the following programmes;

- (1) Street/ working children: establishment of drop in centre, hostel, community development programme
- (2) A bandoned/orphan children: residential care and adoption service
- (3) Insitutionalised children: institutins run by government organization (GO) and non-government organization (NGO) providing education, vocational and social training, relocation program
- (4) Children is conflict with the law: protection in classification home,probation services
- (5) Disabled children: institutions run by GO and NGO, institutional care, community based prevention program
- (6) Abused and exploited children: situational analysis of advocacy meeting, awareness raising meeting and production of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.

The National Committee on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) was established in 1993 as a main coordination mechanism to systematically enforce the Child Law and the Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee was founded in 1999, which also aims to share information and knowledge in Asia-Pacific countries. However, there is no independent mechanism to monitor and evaluate progress regularly in the implementation of the CRC at the local and national levels

3.2 Type of Juvenile Delinquents in Myanmar

The term of juvenile is used to include all types of children. The children's rights from theory to practice in the literature classified juvenile delinquency into two types: pre delinquent juvenile and delinquent juvenile.

Pre delinquent juvenile: do not commit any offence, but shows strong tendencies towards committing offence such as staying away from their home without good reason, associated with a person of criminal propensity.

Delinquent juvenile: is of minimum age of criminal responsibility and has committed an offence.

3.3 Legal Protection for Juvenile Delinquents in Myanmar

Myanmar signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on July 14th 1991. To comply with its principles, the child law was adopted in 1993 and the former Acts of 1930 and 1955 were repealed. Under the Child Law of 1993, courts come into contact with young offenders only when they are arrested for prosecution or sent up for trial. The Social Welfare Department (DSW) is the most responsible government agency for children in training and care.

4. Materials and Methods

Primary data was obtained from the field through the administration of structured questionnaires as well as personal observation.

The sample frame included the 100 juvenile delinquents in the four hostels in Nget-Aw-San Training School under the study. Data collected include their family background, peer influence and appearance. Nominal data was collected on the cases they committed to know why they became juveniles delinquents. These were tested by the use of closed questions where possible answers were defined in advance for the respondents to choose.

4.1 Methods of data analysis

The survey methods used in this study are both quantitative and qualitative method to find the overall causes and family situation of juvenile delinquency in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. Qualitative research employs mostly interviews and observations to gather information. In qualitative research method, the interviews were taken to get the correct and complete case studies from juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The quantitative research method is supported by the questionnaire to allow for the accommodation of statistical presentation of information.

The data obtained was analyzed using quantitative statistics such as frequency distribution tables and percentages with the aid of statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 16 and Microsoft excel 2007.

5. Results and Discussions

5.1 Survey Area and Survey Population

The chosen survey site is Nget-Aw-San boys' Training School. The total number of juvenile delinquents in this training school is 315. In this study, 100 (31.7%) of the total juvenile delinquents from Nget-Aw-San Training School responded.

Table 1: Questionnaire Distribution among Four Hostels in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School

Hostel	Observed Frequency	
	Frequency	%
Ban-Du-La	20	20.0
Kyan-Sit-Thar	35	35.0
A-Laung-Pha-Yar	17	17.0
Ba-Yint-Naung	28	28.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Table 1 shows that an observed frequency of 20 (20.0%), 35(35.0%), 17(17.0%), and 28(28.0%) for four hostels, namely, Bandula, Kyan-Sit-Thar, A-Laung-Pha-Yar and Ba-Yint-Naung respectively in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The table clearly depicts the status of questionnaire distribution among the different, selected hostels in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School.

5.2 Demographic Particulars of Respondents

Some characteristics and family situation of 100 (31.7%) juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School are described as follows:

Table 2: Age of Respondents

Age groups (Years)	Frequency	%
8-10	1	1.0
11-15	41	41.0
16-18	58	58.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Note: "Other" includes races which are Chinese and Indian.

Table 2 describes the age group concerned; the largest number is between the 16 and 18 years of age (58.0%) followed by the age between 11 and 15 years (41.0%) which is commonly the expected age of juvenile delinquents at Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The smallest number is between the 8 and 10 years of age (1.0%) which points out this age group do not nearly include in crime cases.

Table 3: Educational Level of Respondents

Ever attended in school?	Frequency	%
Yes	90	90.0
No	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0
If yes, which grade?	Frequency	%
Grade 1	7	7.8
Grade 2	9	10.0
Grade 3	22	24.4
Grade 4	10	11.2
Grade 5	9	10.0
Grade 6	5	5.6
Grade 7	13	14.4
Grade 8	7	7.8
Grade 9	3	3.3
Grade 10	4	4.4
Grade 11	1	1.1
Total	90	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Table 3 shows that the educational level of the respondents. (90.0%) of the respondents surveyed who ever attended in school and another respondents (10.0%) who never attended school. Among the respondents 90 (90.0%) who ever attended in school, about one fourth (24.4%) of the 90 respondents have just finished only grade 3. Hence, the educational level of all respondents is very low because nearly one fourth of the 90 respondents only have the primary level education and another 10 respondents have never attended school.

5.3 Family Background of Respondents

Table 4: Family Socio-Economic Status

Expected monthly income of parents/guardians (in Kyats)	Frequency	%
Ks 10,000 & below	8	8.0
Between ks 10,000 & ks 30,000	41	41.0
Between ks 30,000 & 50,000	38	38.0
Ks 50,000 & above	13	13.0
Total	100	100.0
Number of children (or siblings) in the family	Frequency	%
One only	7	7.0
Two	20	20.0
Three to four	33	33.0
Five to six	24	24.0
Seven to eight	8	8.0
More than eight	5	5.0
Not a single one: I am the only child	3	3.0
Total	100	100.0
Number of children (or siblings) attending formal school in the family	Frequency	%
One	22	22.0
Two to three	24	24.0
Four to five	13	13.0
More than five	2	2.0
Nobody	39	39.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Table 4 shows that about half of the respondents' parents/guardians (41 or 41.0%) get income between ks 10,000 and ks 30,000 monthly, followed by income between ks 30,000 and ks 50,000 (38 or 38.0%), and income between ks 50,000 and above (13 or 13.0%) monthly. The lowest income group earns less than ks 10,000 (8 or 8.0%) per month. Hence, it can be interpreted that the respondents' families may be economically inactive because about half of the respondents' families earn income between ks 10,000 and ks 30,000 per month. The majority of families have three to four (33 or 33.0%) and five to six (24 or 24.0%) children to rise. The earning is too little to provide food, clothing, and especially education for children. According to the number of children's schooling, over one third of the respondents (39 or 39.0%) answer that there is no one who can attend the formal school in their family. It can be interpreted that the more financial problem there is, the lower socio-economic status in the respondents' family.

5.4 Committed Criminal Cases

Table 5: Causes of Committing, by Type of Respondents' Criminal Cases

Type of criminal cases		Causes of Committing							Total
		Peer influence	Financial difficulty	Emotional effects	Accidental event	By force	Because of accusing	Other	
Murder	Count	1	0	5	1	0	0	1	8
	% of Total	1.0%	0.0%	5.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	8.0%
Drugs	Count	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	% of Total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Hurts	Count	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	7
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.0%	2.0%	7.0%
Politic	Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Theft	Count	30	30	3	2	1	4	0	70
	% of Total	30.0%	30.0%	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	4.0%	0.0%	70.0%
Rape	Count	1	0	7	0	0	0	2	10
	% of Total	1.0%	0.0%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	10.0%
Gambling	Count	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	% of Total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Total	Count	36	30	17	5	2	5	5	100
	% of Total	36.0%	30.0%	17.0%	5.0%	2.0%	5.0%	5.0%	100.0%

Source: Surveyed Data

Note: 'Other' includes many reasons which are not clearly specified.

According to the Table 5, the highest rate (70.0%) of the respondents had committed theft case which is over the half of all types of committed crime. In the theft case, each highest same amount of the respondents (30 or 30.0%) reported that they had committed the crime because of peer influence and financial difficulty they/their family faced respectively. The second highest (10.0%) of the respondents had committed rape case. In the rape case, the (7 or 7.0%) of the respondents answered that they committed this crime because of their emotion such as need for immediate gratification which is the inter push factor for being juvenile delinquent describes in containment theory. In murder case, (8 or 8.0%) of the respondents had committed. Among the (8.0%), (5 or 5.0%) of the respondents did this case because of their emotion. In hurts case, (7 or 7.0%) of the respondents had committed, reported that causes of committing are emotional effects (2.0%), accidental event (2.0%), and other causes (2.0%). The respondent (2.0%) had committed drug case because of peer influence. And another (2.0%) did gambling case the same cause like the drug case. The lowest rate (1.0%) of the respondents had committed political case cause of giving force. The finding reflects that peer influence and financial difficulty are the most likely causes of committing.

5.5 Disciplinary Control

Table 6: Parents/Guardians Disciplinary Control on Respondents

Times of Parents/Guardians' Disciplinary Control	Frequency	%
Always	13	13.0
Sometimes	8	8.0
Often	36	36.0
Never	43	43.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

According to the parents/guardians' disciplinary control, Table 6 shows the largest number of respondents (43 or 43.0%) never get disciplinary control from their parents/guardians. But, the second highest rate of the respondents (36 or 36.0%) was often controlled with the discipline by their parents/guardians. It can be interpreted that nearly half of the respondents (43%) lived without discipline. Hence, children who grew up without parents/guardians' disciplinary control may commit crime easily. Thus, disciplinary control of parents/guardians is the relevant reason of being juvenile delinquents.

5.6 Peer Influence

Table 7: Respondents' Doing Things while Meeting with Friends, by Type of Criminal Cases

Type of criminal case		Respondents' Doing Things while Meeting with Friends							Total
		Drinking	Gambling	Smoking/Drug using	Watching TV/Video s	Playing TV games	One and over	Other	
Murder	Count	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	8
	% of Total	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	8.0%
Drugs	Count	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	% of Total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Hurts	Count	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	7
	% of Total	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	7.0%
Politic	Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Theft	Count	8	3	10	1	13	25	10	70
	% of Total	8.0%	3.0%	10.0%	1.0%	13.0%	25.0%	10.0%	70.0%
Rape	Count	0	0	0	0	6	3	1	10
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%	3.0%	1.0%	10.0%
Gambling	Count	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	% of Total	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Total	Count	12	6	11	1	24	31	15	100
	% of Total	12.0%	6.0%	11.0%	1.0%	24.0%	31.0%	15.0%	100.0%

Source: Survey data

Note: 'Other' includes things respondents do which are not clearly specified.

Table 7 reports the results of a cross-correlation of data reflecting the doing things of the respondents while they meet with their friends. The cross-correlation data describes that just one fourth of the respondents (25 or 25.0%) not only they did one and over (i.e. not doing exactly one) but also those respondents committed theft case. The highest rate of respondents (70 or 70.0%) committed theft case. If so, it can be interpreted that just one fourth of the 100 respondents has the peer influence which is the relevant cause of committing theft case. In the second highest rate of the respondents (10 or 10.0%) committed rape case. (6 or 6.0%) of the 100 respondents did both committing rape case and playing TV games while they meet with their friends are the source to produce delinquent behaviors.

5.7 Media Influence

Table 8: Media Influence on Respondents

Wish to imitate like an actor or not	Frequency	%
Yes	71	71.0
No	29	29.0
Total	100	100.0
If yes, character respondents like the most	Frequency	%
Smoking/drinking/splitting	10	14.1
Gambling	4	5.6
Rudely killing	9	12.7
Fighting	28	39.4
Other	20	28.2
Total	71	100.0

Source: Surveyed data

Note: 'Other' includes many characters which are not clearly specified.

Table 8 reports that over half of the respondents (71 or 71.0%) want to be actors. It can be reported that the (71.0%) of the 100 respondents ever imitated the character they like most as the actor did in the film. The over one third (28 or 28.0%) of the 71 respondents who want to imitate like the fighting in the film. Most respondents like action films. If so, it is noted that most respondents want to fight as the actors in the action film which is a motivated factor towards involvement in crime for being juvenile delinquents.

6. Conclusion

According to the results from above mentioned summary, it can clearly be seen that the main causes of juvenile delinquency among juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Training School are poverty, lack of education, peer influence, lack of disciplinary control and media influence.

The study found out the causes and family situation of juvenile delinquents, who are in the Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The results of the study indicated that most of the juvenile delinquents come from intact families. But, the families of the most juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San are on the poverty line. On other hand, the parents of most juvenile delinquents cannot provide both education and enough security for their children. Because even though they always struggle violently, they earn a small amount of money only for foods. In addition, most of their parents are misbehaved addicted persons such as alcoholics, gamblers, etc. Hence, most of the respondents brought up without parental control and discipline. It can be concluded that poverty is the main cause for juvenile delinquents in Nget-Aw-San Boys' Training School. The study also showed other relevant factors which are lack of education, and lack of disciplinary control. These factors are extra-consequences of poverty.

It is noted that environmental affects including peer and media influence played a vital role for being juvenile delinquents. It is also important to note that all delinquent juveniles in Nget-Aw-San do not come from deviant families although their societies might have been disorganized. There are juveniles who will take an effort to teach others the skills of committing juvenile activities and devote further efforts to convince them to stay in the delinquent side of life. In most cases delinquent children are made by others the skills of committing juvenile side of life. In most cases delinquent children are made by others or some adults to believe that they need to express their own needs, values, and norms and reflect their deviant culture.

Parental approaches to socialization also warrant blame, especially when it comes to the juvenile delinquency. Mostly, many parents are guilty of neglecting their children to fend on their own. Inconsistent ways of parenting or disciplining their children e.g. by spoiling them may cause children to disregard or disrespect other people or agencies called upon to exert formal discipline in society. As a result of this study, if children are not properly shaped by their parents, they may face the challenges in life.

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