

## **A Study on the Factors Related to Recidivism of the Juvenile Delinquency in Sri Lanka**

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Juvenile delinquency is the participation of a child, under the age of 18, in illegal behavior or activities. It is also used to refer to children who exhibit a persistent behavior of mischievousness or disobedience, so as to be considered out of parental control, becoming subject to legal action by the court system. Juvenile delinquency has become a social problem and at the same time the tendency of a convicted juvenile delinquents to reoffend has been arisen around the globe. The objective of the present study was to identify the factors influencing for juvenile delinquency recidivism in Sri Lankan context. As the research problem, this study considers on what are the factors that influence the recidivism of juvenile delinquency? Study adopted a descriptive survey research design. By using target sampling method, 83 delinquents including 43 females and 40 males were selected as the sample. Data was collected from delinquents' records and via semi structured interviews. Moreover, the matrons were interviewed. Data were analyzed using SPSS. The study revealed, theft/burglaries, disobedient to parents, trafficking, selling and use of alcohol, attempt to suicide as the most reported fields in delinquency reports. Lack of education, poverty and fruitless family relationships could be recognized as the factors affecting to the juvenile delinquency as well as the factors of its recidivism. Majority of the delinquents stated that the association with the peers is highly influenced them in recidivating even in the certified schools. Changing attitudes of the children could be recognized as the ideal type of rehabilitation, Soft skills training programs regular and continuous monitoring and assessing, play a vital role for diminishing the juvenile delinquency recidivism. At the same time the study recommends, establishing a separate rehabilitation institution, training matrons for counseling, skill training programmes for school dropouts and awareness programmes to control the issue.

**Keywords:** differential association; juvenile delinquency; probation; rehabilitation; recidivism