

## **Juvenile Justice Act, 1986**

With the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, all Children's Acts applicable in different parts of India have been cancelled. The new act provides a comprehensive scheme for care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of delinquent juveniles. The new act has come into force from 2nd October, 1987.

### **Some of the special features of the Juvenile Justice Act are the followings:**

It provides a uniform legal framework for juvenile justice in the country, so as to ensure that no child under any circumstances is put in jail or police lock-up.

It envisages specialized approach towards prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency in keeping with the developmental needs of children.

It establishes norms and standards for administration of juvenile justice in terms of investigation, care, treatment and rehabilitation.

It lays down appropriate linkage and coordination between the formal system of juvenile justice and voluntary organizations. It specifically defines the roles and responsibilities of both.

By the year 1992, there were 609 institutions under Juvenile Justice Act; out of these 269 were observation homes, 249 juvenile homes, 40 special homes and 51 after care institutions.

This act was amended in the year 2000 and is applicable for those children who have not attained the age of 18 years.

## **Welfare of Destitute Children**

Destitute children are in great need, especially of food and shelter. They may be deprived of parents. The children who have no home or who for some reason could not be cared for by their parents are placed in orphanage, an institution for orphans.

Psychosocially handicapped children who are orphans or delinquents or pavement dwellers or sufferer of parental/ maternal deprivation, need for placement in special setting for rearing or bringing up and to promote growth and development.

## **Welfare of Delinquent Children**

The Children Act, 1960, in India defines delinquent as 'a child who has committed an offence: Juvenile means a boy who has not attained the age of 16 years and a girl who has not attained the age of 18 years.

Delinquency is not merely 'juvenile crime! It embraces all deviations from normal youthful behavior and includes the incorrigible, ungovernable, habitually disobedient and those who

desert their homes and mix with immoral people, those with behavioral problems and indulge in antisocial practices.

Juvenile delinquency is increasing in India due to change in the cultural pattern of the people, urbanization and industrialization. The highest incidence is found in children aged 15 years and above. The incidence among boys is 4 to 5 times more than the girls.

### **Causes**

**Biological causes:** Biological factors like hereditary defects, feeble mindedness, physical defects, glandular disturbances and chromosomal anomaly may contribute for the delinquent behavior.

**Social causes:** Broken homes due to death of parents, separation of parents, step-mothers, disturbed home conditions, e.g. poverty, alcoholism, parental neglect, child abuse, battered baby, ignorance about child care, too many children, etc. may be responsible for delinquency.

**Miscellaneous:** Absence of recreation facilities, cheap recreations, sex-thrillers, violence in cinemas and television, slum dwelling, urbanization, industrialization, social disintegration, change in moral standards and value system, etc. also may cause delinquency.

### **Preventive Measures**

Improvement of family life and tender loving children. care of Appropriate schooling and healthy teacher taught relationship. Social welfare services by recreation facilities, parent .

counseling, child guidance, educational facilities, etc. Adequate general health services for early detection and management.