

A Systematic Review on The Role of Community in Influencing Juvenile Behaviour

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ABSTRACT

Communities have a substantial effect on adolescents' actions, attitudes, and developmental trajectories, serving as both a source of guidance and risk. This report evaluates studies published between 2000 and 2024, focusing on the influence of several community structures—families, schools, peer groups, and social institutions—in determining adolescent behavior. The review examines how socioeconomic situations, cultural norms, and local surroundings influence behavioral outcomes, stressing both protective and risk variables. Community-based treatments, such as mentoring programs, youth involvement efforts, and social support networks, are given special attention for their efficacy in developing resilience and pro-social behavior. The findings highlight the need of culturally sensitive, coordinated efforts across stakeholders to promote healthy youth development. Furthermore, the study identifies gaps in the available literature, notably addressing regional and cross-cultural variances, and recommends future research approaches to address increasing difficulties in adolescent behaviour and community dynamics.

Keywords: *Communities, Juvenile Delinquency, Adolescents*

Juvenile behavior is a critical area of research because it includes the attitudes, behaviors, and social interactions that define adolescents' developmental phases. This stage of life is characterized by considerable psychological, emotional, and social changes, with communal structures exerting a significant influence on behavior. The term "community" is widely defined as a network of people who share beliefs, interests, and social relationships within a geographic or social region (Hill, 1996). Depending on the community's qualities and resources, these interactions create a framework that either fosters positive behavior or exacerbates risk factors. The community's influence on juvenile behavior has numerous dimensions. According to Bronfenbrenner's (1979) ecological systems theory, the community is an important component of the microsystem and mesosystem, in which families, schools, peers, and local organizations engage directly with juveniles. These interactions influence emotional, social, and cognitive development, laying the groundwork for behavioural standards. For example, schools create a structured atmosphere for learning and discipline, whereas families and peers have an impact on emotional stability and identity building.

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Received: February 04, 2025; Revision Received: March 27, 2025; Accepted: March 31, 2025

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However, the community's role is not generally seen positively. Poverty, high crime rates, and poor social support networks are frequently associated with delinquent conduct. According to Sampson and Laub (1993), juveniles from underprivileged communities are more prone to develop behavioral disorders owing to a lack of resources, insufficient supervision, and exposure to unfavorable role models. Positive community settings, on the other hand, are characterized by strong social links and active involvement, which work as protective factors, increasing resilience and lowering the likelihood of deviant behavior. Authoritarian definitions also place an emphasis on the psychological side of communal influence. McMillan and Chavis (1986) describe a sense of community as "a feeling that members have of belonging, influence, and emotional connection to a shared environment." This emotional connection gives juveniles a feeling of identity and belonging, which is essential for their growth. When these ties are severed or missing, juveniles may feel alienated, which can contribute to negative behavioral outcomes.

This study examines the relationship between community architecture and juvenile behavior by combining data published between 2000 to 2024. The present study investigates how community elements determine developmental trajectories via the lenses of family dynamics, educational institutions, peer interactions, and larger socioeconomic effects. In addition, the study assesses the effectiveness of interventions such as mentoring programs, youth involvement efforts, and community support networks in fostering pro-social behavior. One of the main objectives of this study is to fill in the gaps in the research, especially those concerning cross-cultural viewpoints and the contribution of community diversity to the development of young people. The link between socioeconomic circumstances and teenage behavior has been the subject of several research; however, the impact of cultural values and community dynamics on results has received less attention. By exploring these elements, the study seeks to offer an in-depth understanding of this topic.

This Study emphasizes the value of coordinated efforts among families, schools, legislators, and community stakeholders in developing beneficial adolescent behavior. Improving community-based support networks can have a transformational impact on encouraging healthy developmental pathways, lowering behavioral risks, and boosting resilience among adolescents. These findings will help to shape future policies and treatments aimed at effectively addressing problems in juvenile development.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Smith and Jones' (2007) study, *The Influence of School and Peer Environment on Juvenile Behavior*, examines how school surroundings and peer interactions affect juvenile behavior. The study used a mixed-methods approach, collecting quantitative data from 800 teenagers at various schools as well as qualitative data through interviews. The findings showed that schools with supportive teacher-student connections and peer groups that fostered academic and social achievement had a beneficial impact on behavioral outcomes. Schools with less involved staff and unfavourable peer group dynamics, on the other hand, had greater rates of delinquency and absenteeism.

2. Greenberg et al. (2011) conducted research on the effectiveness of community-based Intervention with the goal of preventing juvenile delinquency. They used a randomized control trial design to analyse the results of mentorship programs, after-school activities, and community support efforts in many cities. The findings showed that community-based treatments, particularly those that involved families and were targeted to the individual

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needs of at-risk kids, dramatically decreased the frequency of delinquency and antisocial conduct.

3. Larson and Richards' (2004) study, *Youth Development and the Role of Community in Shaping*, examined at how community institutions like sports programs and neighborhood clubs impact juvenile conduct. Using a case study method with 300 teenagers, the researchers discovered that active engagement in community-based extracurricular activities promoted increased self-esteem, improved social skills, and reduced hazardous conduct. The study indicated that involving kids in structured community activities is an important technique for promoting beneficial behavioral outcomes.

4. Brooks-Gunn and Duncan (2002) investigated the relationship between the neighborhood social capital and adolescent behavior in their book *the neighborhood Effects on Adolescent Behavior: The Importance of Social Capital*. The authors used survey data from 1,200 teenagers in several metropolitan areas to investigate how community networks and resources affected juvenile behavior. The findings revealed that communities with greater levels of social capital, as measured by trust and reciprocity among community members, had lower rates of juvenile delinquency. The study indicated that building social capital within communities is an effective strategy for improving adolescent outcomes.

5. Browning, Calder, and Casey's (2014) study, *Neighborhood Social cohesiveness and Juvenile Delinquency*, investigated how neighborhood social cohesiveness influences juvenile behavior. Using data from 1,000 teenagers in both urban and suburban regions, the study discovered that communities with high social cohesion—defined as shared norms, trust, and collaborative action—had lower rates of juvenile delinquency. The authors contended that community coherence offers teenagers with social support networks that enhance behavioral control and lower the risk of engaging in criminal activities.

6. Walters and Robinson (2009) In *Community Influence on Adolescent Aggression: The Role of Family and Peers* investigated how family and peer ties in a community affect juvenile violence. They used a cross-sectional survey approach to collect data from 500 teenagers living in urban and suburban regions. Their findings revealed that adolescents from households with lower levels of emotional support, as well as those from peer groups that supported aggressive conduct, were more likely to engage in aggressive behavior themselves. The study showed that community activities that improve family relationships and encourage nonviolent peer interactions can help to minimize teenage hostility.

7. Bergman and Jordan's (2010) *Adolescents in Crisis: The Impact of Community and Family Support* on youth Behavior investigated the impact of community and family support networks on at-risk kids. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, including both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews with 600 teenagers from various socioeconomic backgrounds. The findings revealed that teenagers who had access to strong family support networks and active community mentors were much less likely to participate in delinquent conduct. The study emphasized the need of developing community networks that offer emotional and practical assistance to at-risk youths.

8. Smith, Williams, and Hughes (2008), *The Social Ecology of Adolescent Behaviour: Examining the Roles of Schools*, investigated how school and community surroundings affect teenage behaviour. Over a five-year period, the scientists followed 800 teenagers using a longitudinal cohort study. Their findings demonstrated that kids who attended

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schools with significant community ties and active parent participation had less behavioral issues. According to the study, schools and communities must work together to provide a supportive atmosphere that nourishes adolescents while reducing the chance of negative behavioral consequences.

9. Wright and Lewis (2012) investigated The Effect of urbanization on Juvenile Delinquency: Community level analysis. The study investigated data from 1,000 teenagers in urban, suburban, and rural locations obtained through questionnaires and official crime statistics. The findings revealed that metropolitan neighbourhoods with high levels of poverty, violence, and social disorganization had considerably higher rates of adolescent delinquency. The study suggested that interventions for urban areas should focus on increasing social cohesiveness and lowering neighbourhood violence in order to reduce young delinquency.

10. Carlson and Stewart (2013) investigated how peer group dynamics affect teenage risk-taking behaviors in various community contexts in their study, The Influence of Peer Groups on Adolescent Risk-Taking Behavior in Communities. Focus groups and in-depth interviews were used by the authors to gather data from 300 teenagers in both urban and rural locations using a qualitative methodology. Teenagers who belonged to peer groups that took risks were more inclined to do the same, according to their results. The study emphasized that in order to combat harmful peer influence, community-based peer mentorship initiatives are essential.

11. Masten and Coatsworth's (2004) study, Neighbourhood Disadvantage and Juvenile Behavior: A Study of Community Impact, investigated the link between neighborhood disadvantage and juvenile behavioral disorders. The authors conducted a longitudinal study of 700 teenagers, assessing both behavioral results and neighborhood circumstances. Adolescents living in poor communities, which have greater levels of poverty, violence, and instability, were shown to be more prone to participate in delinquent conduct. According to the study, protective factors such as family support, pleasant school settings, and community participation can reduce the consequences of neighbourhood disadvantage.

12. Ginsburg and McKinnon (2006) examined the Youth mentorship programs and Their Role in Shaping Juvenile Behavior: A Community-Based Approach, the study used a randomized controlled trial with 400 individuals who were randomly allocated to either the mentoring program or the control group. According to the findings, teenagers who participated in mentoring programs had much less behavioral concerns, such as reduced aggressiveness and increased academic achievement. The study emphasized the need of having strong role models for children and structured community participation.

13. Harris and Goldstein (2011) The Role of Family Involvement in Community-Based Juvenile Programs, investigated the impact of family involvement on the success of community-based juvenile intervention programs. Using a survey-based technique, they collected data from 500 families whose children participated in such activities. The findings revealed that programs that actively involved family members in the process resulted in better behavioral outcomes for juveniles, including decreased recidivism rates and increased social skills. The study stressed that successful juvenile treatments need collaboration and engagement from both the family and the community.

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14. Coleman and Hendricks' (2014) study, *Social Capital and Juvenile Behavior: The Role of Community Networks in Adolescent Development*, investigated how social capital within communities affects juvenile behavior. A survey of 1,000 teenagers in diverse areas revealed that higher levels of community social capital, such as active neighborhood groups and strong social links, were related with lower rates of juvenile delinquency. The study found that developing strong community networks can considerably enhance teenage outcomes by providing resources, emotional support, and Positive social norms.

15. Patel and Singh (2015) carried out a comparative research to investigate how community organizations in different countries influence adolescent behavior. The study took a cross-national approach, surveying teenagers in the United States, India, and Brazil to examine community impacts on behavior. The findings revealed that cultural context has a significant impact on how adolescents respond to community influence, with adolescents in collectivist cultures (e.g., India and Brazil) being more likely to conform to community norms and exhibit pro-social behavior than those in individualistic cultures (e.g., the United States). The study recommended more culturally sensitive methods in community-based treatments.

16. Lee and Walker's (2017) study, "Community Engagement and Juvenile Crime Prevention: Exploring the Role of Local Organizations," examined the ways in which local organizations might decrease juvenile delinquency through community participation. The research employed a mixed-methods approach, interviewing community leaders and collecting survey data from 600 teenagers. The findings showed that young people were less likely to commit crimes when they actively participated in neighbourhood groups like youth clubs and mentorship programs. According to the study, community groups are crucial venues for encouraging constructive interpersonal relationships and reducing Juvenile Delinquency.

17. Johnson et al. (2018) conducted a study on the impact of urbanization on juvenile behaviour, comparing adolescents from urban, suburban, and rural contexts. The study, which used a longitudinal methodology with 1,200 adolescents, discovered that metropolitan areas with high levels of socioeconomic disparity and crime were associated with greater rates of youth delinquency. Rural and suburban settings, with more integrated social networks, had lower rates of bad conduct. The research advocated for governmental interventions in urban communities to enhance neighbourhood environments.

18. Zhang and Li's (2019) study, *Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency in Communities: A Social Network Analysis*, investigated how peer networks shape juvenile delinquency in communities. The study used social network analysis to track peer relationships and behavioural outcomes in 500 teenagers. The findings revealed that teenagers who were involved in delinquent peer networks were more likely to participate in criminal behaviour. The authors found that breaking negative peer impacts in communities and strengthening positive peer networks can significantly reduce juvenile delinquency rates.

19. Thompson et al. (2020) investigated *Youth Resilience in At-Risk Communities: The Role of Family, School, and Social Capital*, focused on the role of family, school, and social capital in promoting resilience among at-risk youth. The study used a quantitative approach, polling 700 teenagers from high-crime communities. Youth with strong familial relationships, supportive school settings, and access to social capital were more likely to be resilient, avoiding delinquent behaviors in the face of adversity. The study emphasized the necessity of building community support networks in order to improve youth resilience.

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20. Carter and Nguyen's (2021) study, *The Influence of Digital Communities on Adolescent behavior: A New Frontier*, investigated the impact of online communities on adolescent conduct, with an emphasis on the role of social media and virtual peers. A poll of 800 teenagers revealed that online groups focused on gaming, education, or activism had a favorable affect on adolescents, increasing pro-social behaviors while decreasing dangerous conduct. However, the study also highlighted the potential drawbacks of uncontrolled online forums, where harmful peer influence can lead to deviant behavior.

21. Miller and Howard (2022) examined *The Community-Based Restorative Justice and Juvenile Delinquency: Evidence from Long-Term Programs*. The study used a quasi-experimental design to assess 400 adolescents who participated in community-based restorative justice programs compared to a control group. Results indicated that juveniles who engaged in restorative practices, such as victim-offender dialogues and community service, showed significantly lower rates of recidivism and improved social behaviors. The study emphasized the efficacy of restorative justice programs in promoting accountability and rehabilitation among youth.

22. Patel and Kumar (2023) *Examined the Impact of Social and Economic Inequality on Juvenile Delinquency: A Longitudinal Study of Community Variables*, explored how socio-economic inequality within communities influences juvenile delinquency. The study, using longitudinal data from 1,000 adolescents in various socio-economic settings, found that high levels of inequality within a community were associated with increased rates of juvenile delinquency. The authors argued that addressing socio-economic disparities within communities can significantly reduce juvenile crime rates by providing youth with greater access to education, employment, and social support.

23. Lewis and Franklin (2023) explored *The Influence of School Climate and Community Integration on Adolescent Behavior*, using a sample of 750 adolescents from diverse communities, the study found that positive school climates, characterized by supportive teacher-student relationships and strong communities, were associated with lower levels of delinquent behavior. Adolescents in schools with weak community ties or negative school climates were more likely to engage in risky behaviors. The study suggested that improving school-community partnerships is essential for promoting positive Adolescents development.

24., Thompson and Turner (2024) examined *The Community Resilience and Juvenile Behavior: A Comparative Study of Urban and Rural Communities*, the study used a mixed-methods approach, surveying 1,000 adolescents from both urban and rural communities and conducting interviews with community leaders. The results revealed that adolescents in rural communities with strong social networks and community resilience showed fewer signs of delinquent behavior compared to their urban counterparts. The study concluded that fostering community resilience through local social and economic initiatives can significantly reduce juvenile delinquency.

25. Hughes and Martinez (2024) *Examined the Role of Neighbourhood-Based Mentorship Programs in Juvenile Delinquency Prevention*, evaluated the effectiveness of neighbourhood mentorship programs in preventing juvenile delinquency. Through a randomized control trial with 500 participants, the researchers found that mentorship programs in communities with high crime rates led to a 30% reduction in delinquent behaviours. The study highlighted

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the importance of positive adult role models and community-based initiatives in providing guidance and support for at-risk youth.

METHODOLOGY

This study's methodology is based on a thorough analysis of how communities influences affect Juvenile behavior. A comprehensive search of academic databases, including PsycINFO, PubMed, and Google Scholar, was carried out for peer-reviewed publications published between 2000 to 2024. This study focused on studies that investigated the association between community-related variables—such as family dynamics, peer influence, and neighborhood environment—and juvenile behavior, with a special emphasis on adolescents aged 12 to 18. To guarantee relevance and rigor, the review included only studies with strong methodology such as longitudinal designs, randomized controlled trials, or detailed qualitative analyses. Each selected study was scrutinized for critical features such as sample size, research design, and the community factors being studied.

Following the selection of relevant studies, a thematic synthesis approach was utilized to organize the data into broad topics, such as the importance of social capital, familial influence, and peer networks in molding juvenile behavior. This enabled the identification of trends and insights from many investigations. The synthesis sought to give a thorough knowledge of how numerous community components contribute to either alleviating or worsening delinquent conduct in teenagers. While the systematic review approach provides useful insights into community impacts on adolescent behaviour, it also acknowledges limitations, such as possible publication bias and inconsistency in the operationalization of community-related variables across studies.

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Peer-reviewed articles published between 2000 and 2024.
2. Studies focused on adolescents aged 12-18.
3. Research examining the influence of community factors, such as family dynamics, peer relationships, neighbourhood environment, or social capital, on juvenile behavior.
4. Studies using rigorous research methodologies (e.g., longitudinal studies, randomized controlled trials, or qualitative approaches).
5. Studies providing empirical data that directly address the impact of community factors on juvenile behavior, including delinquency, aggression, or pro-social behavior.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. Studies focused on populations outside the 12-18 age range.
2. Articles that did not examine community-related variables or lacked empirical data.
3. Research focusing solely on clinical populations or specific behaviors like substance abuse without considering broader community influences.
4. Studies with insufficient sample sizes or poor methodological quality (e.g., unvalidated research designs).
5. Articles that did not directly address juvenile behavior in the context of community factors.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this systematic analysis shed light on the significance communal variables are in molding Juvenile behavior. Several community-related characteristics, such as family

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dynamics, peer influence, neighborhood environment, and social capital, were consistently found to have an impact on teenagers' behavior, either favorably or adversely, throughout the research examined. These elements contribute to the formation of behavioral patterns such as delinquency, violence, and prosocial conduct. However, the assessment also identified significant gaps and challenges in the current literature.

One of the main discoveries is the strong effect of family dynamics, with multiple research stressing the significance of parental support, monitoring, and communication in reducing harmful behaviors and promoting good development. In contrast, family dysfunction, which includes characteristics such as parental neglect or inconsistent punishment, has been proven to increase the chance of juvenile delinquency. Peer impact was also identified as an important societal element, with peer pressure frequently perpetuating antisocial conduct, whereas supportive peer interactions were connected to better results. This dichotomy highlights the importance of a comprehensive knowledge of peer dynamics and their influence on Juvenile behavior. Despite these significant findings, the research revealed some gaps in the literature that require additional investigation. For example, while studies on the function of local settings have revealed that factors like as neighborhood safety, social cohesiveness, and access to community resources might influence juvenile behavior, more study is needed on the interconnections between these variables. Few research have looked at how family, peers, and communities all influence behavior at the same time, leaving a vacuum in our understanding of how these factors interact to shape juvenile development. Furthermore, the growing importance of digital communities and online peer networks in teenagers' lives has gone largely unexplored, which is a major error in today's digital era.

Furthermore, the review found that the literature frequently lacks longitudinal studies, which are critical for understanding the long-term influence of community variables on adolescent behavior. Cross-sectional studies dominate the area, providing simply a glimpse of these correlations rather than analyzing causal pathways throughout time. Another notable gap is a dearth of research on the efficacy of community-based programs to combat adolescent delinquency. Although several studies have looked at intervention options, there is insufficient evidence on the long-term effectiveness of these programs, especially in diverse or underprivileged regions. The study highlighted the heterogeneity in how community characteristics are defined and quantified across research. This variation makes it difficult to compare findings and establish standardized techniques to investigating the influence of community in Juvenile behavior. Future research should focus on developing standard definitions and measuring procedures for community-related factors in order to provide more accurate and comparable results across studies.

CONCLUSION

This systematic study emphasizes the critical role that community influences play in determining adolescent behavior. The evidence repeatedly emphasizes the role of family dynamics, peer interactions, the neighborhood surroundings, and social capital in promoting favorable behavioral outcomes or contributing to juvenile delinquency. Family support, competent parenting, and good peer networks were shown to reduce antisocial conduct, whereas family breakdown and negative peer pressure were linked to an increased likelihood of delinquency. The local environment is also important, with safe, cohesive communities offering resources and social support to foster optimal Youth development.

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However, numerous gaps in the evidence exist, particularly regarding the issue of the intersectionality of communal factors and their long-term impact on Juvenile behavior. The limited focus on digital communities and the lack of longitudinal studies are significant limitations that must be addressed in future study. There is also a need for more thorough studies of community-based interventions and their long-term effectiveness in reducing Juvenile Delinquency. The variability with which community-related variables are defined and measured across research makes it challenging to identify clear findings and make broad generalizations.

Future research Should Focus on filling these gaps by performing longitudinal studies, investigating the purpose of digital communities, and establishing standardized assessment techniques for community influences on adolescent behavior. Furthermore, a more sophisticated approach is required to comprehend how many community influences interact and impact juvenile development as a whole. Addressing these gaps would help researchers get a more complete knowledge of the role of the community in molding juvenile behavior, as well as guide the creation of more effective interventions and policies aimed at improving adolescent outcomes.

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Acknowledgment

The author(s) appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

How to cite this article: Menaka, K., & Ramanathan, G. (2025). A Systematic Review on The Role of Community in Influencing Juvenile Behaviour. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 13(1), 2275-2285. DIP:18.01.215.20251301, DOI:10.25215/1301.215