

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
BROKEN HOMES AND
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Oleh

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Latihan Ilmiah

Bagi Memenuhi Sebahagian
Daripada Syarat-Syarat Untuk
Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sastera

JABATAN ANTROPOLOGI DAN SOSIOLOGI
UNIVERSITI MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR

SESSI 1982/83

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Here I would like to say my sincere thank you to Encik A. Hadi Zakaria for his invaluable help and advice in carrying out this study. I would also like to thank Mr. Eu How Chii (Principal Welfare Officer), Mr. Teo Chu Jian (Probation Officer), Encik Ritikos Ak Jitab (Chief Warden), Encik Calsely (Assistant Warden), the Principal of the School, staff and the inmates of the Sarawak Boys Home in Kuching, and students of the school, for their invaluable help in making this study possible.

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SYNOPSIS

This graduation exercise is a study involving a comparison between the delinquent boys and the non-delinquent boys to show the incidence of broken homes in juvenile delinquency. It also contains a chapter touching on other factors other than the broken home factor in juvenile delinquency.

The delinquent boys are chosen from the Sarawak Boys Home, Kuching, and the non-delinquent boys are from a secondary boys school in Sarawak. The Sarawak Boys Home is one of the approved* schools administered by the Social Welfare Ministry for delinquents between the age of 10 to 18 years old.

This graduation exercise consists of five chapters. The introduction chapter describes the purpose of this study and its scope. Chapter I deals with the Research Procedure and the problems encountered during the fieldwork. The concepts of juvenile delinquency and broken home are described in Chapter II. Chapters III and IV concentrates on the analysis of the data collected like the relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency, and the extent of the incidence of broken homes in juvenile delinquency. The final Chapter is the Conclusion.

* In the Laws of Malaysia, Act 90, Juvenile Courts Act, 1947 (Revised 1972) 'approved school' means "a school approved by the Minister for the education and training and detention of persons to be sent there in pursuance of this Act and includes a camp set up for the care and protection of juveniles". Law of Malaysia, Act 90, Juvenile Courts Act, 1947 (Revised 1972) Parts 1, 2(1).

SINOPSIS

Latihan Ilmiah ini adalah satu kajian yang melibatkan perbandingan di antara delinquent boys dan non-delinquent boys untuk tujuan menunjukkan kesan-kesan perpecahan rumahtangga terhadap kenakalan budak-budak (juvenile delinquency). Ia juga mengandungi satu bab yang menyentuh faktor-faktor lain yang menyumbangkan kepada kenakalan budak-budak.

Sampel budak-budak nakal dalam kajian ini adalah dipilih dari Sarawak Boys Home, Kuching, dan sampel budak-budak bukan nakal dari sebuah sekolah menengah lelaki di Sarawak. Sarawak Boys Home adalah salah satu 'approved' schools di bawah pentadbiran Kementerian Kebajikan AM untuk budak-budak nakal yang berumur antara 10 hingga 18 tahun.

Latihan Ilmiah ini mengandungi 5 Bab. Kata pengenalan menghuraikan tujuan dan skop kajian ini. Bab I adalah berkaitan dengan Prosedur Penyelidikan dan masalah-masalah yang dihadapi semasa menjalani kajian luar. Konsep-konsep kenakalan budak-budak dan perpecahan rumahtangga diuraikan dalam Bab II. Bab III dan IV menumpukan perhatian ke atas analisa data-data yang berkaitan dengan hubungan antara perpecahan rumahtangga dan kenakalan budak-budak, dan takat mana kesan-kesan perpecahan rumahtangga ke atas kenakalan budak-budak. Bab terakhir ialah kesimpulan; didapati bahawa perpecahan rumahtangga kurang menyumbangkan kepada kenakalan budak-budak.

*In the Laws of Malaysia, Act 90, Juvenile Courts Act, 1947 (Revised 1972) 'approved school' means "a school approved by the Minister for the education and training and detention of persons to be sent there in pursuance of this Act and includes a camp set up for the care and protection of juveniles". Law of Malaysia, Act 90, Juvenile Courts Act, 1947 (Revised 1972) Parts 1, 2(1).

INTRODUCTION

The main reason in carrying out this study is to test the hypothesis that broken home is a factor in juvenile delinquency and to find out the extent of the incidence of broken home in juvenile delinquency.

To test the hypothesis, an investigation is carried out on two groups consisting of:

- (a) the delinquent boys and
- (b) the non-delinquent boys.

All the respondents are aged from 14 to 19 years old, and include all races. The subjects are given a standard questionnaire to answer and their answers compared. This was carried out at the Sarawak Boys Home and at a secondary boys school in Sarawak.

Many Western studies¹ in the area mentioned have already been carried out and it would be interesting to see how the Western findings fit into the Malaysian scheme of things. Among these studies are as shown in the Table below:

¹This is shown in Table A.

Table A

Incidence of Broken Homes

Investigators	Sex	Delinquents		Control	
		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Burt 1929	Both	197	57.9	400	25.7
		1675	42.5	7278	36.1
Shaw & Mckay 1932	Boys	362	66.8	362	44.8
Hodgkiss 1933	Girls	330	41.4	2119	26.7
Weeks & Smith 1939	Boys	1955	28.5	1970	15.8
Carr-Saunders 1944	Boys	300	50.7	300	26.7
Merill 1947	Both	500	60.4	500	32.4
Glueck & Glueck 1950	Boys	90	47.7	230	32.2
Oltman 1952	Both	360	23.6	792	17.6
Nye 1958	Boys	231	36.4	931	16.9

From the Table* above it is clear that broken home occurs one and half times more often in the delinquent groups than in the non-delinquents, thus showing the incidence of broken homes in delinquency.

In Malaysia some recent studies have been carried out and it is found that more delinquents or juveniles of deviant character than

* Herbert C. Quay, Juvenile Delinquency Research and Theory, Nostrand Company, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey, 1965, p.68.

the non-delinquents come from broken homes. Some of these findings include those of:

- (a) Mahmud Mohamed Taib.¹ He uses a sample of 50 boys out of the total population of 119 boys at the Boys Home in Taiping, and he found 42 of the boys from the sample selected come from broken families.
- (b) Mohammed Hidayat Ali Omar.² He found that 50.83% from a total number of 120 girls at the Girls Home at Sungai Lereth, Malacca, come from broken homes.
- (c) Nasir bin Mat Dan.³ He found a number of 55 delinquents out of 120 delinquents at the Juvenile Reformatory School at Sungai Besi come from broken homes.

All of these studies defined the term broken home as the structurally or physically broken families, and the types of break including death, separation or divorce of parents, and remarriages of parents.

¹ Mahmud Mohamed Taib, Remaja Nakal (Juvenile Delinquency): Faktor-faktor dan Usaha-usaha Pemulihan berdasarkan Kajian di Sekolah Laki-laki Taiping, Perak, Jabatan Antropologi & Sosiologi, Universiti Malaya, 1973/74, p.46.

² Mohammed Hidayat Ali Omar, Anak-anak Gadis di Sekolah Akhlak, Sekolah Perempuan Sungai Lereth, Malacca, Jabatan Antropologi & Sosiologi, Universiti Malaya, 1977/78, p.107.

³ Nasir bin Mat Dan, Proses Pemulihan Akhlak Budak-budak Nakal. Satu Kajian kes di Sekolah Sungai Besi, Jabatan Antropologi & Sosiologi, Universiti Malaya, 1979/80, p.54.

Objectives of the Study

1. To fulfil part of the requirement in obtaining the degree Bachelor of Arts (Honours).
2. To attempt to understand the problem of the causes of juvenile delinquency which is on the trend of increase.
3. To determine whether broken home is a factor in juvenile delinquency by comparing the delinquent and the non-delinquent groups, and at the same time trying to find out the extent of the incidence of broken home in juvenile delinquency.

Brief History of the Sarawak Boys Home in Kuching

The Sarawak Boys Home was established in 1948. It is situated at Marutuan Road, about ten miles from Kuching town. The Home is for the detention of juvenile delinquents between the age of 10 to 18 years old. Most of the boys are being detailed for a period of three years in order to equip or to help train them for a trade. Both vocational as well as academic training are provided.

The overall supervision of the Home is vested in the Welfare Department, Sarawak. At the time of the fieldwork (between 18th of March and 3rd of April, 1982), there were two wardens in the Home who were responsible to the Welfare Department for the welfare and the education of the boys in the Home. There are four dormitories, a football field, badminton and basketball courts, and a large area suitable for agriculture. Discipline in the Home was good throughout the year and no serious breaches of discipline were recorded.

CHAPTER I

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

The Fieldwork and Methods of Data Collection

This project was carried out in the Sarawak Boys Home and in a secondary boys school in Sarawak. A total number of 194 respondents was used in this study. In carrying out this study, several suitable methods were used to collect the necessary data such as the use of existing literature related to this study, use of personal files of the respondents (for the delinquent boys only), interview, questionnaire, and the use of "experimental-control" groups.

Sample Selection

Since the study involves comparison between the delinquent and the non-delinquent, two groups of respondents were chosen:

- (1) the 'experimental' group which is made up of the delinquent boys from the Sarawak Boys Home, and
- (2) the 'control' group which is made up of the non-delinquent boys from a secondary boys school.

The total population of the Sarawak Boys Home at the time of the study (March, 1982) is 97, between the age of 10 to 20 years old and include all races, as shown in the Table below.

Total Population of the Boys Home in March, 1982.

Age	Number	Race	Number
10 years old	1	Malays	30
12 years old	33	Chinese	27
13 years old	6	Dayak	37
14 years old	10	Others	3
15 years old	17		
16 years old	24		
17 years old	13		
18 years old	14		
19 years old	4		
20 years old	2		
Not known	3		
Total	97		97

Since this is a comparative study, a total of 97 non-delinquent boys of similar age (and race) as the delinquent boys were used in this study. But for academic purpose and to get a true picture of the importance of broken home in juvenile delinquency, a sample of 32 delinquent boys who come from broken homes were compared with a similar number of non-delinquent boys who come from stable homes, that is boys who are brought up by both their own natural parents, holding sex, age and economic status as constant factors. The sample of 32 delinquents

is used because out of the total population of 97 delinquents in the Sarawak Boys Home, only 32 delinquents were from broken families. The non-delinquent group is chosen by the use of random sampling from a secondary boys school in Sarawak. The subjects in both the delinquent and the non-delinquent groups include all races.

Review of Related Literature

Relevant and related reference books have been used in this study. They are borrowed from the main library and the department library of the University of Malaya.

Use of Personal Files

Personal files of the delinquents are used. They are obtained from the office of the Sarawak Boys Home in Kuching. The purpose is to obtain necessary details about the delinquents and the same time double-check the information given by the delinquents. The information recorded in the personal files are more reliable.

The Interview Questionnaire

In this study, a structured questionnaire which is made up of open-ended and close-ended questions is used to collect the necessary data. The use of a structured questionnaire decreases the likelihood of bias against the less articulate among the respondents.

The questionnaire has been designed to provide information on the respondents. It was divided into three sections (see Appendix for the full text of the questionnaire):

- (1) Section A about the home background of the respondents.
- (2) Section B about the home conditions of the respondents.
- (3) Section C on the types of offences committed by the delinquents.

In the Sarawak Boys Home, all the interviews were conducted in the local dialects and in Bahasa Malaysia, and each respondent was interviewed individually by the researcher. This was because most of the inmates were not proficient in English (the questionnaires are printed in English) and are not very literate. In the school, the questionnaires were filled individually by the respondents themselves under the supervision of the researcher. Prior to each interview, the respondents were told of the purpose of this study and that their answers would be strictly kept confidential and used only for academic purpose.

Some Concluding Remarks: Problems Encountered During the Fieldwork

1. Communication barrier and incapability of respondents in comprehending the questionnaires.

Most of the respondents from the Home were not very literate and not proficient in English or Bahasa Malaysia, thus the researcher has to interview them personally using the local dialects.

2. Lack of response and possibility of unreliable information from respondents.

During the interview, some respondents in the Home were quite reluctant to talk and some of the inmates tend to give false information. In addition there exist a high degree of suspicion among the respondents about the objectives of this study, as they tried to avoid answering or filling in the questionnaires regarding their home background. To overcome these problems the researcher has to persuade them constantly and reassure them that their answers were used for academic purpose and strictly kept confidential. The personal files of every delinquent boys in the Home were used to double-check the information given by them.

3. Another problem that cropped up during the fieldwork is transport. The Sarawak Boys Home is about ten miles away from Kuching town, and there is no direct bus service to the Home from town. Thus the researcher cannot go to the Home daily (as has been planned) to collect the necessary data due to the inconveniency of using friend's transport.

CHAPTER II

DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

In all researches, an important prerequisite is to define clearly its fundamental concepts. The two main variables that need to be defined in this study are the terms "broken home" (which is the independent variable in this study), and "juvenile delinquency" (which is the dependent variable).

Concept of Broken Home

The concept of broken home does not have a universal connotation and is often very broadly defined by investigators; because a family can be broken in a variety of ways viz by divorce, death, desertion or separation. The broken home can also result from constant conflict and quarelling, and from numerous forms of tension. Even though constant quarelling and nagging, serious dissension and conflict, do not necessarily produce broken homes, they may produce social crises and disorganisation in the family; hence the family is not at its best complete, that is, it is psychologically broken. Therefore, because of the multi-dimensional character of the term broken home, it is widely used with various definitions given.

For academic purposes, the researcher categorises two types of broken homes, that is the structurally and psychologically broken homes.

The Structurally (Physically) Broken Homes

First let us take a look at what the structurally broken home means as used in the literature of delinquency. Generally the term refers to a household where it is disrupted by death, divorce, separation or desertion. The result from this disruption is that of having only one natural parent or the absence of both natural parents in the family. For instance, Rose Giallombardo¹ gives a structural definition for the term broken home. She has written:

"The broken home is generally considered a family structure which deviated from the ideal family structure designed by society. In American society the ideal family structure is the two-parent (one male, one female) nuclear family. In the broken family one or both parents are absent because of divorce, death, separation or desertion. This kind of family is expected to have an adverse effect on the child, because of the lack of proper role models, failure to control the child, insufficient paternal or maternal love."

Such a conceptional definition for the term broken home is also agreed upon by other sociologists.² For example, Lawrence Rosen said that:

"the most popular definition of 'broken home' encountered in the delinquency literature is the absence of at least one 'natural parent' because of death, desertion, divorce or separation".

¹ Rose Giallombardo, Juvenile Delinquency. A Book of Reading (3rd edition) Wiley & Sons, New York, London, 1976, p.233.

² Among them are: Lawrence Rosen, The Broken Home and Male Delinquency, In M.E. Wolfgang et al, The Sociology of Crime and Delinquency, New York, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1970, p.400. Sheldon & Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1968.

What Lawrence Rosen means here refers to the structurally or physically broken home.

From the above explanations, it is clear that the definition of structurally broken home includes two very essential elements, that is:

- (a) the absence of natural parent or parents,
- and
- (b) the reasons that cause it.

The Psychologically Broken Home

Even though the families remain intact, they may be psychologically broken. A psychologically broken home may operate through dissension, conflict, tensions and unhappiness, inconsistencies of discipline, and numerous forms of strains and tensions. Dissension occurs when members of the family cannot reach workable unity. Feelings of insecurity, unrest, and rejection may flow out of bickering and quarelling on the part of parents and the mistreatment of children. In addition, conflict of values and interests may arise when ideas of the children differ from that of their parents. Emotional shocks often grow out of the feeling of being rejected. Thus, constant quarelling and serious dissension and conflict produce social crises and disorganisation in the home.

* Though the term juvenile delinquency is a legal term, it is also defined in the cultural or social context which is different from the legal definition.

Operational Definition of Broken Home

For the purpose of this study, the term broken home refers to the structurally broken home. That is, it refers to a home in which the boy is brought up by only one natural parent or in the absence of both natural parents, and the reasons for the absence were due to either death, divorce, separation or desertion.

Such an operational definition is used because it is very difficult to get information about the psychologically broken home. This is so because, even though we can obtain information from the delinquent boys regarding the disorders of behaviour, tensions of all kinds, quarelling and all kinds of unhappiness that are common in their families, they can only give us one side of the picture, that is, their own superficial preconceptions; hence situation is very incomplete. Therefore, the information regarding the psychologically broken home is very uncertain to be applied in a precisely definable form.

To get over this difficulty, it therefore seems best to concern ourselves, for statistical purposes, with that particular form of disturbance or deficiency of the home environment, that is the absence of one or both parents or separation between them.

Concept of Juvenile Delinquency

Like the term broken home, the concept of juvenile delinquency is so broad and widely* defined that there is no universal agreement on

* Though the term juvenile delinquency is a legal term, it is also defined in the cultural or social context which is different from the legal definition.

just what constitutes the term. There is no precise definition for the term and the reason may be due to the various preconceptions or assumptions given by those who deal with the problem of juvenile delinquency. For instance Paul W. Tappan³ attributes that partly the reason for not having an agreeable precise definition for the term juvenile delinquency is due to contrasting reviews of those who deal with the delinquents. In addition, Allan R. Coffery⁴ explains that a possible reason for no universal agreement for the term juvenile delinquency may be because of the difference in connotation and definitions for the term given by the legal jurisdiction and the community of the juveniles.

Therefore, as a result of the difference in defining the term, an agreed-upon basis for the term does not exist. As Rose Giallambardo⁵ writes:

"Conclusion is that there is no one definition of delinquency applicable to all classes of research or appropriate for all types of research or methods of treatment".

It is generally agreed that the concept of juvenile delinquency has a legal status. An examination of the literature on the subject as

³ Paul W. Tappan, 'The Nature of Juvenile Delinquency', In Rose Giallambardo, Juvenile Delinquency A Book of Readings (2nd edition), John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, London, 1972.

⁴ Allan R. Coffey, Juvenile Correction: Treatment Rehabilitation, Englewood Cliff, New Jersey, Prentice Hall, 1975, p.62.

⁵ Rose Giallambardo, *Opcit.* p.2.

well as the types of laws pertaining to juveniles indicates that "delinquency" is chiefly a legal term. Therefore let us look at what the law calls juvenile delinquency.

The Legal View of Juvenile Delinquency

The legal or judicial approach tends to explain delinquency in specific terms, that is, describing the particular offences and penalties, and the reason for such an approach, according to Richard D. Knudten,⁶ is to protect the delinquents from arbitrary or unjust acts of police and judicial authority, and at the same time, to secure the community against those whose conduct has been shown in court to be dangerous. According to the laws, the term juvenile delinquency refers to those acts which infringe "the federal or state law or of a municipal ordinance".⁷

In Peninsular Malaysia the Juvenile Court Act defines the term as follows: " 'Juvenile' means a person who has attained the age of criminal responsibility prescribed in Section 82 of the Penal Code and is under the age of eighteen".⁸

⁶ Richard D. Knudten, et.al. Juvenile Delinquency A Reader, Random House, Inc., New York, Canada, 1970.

⁷ R.S. Cavan, Reading in Juvenile Delinquency (3rd edition), J.P. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, New York, 1964, p.5.

⁸ Laws of Malaysia, Act 90, Juvenile Courts Act, 1947 (Revised, 1972), Parts I. Section 2.

In Sarawak Criminal Procedure Code* the term is defined as the youthful offender at the age of 10 to 16. As the sample for this study is chosen from the Sarawak Boys Home, Kuching, it is therefore necessary to see how the term is defined in this context. It is defined as follows: " 'youthful offender' includes any child convicted of an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment who in the absence of legal proof to the contrary is above the age of seven and under the age of sixteen in the opinion of the court before such child is convicted".⁹

Hence, in a legal sense, delinquency is what the law says it is. This includes offenses committed by juveniles that are in violation of federal, state and local laws; the forms of behaviour peculiar to youth, such as habitually running away from school, and similar forms of deviant behaviour, and that lawfully may be interpreted as requiring official action.

Sociological View of the term Juvenile Delinquency

The term juvenile delinquency can also be understood in the social or cultural context. The sociological approach views the delinquent as member of his social group and the delinquency itself as a deviation from group norms and as a disruptive force in the smooth

* FMS Cap 6.

⁹ Evidence Ordinance (Sarawak Cap 54), Criminal Procedure Code, p.3, Chapter 58, Printed at the Government Printing Office, Kuching, Sarawak, 1965.

flow of organised social life. This approach treats juvenile delinquency as that of juvenile's behaviour which contradicts with the value demands of the dominant or conventional culture within which the juvenile lives. For instance, the sociologists and the behaviourists treat the term delinquency as the expression of sub-cultural values or street corner groups of lower class boys. For example, Albert K. Cohen¹⁰ defines the term from that of the deviant acts. He writes:

"We define deviant behaviour as behaviour which violates institutionalized expectations - that is, expectations which are shared and recognised as legitimate within a social system".

William C. Kvaracens & Walter B. Miller¹¹ defines the term juvenile delinquency as follows:

"(Delinquency) is behaviour by non adults which violates specific legal norms of a particular societal institution with sufficient frequency and or seriousness so as to provide a firm basis for legal action against the behaving of individual or group".

In addition, Richard A. Cloward & Lloyd E. Ohlin¹² defines the delinquent act as follows:

¹⁰ Albert K. Cohen, "The Study of Social Organisation and Deviant Behaviour In Robert K. Merton, et al, Sociology Today, New York, Basic Books, 1959, p. 462.

¹¹ William C. Kvaracens & Walter B. Miller, "Delinquent Behaviour" In Culture and the Individual, Washington National Education Association, 1959, p.54.

¹² Richard A. Cloward & Lloyd E. Ohlin, Delinquency and Opportunity, New York, Free Press, 1960, p.3.

"the delinquent act..... is behaviour that violates basic norms of the society, and, when officially known, it evokes a judgement by agents of criminal justices that such norms have been violated".

Another definition given for the term is that by Travis Hirschi.¹³

He said,

"..... delinquency is defined by acts, the detection of which is thought to result in punishment of the person committing them by agents of the larger society".

A concrete and detailed definition given for the term juvenile delinquency is that by Paul W. Tappan.¹⁴ He defines juvenile delinquency as follows:

- (a) whose occupations, behaviours, environment or associations are injurious to his welfare;
- (b) who desert his home or is habitually disobedient or beyond the control of his parents or other custodian;
- (c) who being required by law to attend school, willfully violates rules thereof or absents himself therefrom;
- (d) who violates any state law or municipale ordinance.

¹³ Travis Kirschi, Causes of Delinquency, University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1969, p.47.

¹⁴ Paul W. Tappan, Opcit, p.13.

Thorstein Sellin & Marvin E. Wolfgang¹⁵ also give a holistic and detailed account for the term juvenile delinquency, in order to avoid confusion on the usage of the term delinquent. They say:

"(4) the words 'delinquent child' includes:

- (a) A child who has violated any law of the Commonwealth or Ordinance of any city, borough, or township;
- (b) A child who, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient, is uncontrolled by his or her parent, guardians, custodian, or legal representative;
- (c) A child who is habitually truant from school or home;
- (d) A child who habitually so departs himself or herself as to injure or endanger the morals or health of himself, herself or others".

Therefore, from the above definitions, it is clear that juvenile delinquency is something undesirable and unacceptable in society and it has been recognised as a major social problem today. The main difference between the legal approach and the sociological approach to the term juvenile delinquency is that from the legal point of view the juveniles are delinquent when they are found guilty of infringing the laws of the country. But from the sociological approach, delinquency is more than limited to the infringement of the 'statute', as the various definitions given above show.

¹⁵ Thorstein Sellin & Marvin E. Wolfgang, "The Legal Basis of Juvenile Delinquency" In Rose Giallambardo, Juvenile Delinquency A Book of Readings, (3rd edition), Wiley & Sons, New York, London, 1976, p.28-29.

Operational Definition for the term Juvenile Delinquency

Nearly everyone would agree that juvenile delinquency has something to do with misbehaviour. However, we must remember that not all forms of misbehaviour can be considered as delinquency. Therefore in order to understand clearly what really constitutes the term juvenile delinquency, we ought to explain it in relation with age. This is because in order to justify an act as either delinquency or not, it is justifiable or dependable upon the age of the person involved. For example, a four year old boy who destroy an object that attracts his attention could not be considered as a delinquent; because what he has done is acceptable, based on his age. He is too young to know any harm or loss involved in destroying the object. Now, if a fourteen year old boy does what the four year old boy has done, then it is justifiable to consider that behaviour as delinquent, because what the fourteen year old boy has done is not in line with his age. Therefore, in order to have an act accepted as wrong or unacceptable in any society, it depends very much on the age of the person involved.

Therefore, for the purpose of this study, the concept of juvenile delinquency refers to those acts which infringe the laws and norms of a society, and which are unacceptable to the society, and that such acts are committed by those juveniles between the age of twelve and nineteen years old. In addition, the term juvenile delinquency is viewed in connection with delinquent act which may be separated into classes as follows:

- (1) Vagabondage: Truancy, Driving without licence.
- (2) Theft: Automobile, bicycle, money, burglary, shoplifting, stealing fruits.
- (3) Dishonesty (other than stealing): Possessing stolen goods, gambling, telling lies.
- (4) Being beyond parental control or disobedient.

Who Are the Delinquents?

Who are those juveniles that can be regarded as delinquent, and on what criteria or aspects are they regarded as such? A simple but acceptable definition for the term is that put forward by Edwin Powers & Helen Witmer¹⁶ in their article, Prevention of Delinquency. They suggested that three necessary criteria or concepts are necessary to be fulfilled for defining those peoples who are the real delinquents. They are:

- (1) the seriousness of the behaviour;
- (2) its frequency; and
- (3) the attitude of the offender towards a lawfully constituted society.

Based on these three aspects, the delinquents are categorised into five groups, namely:

¹⁶ Edwin Powers & Helen Witmer, "Prevention of Delinquency" In Herbert C. Quay, Juvenile Delinquency Research and Theory (ed.), Princeton, New Jersey, 1965, p.25.

- (a) most delinquent
- (b) ordinary delinquent
- (c) occasional delinquent
- (d) seldom delinquent
- (e) least delinquent.

A precise definition given in order to understand who really are the real delinquents is that by Paul W. Tappan.¹⁷ He defines the term juvenile delinquents as follows:

"the juvenile delinquent is a person who has been adjudicated as such as by a court of proper jurisdiction though he may be no different, up until the time of court contact and adjudication at any rate, from masses of children who are not delinquent. (Delinquent is any act, course of conduct, or situation which might be brought before a court and adjudicates whether in fact it comes to be treated there or by some other resource or indeed remains untreated..... but it cannot be measured as delinquency until a court has found the facts of delinquency to exist".

All these indicate how confusing our definitions of delinquency and how difficult it is to determine who actually is a delinquent. Various definitions have been put forward to explain the term.

The Relationship Between Broken Home and Juvenile Delinquency

Juveniles refer to those people who are below eighteen years old, and are considered as our great national resources. But some of

¹⁷ Paul W. Tappan, Op cit, p.13.

These juveniles fail to contribute to the general welfare of and become wasteful or destructive to the country. These are the juvenile delinquents. Juvenile delinquency has become a social problem. Notably there is an increase of juvenile delinquency in our country. "Cases of juvenile delinquency also increased by 15.8% with 225 cases in 1981."¹⁸ The Table below, which was gathered from the Sarawak Boys Home in Kuching, shows the distribution of delinquent boys population in the state of Sarawak between the year 1963 to 1982. As can be seen the problem of juvenile delinquency is on the trend of increase.

Population of the Sarawak Boys Home, 1963 - 18.3.1982

Year	Number of boys at the Home
1963-67	178
1968-72	171
1973-77	289
1978 - 18.3.1982	309
Total	947

No one is destined to become a delinquent. Delinquency is learned, just as honesty and integrity and good behaviour are learned. Most people think juvenile delinquency begins in the home, in split

¹⁸ The Malay Mail, Saturday, October 23, 1982, p.5.

families where one of the parents has died, or where they are separated. A child must have the love of both his parents, or he does not grow up right. Of course, there are children who can overcome the effects of a broken home. They become just as good citizens as anybody else. But other children cannot. They are the ones who become delinquents. Therefore let us look at the roles of the family on a growing child.

The Importance of the Family

The family not only provides the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter and clothing for a child, but it also acts as an important 'backbone' in the life of the growing child. "The family is extremely important (to the growing child) because it both influences the development of the internal control (conscience) and have an effect on the external social process by its methods of direct control and discipline".¹⁹ It is only in the family that the child can get the proper guidance, love, advice and other fundamental needs that are essential in his everyday life, as the family is the closest social institutions in the child's social life. It is the chief socialising agent. As pointed out by R.C. Trojanowicz,²⁰

"the child learns to deal with his emotions and handle his problems in a socially acceptable manner. When the family does not help the youngster to adjust to his environment he loses the most important means to psychological support and the most effective agent for socialisation".

¹⁹ R.C. Tronjanwicz, Juvenile Delinquency Concepts and Control (2nd ed.) Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1978, p.72.

²⁰ R.C. Tronjanwicz, ibid, p. 72.

As one of the basic social institutions and an outstanding primary group, the family is also potentially the most effective agency of social control.

"A normal family has long been regarded as the best insurance against delinquency. Contrariwise, a family that is broken by divorce, desertion, separation, or death, and that functions inadequately as a social unit, is handicapped in carrying on its responsibilities toward the children".²¹

Therefore, it is clear that what is important about the family in the development of personality and character of a growing child is not just the mere presence of the family itself (a two-parent nuclear family), but an integrated and a 'normal' family. A normal or an integrated family at its best is structurally complete (not broken). It constitutes a united household; home relationship is based on affection and good will, and a warm, continuous relationship exists between the members of the family. By contrast, in a disintegrated family, broadly speaking, there is a breakdown of unity and consensus, and a loss of family relationships among its members. In a restricted sense, a disintegrated family (broken home) is one in which the marriage relations have been severed or the children are separated from their parents.

The family, as the chief socialising agent, provides the training and experience needed by the child. In the home parents do most of the socialising. To fulfil this task, parents must first of all

²¹ Martin H. Neumeyer (3rd edition), Juvenile Delinquency in Modern Society, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1961, p.157.

be present. To serve well as socialising agents, parents must possess characteristics which at least could produce some measure of admiration and respect. The types of character and personality developed depend upon the character and ability of parents, the type of social relationships and moral atmosphere in the home. What goes on in family life and the condition of the family is therefore of great importance to the growing child. The socialisation process that goes on in an integrated family unit and that which functions effectively, is a significant aspect in helping the growing child to develop positive behaviour. This was clearly pointed out by Toby,²² that the highly integrated family is better able to resist successfully the antisocial influence that comes from the neighbourhood or the peer group. Hence it is clear that there is a significant correlation between the family and the development of personality and character of a growing child, and hence that of delinquency. The most systematic research on the role of the family in juvenile delinquency has been on the so-called broken family, defined as one in which one or both parents are absent owing to death, desertion, separation or divorce. Many studies* purport to show that the incidence of broken homes is greater among the families of delinquents than among non-delinquents generally.

Lawrence Rosen²³ in his article the Broken Home and Male Delinquency, points out that there are three major approaches which can

²² Jackson Toby, "The Differential Impact of Family Disorganisation" In R.D. Knudten, et al, Juvenile Delinquency A Reader, Random House, New York, 1970, p.182.

* Refer to Table A on page (iv).

²³ Lawrence Rosen, Broken Home and Male Delinquency In M.E. Wolfgang, et al, The Sociology of Crime and Delinquency, John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York, 1970, p.487.

be used to show the importance of the family, and hence understand the importance of the family in delinquency are as follows:

- (a) deviant structure
- (b) deviant family relationships and
- (c) transfer to deviant norms.

Briefly, the deviant structure approach is an essence of broken home, that is the physically or structurally broken family. The deviant family relationships approach implies a loss of family consciousness and a breakdown of family relations in the home; there exists in the family a too harsh or too lax father, an authoritarian or a permissive parent, lack of family solidarity, parental inconsistency or parental discrimination for a favourite child occurs between parent-child, sibling-sibling, or husband-wife relationship. Lastly, the transfer of deviant norms approach implies that delinquency is acquired through learning and teaching from the members of its family who have violated the juvenile statute. In other words, delinquents have been taught norms and values by their family members who favour the violation of the law. Lawrence Rosen concentrates on one aspect of deviant family structure, namely the relationship between broken home and male delinquency.

In this study the researcher concentrates on only one aspect of the importance of family in an understanding of delinquency, that is, the deviant family structure; the relationship between broken home and delinquency. Such family disruption is expected to have adverse effects on a growing child. The family provides the first experience for the children

in their social life, and this experience has had important effects on the development of personality and behaviour of the children. Through family interactions, the growing child can experience 'conscious standards and values'. Thus, how can a child who has been brought up in a broken family obtain all these when his family is disrupted by divorce, or separation of his parents? Under such circumstances the children involved will be brought up in a negative manner, and will be more likely or inclined to commit delinquency, because "the broken family (or deviant family) may result in an inability for the remaining parent to 'control' the child, fail to provide 'role models' or fail to contribute sufficient maternal or paternal love".²⁴ In a broken home, how can a growing child obtain all these sufficiently which are so crucial for his healthy development of personality and character?

Review of the Literature

In the history of juvenile delinquency literature there exists a fair amount of controversy on the issue of incidence of 'broken home' on juveniles. There are some researchers who accept the incidence of broken home in delinquency, but there are also others who reject. The periods of acceptance and rejection also vary. As Karen Wilkinson²⁵ has

²⁴ Lawrence Rosen In Rose Giallambardo's, *Op cit*, p.489.

²⁵ Karen Wilkinson, "The Broken Family and Juvenile Delinquency, Some Scientific Explanation or Ideology? In Rose Giallambardo's, *ibid*, p. 233-240.

remarked:

"In the history of juvenile delinquency theory and research the variable 'broken home' has experienced periods of acceptance and rejection..... the importance of broken home was widely accepted during the first thirty years of this century but was rejected (or at least ignored) for the next twenty years..... During the 1950's and 1960's a number of studies were published which re-emphasised the significance of the broken home variable".

The reason Karen Wilkinson gave for the periods of acceptance and rejection of the broken home variables is primarily related to the changes in cultural and ideological conditions and not due to scientific evidence.

Monahan (1957)²⁶ made a comprehensive review of the literature of delinquency and he listed 14 studies carried out between the year 1903 and 1933, all of which reported an association between the broken home and juvenile delinquency. He writes,

"early writers saw broken homes to be an important if not the greatest single proximate (causal) factor in understanding juvenile delinquency".

In addition, Peterson and Becker²⁷ strongly argue for the importance of broken home in juvenile delinquency:

²⁶ Mohanan Thomas P., Family Status and the Delinquent child: A Reappraisal and Some New Findings" In Social Forces 35 (March), 1957, p.250-258.

²⁷ D.R. Peterson et al, "Family Interaction and Delinquency" In Herbert Quay (ed.), Juvenile Delinquency, Princeton, New Jersey, D. Van Nostrand Co., 1965, p.69.

".....the substantial relationship between the delinquency and broken homes remain as one of the overriding facts any conception of delinquency must take into account".

Among those investigators who accept the relationship between broken home and juvenile delinquency are Gillin (1933); Weeks and Smith (1939); Merrill (1947); Glueck and Glueck (1965); Wattenberg et al (1957); Toby (1957); Nye (1958); and Peterson & Becker (1965). However even among those researchers who recognise the relationship between broken home and juvenile delinquency, their treatment on the importance of broken home as a factor in delinquency differ considerably. For academic purpose, the relationship between broken home and juvenile delinquency can be divided into three types. They are:

- (a) a partial relationship between broken home and delinquency;
- (b) a causal relationship between broken home and delinquency;
- (c) a mere presence relationship between broken home and delinquency.

For example, even though the Gluecks* agreed that there is a relationship between broken home and juvenile delinquency, they noted that broken homes are not isolated phenomena in delinquency; they did not recognise a causal relationship between broken home and juvenile delinquency. The Gluecks made a fairly elaborate study of 500 delinquents

* Sheldon & Eleanor Glueck, Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency, New York, Commonwealth Fund, 1950.

and 500 non-delinquents, and they found that 60.4% of the delinquents as compared with only 34.2% of the non-delinquents had experienced broken homes. The types of breaks, in the order of frequency were: one or both parents deserted the boy, death of a parent, temporary separation of parents, permanent separation of parents, a prolonged absence of parents because of delinquency, parent never married and prolonged absence of a parent because of illness. But the Glueck also found that more of the families of the delinquents than the families of the non-delinquents lived in a blighted slum tenement areas; more of the delinquents' parents were unskilled and low-paid workers. Other differences noted are that most of the families of the delinquents than those of the non-delinquents had persons with physical, mental and emotional handicaps and criminality; conjugal relations of parents were poorer, with less supervision, and there was less cohesion in the family.

It would seem that the study of the Glueck gave a clear picture that the family disruption (broken home) probably operates indirectly, through the neutralisation of influences which ordinarily impede delinquency, or the exaggeration of influences which promote it. Therefore, it is clear that even though there is relationship between broken home and delinquency, the relationship can be of a partial one only; the broken home is not an isolated phenomenon on delinquency.

Merill's* studies also give us the picture that the relationship between broken home and delinquency is of a partial one. Merrill found

* M.A. Merrill, Problems of Child Delinquency, New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1947, p.64-70.

50.7% of the delinquents and 26.7% of the controls came from broken homes (divorced, dead, father dead, both dead, father dead but mother remarried, mother dead but father remarried). But in the same case as the Glueck, Merrill found that certain differences other than the broken home factor exists between the delinquents and the non-delinquents; the delinquents lacked resources for satisfactory recreation, they also had less satisfactory conduct records and attitudes toward school, and slightly lower I.Q.'s.

Based on the existing literature on juvenile delinquency, it is also found by researchers* that only a mere presence relationship exists between broken home and delinquency. For instance, Nye and his colleagues found that more of the state training school boys (48.1%) than the most delinquent boys in the high schools (23.6%) came from broken homes; in the high school group (both boys and girls) fewer of the most delinquent lived with original parents than of the least delinquent, more came from broken homes (mother and stepfather, father and stepmother, mother only, father only, adopted, and others); and more came from unhappy homes. Nye and his colleagues found that unhappiness in a home is more significantly related to delinquency than a broken home. They stated that it was not the physical absence of the father or even

* Among them are: Nye, Ivan, F., Family Relationships and Delinquent Behaviour, New York, John Wiley & Sons Inc., 1958; Macloer, R.M., Prevention and Control of Delinquency, New York, Atherton Press, 1966; Kvaraceus, W.C., Juvenile Delinquency, New York, UNESCO Publications Centre, 1965.

the mother, but a fault in the human relationship which adversely affected the children. Thus it would seem that what matters most is the psychological break in the home, operating perhaps through the tensions and unhappiness, competing claims, inconsistencies of discipline and many other ways that promote delinquency rather than the absence of parents.

The publication of Shaw and McKay's²⁸ article (1932) shows the first significant challenge to the accepted importance of the broken home variable in the causation of juvenile delinquency. Shaw and McKay studied 7275 boys from broken homes. They used a sample of 1675 delinquent boys appearing in the Cook County Juvenile Court in 1929 with a like number of boys, matched for age, race and nationality, from 29 Chicago public schools. They found that 42.5% of the delinquent boys and 36.1% of the non-delinquent boys came from broken homes, the difference expressed in ratio being 1.18 to 1.0. Because the differences were not significant, Shaw and McKay questioned the significance of broken home in delinquency. Shaw and McKay writes:²⁹

".....it is probable that the conflicts, tensions, and attitudes which precipitate the disorganisation may contribute materially to the development of other

²⁸ C.R. Shaw and H.D. McKay, "Are Broken Homes a Causative Factor in Delinquency" In Social Forces 10 (May), 1932, p.514-524. He defines the term as a structural broken home, as he has written, "its influence (the family) must be sought in the more subtle aspects of family relationship rather than in the formal break in the family organisation".

²⁹ _____, Social Factors in Juvenile Delinquency, Washington National Commission of Law Observance & Enforcement, Report No.13, Vol.II, 1931, p.275-276.

delinquency and the personality problems of the child. The actual divorce or separation of the parents may not be so important a factor in the life of the child as the emotional conflicts which have resulted in the break in the family relationship".

Among those who strongly argued that there is no relationship between broken home and delinquency is Clinard.³⁰ He writes:

"the effort to link juvenile delinquency with broken home is probably a blind alley, since the concept of a broken home is by no means a constant factor, and the relationship of broken homes to delinquency has never been conclusively demonstrated".

Lawrence Rosen* gives three possible reasons that account for the findings of no relationship between delinquency and broken home. They are as follows:

- (a) not a single type of broken home being important;
- (b) some types operate in opposite directions to cancel the effects of each other, or
- (c) the possible importance of one or two types may be masked or "washed out" by the non-importance of the other types.

³⁰ Clinard M.B., Sociology of Deviant Behaviour, New York, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., 1963, p.199.

* In Rose Giallambardo, Opcit., p.490.

However, some researchers* concluded that there is a causal relationship between broken home and delinquency. "Although the causal relationship between broken home and delinquency is difficult to establish, a number of studies have indicated that from about 30 to 60% of the juveniles regarded as delinquents by law enforcement agencies come from broken homes, a proportion considerably exceeding the percentages of broken homes in the general population".³¹ However, these researchers have found that the causal relation between broken home and delinquency are more important to female than for male delinquents. For example, Wattenberg and Saunders (1965) found a higher proportion of broken homes among female than male juvenile offenders.

Hence, even by looking into the history of the delinquency literature, there is still much doubt and controversy on the incidences of broken home variable in delinquency. It is difficult to establish the causal relation between broken homes and delinquency. P.M. Smith³² has pointed that,

"Despite the admitted value of studies in the incidences, types and effects of physically broken homes, the current status of research in this field leaves much to be desired because of so many unanswered questions. All such studies are confronted with the almost impossible task of isolating factors for the purpose of

* Among them are Monahan (1957); Peterson & Becker (1965); Wattenberg & Saunders (1965); Gibbons & Grisworld (1957), and Toby (1957).

³¹ Martin H. Neumeyer, *Opcit.*, p.165.

³² P.M. Smith, "Broken Homes and Juvenile Delinquency" In Sociology & Social Research, 39 (May-June, 1955), p.307.

analysis and interpretation. Nor can the psychologically broken home, difficult to express in quantitative terms, be ignored in this connection. What further complicates the problem is that no measuring instrument with scientific validity has yet been devised to determine the relationship between broken homes and delinquency because of the complex nature of the interaction of many variables".

In the present study, the hypothesis are presented and discussed. The analysis consists of three parts:

(i) Influence of broken families;

(ii) Patterns in inadequate families, that is:

(a) which parent (mother or father) is or are both, parents missing in the home;

(b) the age of the child when he experiences the first break in the home;

(c) who takes care of the child when the separation occurs;

(d) analysis of broken family. Here we discuss the roles of the members in the family and how these roles are interpreted by the broken family.

Since the aim of the study is to investigate the causative relationship between broken homes and delinquency, the data are presented and analysed by comparing the delinquent group with the non-delinquent group.

CHAPTER III

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this Chapter, the results of the data collected to test the hypothesis are presented and discussed. The analysis consists of three parts:

- (a) Incidence of broken families;
- (b) Patterns in inadequate families, that is:
 - (i) which parent (mother or father) is or are both parents missing in the home,
 - (ii) the age of the child when he experiences the first break in the home,
 - (iii) who takes care of the child when the separation occurs.
- (c) Results of broken family. Here we discuss the roles of the parents in the family and how these roles are interrupted by the broken family.

Since the aim of the study is to investigate the causative relationship between broken home and delinquency the data are presented and analysed by comparing the delinquent group with the non-delinquent group.

(a) The Incidence of Broken Families

Before going into further detail, it is necessary to find out the home background of the respondents, that is from both the delinquent and the non-delinquent groups. We have to find out the number of boys who come from broken homes and intact homes. Based on the data collected through personal files and interview, the researcher found that 33% of the delinquent boys come from broken homes. This is different from the non-delinquent group where most of them (96.9%) come from intact homes, that is where both their own natural parents are alive and are staying together with them. This is clearly shown in Table (I).

Table (I) : Broken Homes

Status	Delinquents		Non-delinquents		Difference
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Broken	32	33.0	3	3.1	29.9
Not broken	65	67.0	94	96.9	-29.9
Total	97	100	97	100	

It can be seen from Table (I) that more delinquent boys (33%) come from broken homes than the non-delinquent group (3.1%). Therefore it can be said that broken home is a factor in juvenile delinquency. This is because it was found based on the data collected that parent-child relationship, that is in the form of affectional relationship between the remaining parent and the boy, discipline of boy by the

remaining parent, concern of the remaining parent for the boy and parent's awareness of the leisure time activities for the boy, are very weak in a broken household as compared with a stable household in which both natural parents are present and are living together with the boys. And according to psychiatrists and psychologists, affectionate relationships or emotional ties and parental disciplinary practices are crucial elements in the development of the personality and character of the growing child.* Since all these elements are weak or absent in a structurally broken home, it would have bad consequences on the growing child and one of them is that they (the growing children) are more inclined to commit delinquency, as the data collected have shown.

(b) Patterns in Inadequate Families

(i) It is necessary to find out the nature of breaches that causes a family to break structurally. In this study, the types of break include death, divorce or separation, and abandonment of the boy. We also have to know which parent is missing in the home and the age of the boys when the incident took place. This is because, "the impact of family disruption varies with certain characteristics of the child notably age, that

* Psychiatrists and psychologists realize to what extent a child's attitudes and behaviour are influenced by his concept, be it justified or not, of the genuineness of his parents' concern for his well-being. Whatever the outward manifestations of interest may be, it is the feeling of authenticity of the parental attitude, its affectional motivations and sincerity, that leaves a wholesome precipitate in the structure of personality and character. S.E. Glueck, *Op cit*, p.128.

is, preadolescents are more strongly affected than older children, and sex (girls are affected more than boys)."¹

The types of break in a broken family are analysed and shown in Table B.

Table B : Nature of all Breaches in Family Life

Description	Delinquents		Non-delinquents	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
One parent died	16	50.0	2	66.7
Both parent died	1	3.1		
Parents divorced or separated	12	37.5	1	33.3
Parents abandoned boy	3	9.4		
Total	32	100	3	100

From Table B it can be seen that broken homes are mostly disrupted by death (53.1%) and divorce or separation (37.5%). Therefore in this study we can conclude that most of the delinquents who came from structurally broken families are mostly victims of the death or divorce (separated) of their parents and thus subjected to this type of painful experience.

¹H.C. Quay (ed.), *Op cit*, p.69.

(ii)

Table C : Age of Boy at First Breach in Family Life

Age	Delinquents		Non-delinquents	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Under 5 years old	16	50.0		
5 - 9 years old	5	15.6	1	33.3
10 - 14 years old	11	34.4	1	33.3
15 years old and above			1	33.3
Total	32	100	3	100

It can be observed from Table C that most of the delinquents are below five years old (50%) when they experience their first breach in family life, thus depriving them of the emotional ties with their parent(s) and disrupting their sense of security and family stability. It also shows that preadolescents are more adversely affected than older children in the delinquent group. Such a situation does not occur in the non-delinquent group, where they are above five years of age at the time of their first experience in family disruption. The separation of a growing child from his parents in his early childhood would produce bad consequences on the child, who will then be more inclined to commit delinquency. As Bowlby in his study about parent-child disturbance has remarked, "Prolonged separation of a child from his mother during his first five years of his life stands foremost among the causes of delinquent character".² This was because of the lack of parental care and love on the growing child.

Table D gives an overall view of the patterns in the broken family, showing the types of break and the age of the boy when he experiences the breaks. Due to the lack of adequate data the researcher did not provide an analysis showing whose care the boy is under when he experiences the first break in the family.

(iii) In cases like divorce (separation) and parents' abandonment, the researcher discovers (through the personal files of the delinquent boys) that most of the boys who are separated from their own natural mothers are either brought up by their own natural fathers or in the care of their relatives, hence depriving them of the care of their own natural mothers. And it has been suggested that, "if the child is deprived of the loving of a mother in early infancy, the subsequent development of the personality may be permanently impaired, further, that this impairment may lead to an increased tendency to delinquent behaviour."³ Most of the delinquent boys in this study are below five years old when they are separated from natural mothers. (See Table D).

(c) Results of Broken Family

Parents play an important role in the family. They act as the main socialising agents in the family and provide the love, care and guidance for their growing children. Therefore family ties or bonds are established between the parents and the growing children through

³ John Cowie et al., Delinquency in Girls, London, Heinemann, 1968, p.115.

Table D : Nature of Breaches and Age of Boy
at First Break in Family Life

Nature of the Child Breaches	Delinquents				Non-delinquents			
	Below 5 yrs. old	5-9 yrs. old	9(+) to 14 yrs. old	14 yrs & above	Below 5 yrs. old	5-9 yrs. old	9(+) to 14 yrs. old	14 yrs. & above
Death of Father	5 (15.6%)		3 (9.4%)			1 (33.3%)		1 (33.3%)
Death of Mother	3 (9.4%)	2 (6.2%)	4 (12.5%)					
Divorce or separation of parents	6 (18.8%)	3 (9.4%)	3 (9.4%)				1 (33.3%)	
Parents abandoned boy	2 (6.2%)		1 (3.1%)					
Total	16	5	11			1	1	1

the process of socialisation. But the roles of the parents are interrupted when the family is broken either by death, divorce or desertion. This is because, "the broken family (or deviant family) may result in an inability for the remaining parent to 'control' the child, fail to provide proper 'role models', or fail to contribute sufficient maternal or paternal love".⁴ The result is that the child brought up in a broken family is unable to establish a close relationship or ties with his parents and fails to obtain sufficient parental love or discipline from his parents. According to T. Hirschi,* if a child is attached to his parents he will be less inclined to be involved in delinquent acts and the reason is not that the child spends most of his time with his parents, but because, "the more the child is accustomed to sharing his mental life with his parents, the more he is accustomed to seeking or getting their opinion about his activities, the more likely is he to perceive them as part of his social and psychological field, and the less likely he would be to neglect their opinion when considering an act contrary to law which is a potential source of embarrassment to them".⁵

(1) Affectional Relationship Between Boy and Parent(s)

As ordinarily assumed by clinicians, parental love is considered as an important criterium in child's adjustment. The basic defect in

⁴ M.E. Wolfgang et al, *Op cit.*, p.489.

*T. Hirschi, Causes of Delinquency, University of California Press, Berkeley & Los Angeles, 1969.

⁵ _____, *ibid*, p.86.

delinquency as in most other forms of disturbances is thought to lie somewhere in the feelings parents and children have for each other. Thus a warm relationship between parents and the growing children is of great significance in helping the children to develop healthily, physically and spiritually. Should this bond be not close, it would produce dubious character on the growing children,* as this study indicates.

Table II : Affection of Parent(s) for Boy

Description	Delinquent Group (Broken Homes)		Non-delinquent Group (Stable Homes)		Difference
	<u>N.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	
Warm	7	22.6	26	81.3	-58.7
Indifferent	18	58.1	5	15.6	42.5
Hostile/rejective	6	19.3	1	3.1	16.2
Total	31	100	32	100	

Note: There is no report on one delinquent boy and hence the total number only adds up to 31, instead of the total of 32 as mentioned earlier.

- * "A warm relationship between father and son is of great significance in helping a boy to develop a wholesome set of ideals through emotional identification with the father. Should this bond not be close, the growing child may seek substitute antisocial satisfactions in companionship with delinquent children..... the case was similar with the mothers". Glueck, Op cit, p.125.

It is clear from Table II that affectionate relationship between the parents and the boys is comparatively weaker in the delinquent group than the non-delinquent group. Only 22.6% of the boys from the delinquent group as compared with 81.3% of the boys from the non-delinquent group experience warm affectionate parental relationship. Hence it can be said that the boys who come from broken homes are more deprived of a warm or affectionate relationship from their parents than those who come from stable homes. Parental relationship for the boys in the delinquent group is mostly indifferent, thus the delinquents are disadvantaged with respect to the affectional attitude of their parents towards them. The delinquents tend to think that their parents do not love them very much.

Affection of Boys for Parent(s)

Parent-child relationship is a two-directional affair, and researchers not only have begun to examine the attitudes by which the parents express toward their children, but also the reciprocal feelings children hold toward their parents. Therefore it is necessary and interesting to find out about the affection the boys have for his parents in this study.

If the boy thinks his emotional affection for his parents is "non-committal", it implies then an ambivalent feeling in the parent-child relationship.

Table III : Affection of Boys for Parent(s)

Description	Delinquent Group (Broken Homes)		Non-delinquent Group (Stable Homes)		Difference
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	
Attached	4	12.9	25	78.1	-65.2%
Indifferent	12	38.7	3	9.3	13.3%
Hostile	8	25.8	2	6.3	19.5%
Non-committal	7	22.6	2	6.3	32.4
Total	31	100	32	100	

It can be seen from Table III that affection of the boys for their parents is comparatively stronger in stable homes than that in broken homes. The boys from stable homes are more attached to their parents (78.1% : 12.9%) than those from broken families.

Therefore from the parent-child relationship in the form of affectional or emotional ties in the family, we can see that the boys who come from broken homes are more deprived of parental affection, (See Table II) and that they, in turn, do not have a warm feeling for their parents as do the boys who come from stable homes (see Table III). This may be attributed to the inability for the remaining parent in a broken home to provide maternal or paternal love or care, or the absence of both parental affection for the boys.

The lack of a strong affectionate relationship between parents and the children, as the data collected indicates, has many consequences. Some of these are as follows:

- (1) the boys are more reluctant to ask for help from their parents;
- (2) they are less inclined to seek the company of their parents;
- (3) they tend to show less warmth of feeling for their parents;
- (4) the boys in need of help tend to seek the assistance of peers rather than their parents.

The result is that the boys who do not establish a close relationship or emotional ties consequently become unattached to their parents. The consequences of it is that, "the child unattached to his parents is simply more likely to be free to take up with a gang, more likely to be exposed to criminogenic influences."⁶

(ii) Concern of Parent(s) for the Boy

According to psychiatrists and psychologists, a child's attitudes and behaviour are also very much influenced by his parent(s) concern for his well-being. Therefore the concerns of the parent(s) for

⁶Hirschi, *Op cit.*, pp.225-228. It is found in a comparison of the information given by the boys about their parents' awareness of how they (the boys) spend their leisure time. This is shown in Table V.

the boy need to be studied. If the parent(s) make(s) an effort to ask where and with whom the boy is with when he is away from home, their concern for him is considered as good. In instances in which the boys felt their parents seldom ask then their concern for the boy is fair. When the parents are giving attention only when the boy's behaviour serves to irritate them, then the parents' concern for the boy is poor.

Table IV : Boy's Estimate of Parent(s) Concern for Him

Boy's Estimate	Delinquent Group (Broken Homes)		Non-delinquent Group (Stable Homes)		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	
Good	4	13	22	68.8	-55.8%
Fair	4	13	8	25.0	-12.0%
Poor	23	74	2	6.2	67.8%
Total	31	100	32	100	

From Table IV it is revealed that boys who have been brought up in a broken home express of their parents' lesser concerns on them than those from stable homes. The delinquents (74%) tend to have a poor estimate of their parents' concern for them compared with the non-delinquents who have a good estimate of their parents' concern for them (68.8%).

Evidence to show the lesser concern of the remaining parent in a broken home for the boy's welfare is found in a comparison of the information given by the boys about their parents' awareness of how they (the boys) spend their leisure time. This is shown in Table V.

Table V : Parent(s) Awareness of Boy's Leisure-time Activities.

	Delinquent Group (Broken Home)		Non-delinquent Group (Stable Home)	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	5	16.1	28	87.5
No	26	83.9	4	12.5
Total	31	100	32	100

As Table V shows, the parents of the non-delinquents are more conscious or aware of their sons' activities than those of the delinquents. Hence the broken family results in an inability for the remaining parent to pay much attention on the boy. The remaining parent fails to provide sufficient care for the boy. As written by Lawrence Rosen* in his article, Broken Home and Male Delinquency, "The broken family (or deviant family) may result in an inability for the remaining parent to 'control' the child, fail to provide proper 'role models', or fail to contribute sufficient maternal or paternal love".⁷

Another evidence of the lesser concern of the parents of the delinquents is further reflected in the different ways of how the delinquents and the non-delinquents spend their leisure hours. This is shown in Table VI below.

*⁷In M.E. Wolfgang et al., Opcit., p.489.

Table VI : Boy's Use of Leisure-time

Description	Delinquents (Broken Home)		Non-delinquents (Stable Home)	
	N	%	N	%
Alone (loitering and movies)	13	40.6		
Peer Group (loitering and movies)	22	68.8	5	15.6
With parents	4	12.5	17	53.1
Games and sports/ school-mates	4	12.5	21	65.6

As can be seen from Table VI, it is clear that the delinquent boys tend to spend most of their free time loitering in town and in cinemas, together with their peer or alone. Based on personal files of the delinquent boys, the researcher found that, their peers are mostly of dubious character. During the course of interview-cum-interactions with the delinquent boys, the researcher also found that some of the delinquent boys tend to spend their leisure hours in stealing, either in their own kampung or in town if they visit it. As for the non-delinquent boys who come from stable homes, they tend to spend most of their leisure time in games or sports with their school-mates and with their parents (at home and watching television).

Several reasons are given by the delinquent boys (upon asking by the researcher) for not spending most of their leisure time with their family. They are as follows:

- (1) Their parents are too busy working to spend more time with them. The occupations of the delinquent boys' parents are mostly unskilled ones, especially small-scale farmers (rubber cum pepper or rubber cum padi) or odd job labourers.
- (2) The delinquent boys themselves often do not want to be together with their own parents, as they believed they feel more "free" being on their own or with their own friends than with parents.
- (3) In cases like those delinquent boys who are brought up by their relatives because of the death, divorce or desertion of their own parents at the time of their (the delinquent boys) infancy, the impression given was that other than providing them with the basic necessities of life like food, clothing and shelter, their guidance neglect them socially.

(iii) Parent(s) Discipline of Boy

The development of stable behaviour tendencies depends on the intensity and consistency by which parental disciplinary methods are administered. Excessively harsh treatment, especially if unaccompanied by generally affectionate acceptance, arouses resentment, and this may

reduce the effectiveness of discipline. Hence proper disciplinary practices of parents are considered very important in guiding the children toward a clear conception of the difference of right and wrong. Wrong parental disciplinary practices may produce serious consequences in shaping the personality and character of a growing child. ".....the common assumption that capacities for internal control are complexly but closely related to previously imposed external restraints, then parental discipline assumes focal significance as a factor in delinquency."⁸ It is important, therefore, to compare the disciplinary practices of the parents of the delinquents with those of the non-delinquents.

For instance, the studies of Healy and Bronner (1962) which was one of the earliest studies to stress on the importance of discipline, found that out of a total sample of 4,000 delinquents, 40% have come from homes where parents failed to exert even a minimum of "good discipline".

If parents show an indifferent attitude and do not exert any control on a boy's behaviour, their disciplinary practices are regarded as lax. When the parent(s) disciplinary practices are inconsistent, their discipline is considered as erratic. In instances where the parent(s) are harsh, unreasoning and demanding of obedience through fear, their disciplinary practices are overstrict. When their disciplinary practices are consistent and kind in their attitude, giving the boy the feeling

⁸H.C. Quay, Opcit., p.82.

that the discipline imposed is based on fairness and sound reasoning then their discipline is considered as firm but kind.

Table VII : Parent(s) Discipline of Boy

Description	Delinquents (Broken Homes)		Non-delinquents (Stable Homes)		<u>Difference</u>
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	
Lax	19	61.3	2	6.2	55.1%
Erratic	4	12.9	3	9.4	3.5%
Overstrict	6	19.3	3	9.4	9.9%
Firm but kind	2	6.5	24	75.0	-68.5%

From Table VII, it is clear that disciplinary practices of parents in broken homes are more lax than those of stable homes (61.3% : 6.2%). Relatively a much lower proportion of the parents of the delinquent boys than the non-delinquent boys are found to be firm and kind in their disciplinary practices (6.5% : 75%). Clearly, then, the disciplinary practices of parents in broken homes tend to be weaker or poor if compared with those from stable homes. This may be explained by the inability of the remaining parent to provide proper discipline and guidance or 'control' on the boy.

Thus a comparison of disciplinary attitudes among parents of delinquent boys and non-delinquent boys offers additional support for the contention that lax discipline, a characteristic of parental

disciplinary practices in broken homes than in stable homes, is a very important factor in determining delinquent pre-dispositions. The parents of the delinquents are also prone to extremes of severity and erraticity.

Methods of Control of Boys

After discussing the parents' discipline of the boy, it is necessary now to consider the methods of controlling the boys by the parents. This is shown in Table VIII as below.

Table VIII : Methods of Control of Boy by Parent(s)

Description	Delinquents (Broken Homes)		Non-delinquents (Stable Homes)	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Physical punishment	28	87.5	5	15.6
Deprivation of privileges	6	18.8	2	6.3
Scolding	28	87.5	11	34.4
Reasoning	2	6.3	20	62.5

Note: Percentages are based on a total of 32.

It can be seen that the methods of scolding the boys and resorting to the use of physical punishment are more characteristic of the parents of the delinquents than of the non-delinquents. Fewer of the parents of the delinquents than of the non-delinquents are apt to

reason with their boys. The most marked difference between the disciplinary practices of the parents of the delinquents and those of the non-delinquents is found in the considerably greater extent to which the delinquent parents resort to physical punishment and scolding, and in the lesser extent to which they reason with the boys about their misconduct.

Summary

The delinquents who are victims of broken homes are also very much the victims of the indifference or hostility of their parents, and are, in turn, less attached to their parents. This greater emotional deprivation is further reflected on the part of the lesser concerns of their parents in addition to their laxity disciplinary practices on them (boys).

The development of personality and character of a growing child depends a great deal on the affectionate relationships between parents and the child, and vice versa, and the disciplinary practices of parents on the child. All these qualities are absent in a broken family. The structurally broken home results in an inability for the remaining parent to provide sufficient maternal or paternal love and fails to provide proper 'control' or disciplinary methods on the child with the consequences of assisting the growing child to become delinquent.

Thus to conclude broken home is a factor in juvenile delinquency, for when comparing the delinquent and the non-delinquent groups, more delinquents come from broken homes (33% : 3.1%).

CHAPTER IV

THE EXTENT OF THE INCIDENCE OF BROKEN HOMES IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

After analysing the relationship between broken home and juvenile delinquency, it is therefore necessary to find out the extent of the incidence of broken homes in juvenile delinquency. In other words, the strength of the causal relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency. In the history of juvenile delinquency, there has been controversy about the incidence of broken homes in juvenile delinquency. There are those who contend that the variable broken home is an important variable in juvenile delinquency, while on the other hand there are those who reject such conclusions.* But it is generally agreed or accepted that broken home is not important in male delinquency as in female delinquency. "The association between a broken home and delinquency is much more marked in the case of girls than boys".¹

For instance, Wattenberg and Saunders** found a higher proportion of broken homes among female than male juvenile offenders; 56% of the boys but only 41% of the girls come from intact homes.

* This can be seen from the Section concerning the Review of the Literature, p.24.

¹ John Cowrie, et al. Opcit., p.101.

**Wattenberg and Saunders, Sex Differences among Juvenile Offenders, In Sociology and Social Research, 39, 1954, p.24-31.

Based on the data collected, the researcher finds that though broken home is a factor in juvenile delinquency, the extent of its incidence is rather weak or there is a lack of strong relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency. This is measured by looking into the delinquent group itself. Out of the total sample of 97 delinquent boys (also the total population of the Sarawak Boys Home, at the time of study), only 33% (refer to Table I) of them are from broken homes; the rest of the delinquents are from structurally intact homes. A large percentage of the delinquent boys (67%) do not come from broken homes and yet commit delinquency, therefore other more important factors must have played a more prominent role in juvenile delinquency than the factor broken homes.

It has been found that, most of the delinquents, as a group, and to a greater extent come from poorer families (see Table IX), and that the homes of many delinquents tend to be overcrowded (see Table X) than the non-delinquent group. The researcher also discovered that mostly the delinquent boys commit the offences because of poverty, that is the need to have money to buy the things they need but their parents do not or cannot afford to give them the money, the influence of their peers (usually co-offenders or of dubious character) and lack of parental control. In addition, the families of the delinquent boys tend to be psychologically broken through dissension, conflict and numerous forms of tensions. Therefore, then it can be argued that besides broken homes, other factors like poverty, peer group influence and deviant family relationships are also important in juvenile delinquency. Hence a lack

of strong relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency may be caused by a combination of these factors.

Several reasons may be given for this lack of strong relationship between broken home and delinquency. According to Lawrence Rosen* in his article, The Broken Home and Male Delinquency, there were three possible reasons that accounted for a weak relationship between broken homes and delinquency. Briefly, there are as follows:

- (a) Family structure is of far less importance than the 'quality' of family interaction; thus delinquency-producing interactions such as stress, conflict, strain, etc. may be as likely to occur in "broken homes" as intact homes.
- (b) The family may not be a major independent variable for delinquency. Other factors like delinquent values, gangs, peer group, opportunity structure, subculture or poverty may suggest that the family plays a secondary role as a factor in delinquency.
- (c) The crude nature of almost all of the studies of broken home and delinquency, such as failure to refine the notion of broken home by controlling for such factors as the nature of the break or adjustments to the break, and the weakness of the difference between the percentage of delinquents from broken homes and intact homes because

* In W.E. Wolfgang, *Opcit.*, p.490.

differences in percentages are poor indices of strength of relationship between two variables.

In this study too, the author found that a weak relationship between broken home and juvenile delinquency might be explained by the following reasons:

- (1) Other factors like poverty and peer group influence seem to offset the importance of family structure in delinquency.
- (2) Psychologically broken home, operating perhaps through tensions and unhappiness, competing claims, inconsistencies of discipline and others may be more important than structurally broken homes.
- (3) This study concentrates on only male delinquency and according to Western studies like Toby (1957) the association between broken homes and delinquency is much more marked in the case of girls than boys, hence this may be one of the reasons that accounted for a weak relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency.

Therefore in this section, the author touches on the environment or the circumstances under which the delinquents are brought up, by focusing on:-

- (i) the economic conditions of the boy's family;
- (ii) the size of their families;

(iii) the ways the delinquents came to be involved in delinquency, and their age at the time of their convictions; and

(iv) the types of offences committed by them.

(i) Income of Boy's Family

Table IX : Income of Boy's Family

Income per month	Delinquents		Non-delinquents	
	N	%	N	%
Below \$300	55	56.7	2	2.1
\$300 - \$ 450	26	26.8	13	13.4
\$500 - \$ 650	12	12.3	35	36.1
\$700 - \$ 850	2	2.1	21	21.6
\$900 - \$1050	2	2.1	20	20.6
\$1100 and above			6	6.2
Total	97	100	97	100

From Table IX it is clear that there is a great difference between the income of the delinquents' families with that of the non-delinquents' families. Mostly the delinquent boys come from poorer families than the non-delinquent boys (56.7 : 2.1%), that is having a monthly income which is below three hundred dollars. Many of the non-

delinquent boys come from moderately rich families with incomes ranging between \$500 and \$1000 per month.

A substantially greater proportion of the delinquent boys belong to families whose parents are unskilled labourers such as small scale rubber cum padi farmers or pepper planters and having a lower per capita income. Of the total delinquent population, 55% of them have living conditions that are not satisfactory. They live on frugally from day to day with an unstable source of income, and doing odd jobs like working on building construction sites. But on the other hand, a greater proportion of the non-delinquent boys belong to families that manage a decent and reasonably comfortable living. Their parent's occupation are mostly skillful or professional workers like police personnel, teachers, accountants and businessmen.

(ii) Size of the Boy's Family

It has been generally agreed that usually the delinquents come from larger families than the non-delinquents. It is therefore interesting to find out if this is so in this study. The size of the subjects' families are shown in Table X.

Table X indicates that more delinquents come from larger families with the size between six to ten children in the family, whereas the non-delinquent boys mostly come from moderately small families, between six to four children in the family. Thus, generally the homes of many delinquents tend to be overcrowded than the non-delinquents.

Table X : Number of Children in Boy's Family

Number	Delinquents		Non-delinquents	
	N	%	N	%
1 - 2	9	9.3	9	9.3
3 - 4	13	13.4	26	26.8
5 - 6	24	24.7	37	38.1
7 - 8	28	28.9	18	18.6
9 - 10	19	19.6	7	7.2
11 - 12	4	4.1		
Total	97	100	97	100

Boy's Position in the Family

After analysing the size of the boys' families it is therefore necessary to find out the position of the boys in the family, in order to find out whether there is any difference between the delinquent boys and the non-delinquent boys regarding their position in their families.

As can be seen from Table XI there is no difference between the delinquent and the non-delinquent group in relation to their position in the family.

Table XI : Boy's Position in the Family

Boy's Position	Delinquents		Non-delinquents	
	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Eldest	17	17.5	36	37.1
Middle	67	69.1	48	49.5
Youngest	13	13.4	13	13.4
Total	97	100	97	100

(iii) How the Delinquents Become Involve in Delinquency

From the answers given by the delinquents, the reasons they committed the offences further reflect the roles played by other factors other than the roles of the structurally broken homes in juvenile delinquency. Based on the reasons given by the delinquents, the author categorised them into three headings, that is:

- (a) Beyond parental control;
- (b) Poverty;
- (c) Influence of peer group.

When the delinquents commit the offences because of ineffectiveness of committed various types of offences, most of which are of 'minor' types, the parents' control on them, they are considered as 'being beyond parental control'. In instances where the delinquents commit the offences various nature of the offences the author categorises them into several in order to satisfy their needs, it is classified under the heading 'poverty'. If the delinquents commit the offences under the influence,

persuasion or pressure of their friends they are considered as being under 'the influence of peer group'. The reasons the delinquents commit the offences are shown in Table XII.

Table XII : How the Delinquents are Involved in Delinquency

Description	Number	%
Beyond parental control	41	42.3
Poverty	42	43.3
Influence of peer group	40	41.2

Note: Percentages are based on total of 97.

As can be seen from Table XII there is not much difference between the reasons why the delinquents are involved in delinquent acts. Factors like poverty, weakness of parental roles and peer group influence are equally important in assisting pre-delinquent behaviours.

(iv) Types of Offences

The delinquents in the Sarawak Boys Home in Kuching have committed various types of offences, most of which are of 'minor' types, that is not physically dangerous types like murder or rape. Due to the various nature of the offences the author categorises them into several types, as can be seen from Table XIII. Besides analysing the nature of delinquencies, the author also goes on to analyse the circumstances in

which they (delinquencies) (refers Table XII) are committed, the extent and seriousness of the crime in order to have a better understanding of the boys detained in the Home. In addition, these information can be used to help in,

- (a) suggesting measures to prevent delinquency; for example, in the social and educational fields;
- (b) Police procedure in the prevention and detection of crimes;
- (c) Legislation concerned with the sentencing and treatment of offenders.

Most of the boys in the Home are serving sentences of 3 years in order to train them in a trade, thus assisting them to find employment after their release.

Table XIII reveals that the most common types of offences committed by the delinquent boys in the Home are theft of goods which include foodstuff, clothings, cooking utensils, pepper berries and gold valuables (45.4%) and theft of cash (33%).

Upon asking, the author learns that stolen goods like bicycles, electrical goods and gold valuables are mostly sold to potential buyers; foodstuff and clothings are stolen for own use. Furthermore, the author discovers that the delinquent boys commit the various forms of theft especially cash and foodstuff and clothings because of their needs, that is because their parents fail to give them enough money or are unable to

give them the necessary amount to buy what they need. Thus they steal in order to satisfy their (the delinquent boys) needs.

Table XIII : Types of Offences Committed by the Delinquents.

Types	N	%
Theft of goods (foodstuff, clothings, cooking utensils, pepper berries and gold valuables)	44	45.4
Theft of cash (amounting from \$10 to \$500 and above)	32	33.0
Theft of bicycle	12	12.4
Theft of electrical goods (radios, television and fans)	6	6.2
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority	4	4.1
Theft of snatching, burglary and robbery	5	5.1
Disposing stolen goods	2	2.1
Threatening people with knives	2	2.1

Note: Percentages are based on totals of 97.

Age of the Delinquents at the Time of Convictions

In order to get a clearer picture of juvenile delinquency, it is relevant to find out the age of the delinquents at the time of convictions. This is shown in Table XX.

Table XX : Age of the Delinquent Boys at Time of Convictions

Age	Number	%
10 years old	1	1.0
12 years old	5	5.2
13 years old	16	16.5
14 years old	20	20.6
15 years old	33	34
16 years old	17	17.5
17 years old	2	2.1
Not known	3	3.1
Total	97	100

From Table XX it reveals that the delinquent boys are mostly between thirteen and sixteen years of age at the time of convictions. Even though most of the delinquent boys are not repeat offenders, it was found that some of the delinquent boys have committed various kinds of offences like stealing and snatching prior to admittance to the Home. Please refer to Table XXI. They have committed delinquent acts some of which are unreported to the police.

Table XXI : Frequency of Convictions

Frequency	Number	%
First convictions	77	79.4
Repeated convictions	20	20.6
Unreported to Police	30	31.0

Note: Percentages are based on totals of 97.

In reviewing the offences committed by the delinquent boys, it was found that there is not much difference between the offences committed by the delinquent boys who come from structurally broken homes with that of the delinquent boys who do not come from structurally broken homes. The offences committed by them are the ordinarily delinquent acts like theft of goods and theft of cash, as shown in Table XIII. The delinquent boys in the Home are mostly charged on their first convictions, but they have committed a number of offences which were unreported to the police prior to their admittance to the Home. In addition it is discovered that the delinquent boys tend to commit the delinquent acts either in group with their peers or alone. The places of their committance are usually near town areas (even though they are mostly from rural areas), and in their own villages.

Summary

The home conditions of the delinquents and non-delinquents are different. More of the delinquents come from poor families than the non-delinquents (see Table IX). About 56.7% of the delinquents' families monthly incomes are less than three hundred dollars as compared to 2.1% in the non-delinquent group, and yet they (the delinquents) have a larger household to support (see Table X). This poor financial condition might have accounted for their involvement in delinquencies (see Table XII), and most of the delinquent boys have committed the delinquency of theft (cash and goods) (see Table XIII). They are also brought up by parents whose disciplinary practices are not effective, thus giving them more freedom and in the end be influenced by their peers in committing delinquencies (see Table XII).

Therefore these factors - poverty, beyond parental control and peer group influence might have accounted for the weak relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Though small in scale, this study shows that fewer delinquents, as a group, come from broken homes. Only 33% of the total delinquent group comes from structurally broken homes, and the rest are from intact homes.

This study chooses the sample of subjects from the Sarawak Boys Home in Kuching and a secondary boys school in Sarawak. The term 'broken home' in this study refers to the structural family disruption caused by death, divorce, separation or desertion of the parents, with the result of having only one natural parent or the absence of both natural parents in the family.

It shows that 33% of the delinquent group and 3.1% of the non-delinquent group come from broken homes. Thus more delinquents than the non-delinquents come from broken families. The analysis also shows that the delinquent boys who are victims of broken homes are also the victims of parental deprivation and weak parental disciplinary practices, resulting from the inability of the remaining parent or the absence of both natural parents to provide sufficient parental care and love, proper guidance or discipline, or 'control' the child. It is also found that the most common types of broken homes in this study are caused by death (53.1%) and divorce or separation (37.5%) of the parents, and that the delinquents are mostly below five years of age (50%) at the time of such usually painful experience

of structural family disruption.

It seems clear, therefore, that the delinquents more than the non-delinquents, grow up in a family atmosphere not conducive to the development of emotionally well-integrated, happy youngsters.

The analysis also indicates that even though broken home is a factor in juvenile delinquency, there is a lack of a strong relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency. Less than half of the total delinquent population in the Sarawak Boys Home come from broken families and yet they commit delinquencies not because they are from broken homes. Therefore other factors must have influenced them to get involve in delinquencies. Several reasons which account for this have been discussed. The incomes of the delinquents' families fall between the scale of two hundred to three hundred and fifty dollars per month which is quite insufficient to eke out a satisfactory standard of livelihood these days. Their parents' occupations are usually of the unskilled labour and with unstable incomes, small-scale farmers and odd job labourers.

In addition the delinquent boys tend to be influenced into committing the delinquent acts because of the lack of material needs like money, or poor parental control, and also due to the influence of peers. Hence it is obvious that besides the roles played by broken homes in delinquencies, other more important factors like poverty, peer group influence or deviant family relationships might have caused delinquency. These factors suggest that structurally broken homes play a secondary role in juvenile delinquency. Hence broken home is a factor that has little influence in juvenile delinquency.

In relation to the types of offences committed by the delinquent boys, they are categorised as follows:

- (1) Theft of goods (including foodstuffs, clothing, cooking utensils, pepper berries and gold valuables).
- (2) Theft of cash, snatching, burglary and robbery.
- (3) Theft of bicycles.
- (4) Theft of electrical goods (radios, television and fans).
- (5) Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority.
- (6) Disposing stolen goods.
- (7) Threatening people with knives.

Among all these offences, the most common types that are committed by the delinquent boys in the Home are theft of goods and theft of cash, with the offence of threatening people as the least common ones, as there is only one case in this conviction. The delinquent boys are usually between thirteen and sixteen years of age at the time of conviction, and that they have committed offences prior to their admittance to the Home. They have usually committed these offences in town areas even though they are mostly from rural areas, and in their own villages. Generally, the delinquent boys committed these offences alone, but there are some who have committed the offences in a group.

Therefore, to conclude, we can accept the hypothesis that broken home is a factor in juvenile delinquency, but the extent of its causative relationship is rather weak; less than half of the delinquents come from broken homes and yet they are delinquents. This is not surprising because the theory between broken homes and juvenile delinquency has been rejected before. In addition this study concentrates on male delinquency, and according to Western studies, it has been generally concluded that broken home is more important in female delinquency than in male delinquency. As Rosen Giallombardo has written, "Several studies have found the broken home to be more important for female than for male delinquency".¹ These studies include those of Weeks (1940), Wattenberg and Saunders (1954), Gibbons and Grinswold (1957), and Toby (1957).

1. Rose Giallombardo, *op.cit.*, p. 234.

APPENDIX

Section A

- (1) Age:
- (2) Race:
- (3) Family background: Living with:-
 - (a) both own parents
 - (b) own mother only
 - (c) own father only
 - (d) own mother & step father
 - (e) own father & step mother
 - (f) foster parents or step parents or relatives
- (4) Reasons for not living with own parents:
 - (a) parents died
 - (b) parents deserted, divorced or separated (Underline the correct answer)
 - (c) parents in mental hospital or seriously ill
 - (d) parent remarried
 - (e) none of these
- (5) Marital status of own parents:
 - (a) Living together
 - (b) Divorced
 - (c) Separated
 - (d) Widowed
 - (e) Did not marry each other

- (6) Age: (a) under five years old
(b) between 5 to nine years old (underline the correct answer)
(c) between 10 to 14 years old
(d) 15 years old and above

when your parents:

- (a) died
(b) separated
(c) divorced
(d) deserted
(e) none of these
- (7) Number of children in the family
..... brotherssisters
- (8) Your position in the family

Section B

- (1) Economic status: For the purpose of the survey would you please state the income of your family as follows:
- (a) \$300 and below per month
(b) Between \$300 to \$400 per month
(c) Between \$400 to \$500 per month
(d) Between \$500 to \$600 per month
(e) Between \$600 to \$700 per month
(f) Between \$800 to \$900 per month
(g) \$1000 and above per month

(2) Home relations: Affection of your mother towards you.

- (a) warm
- (b) indifferent
- (c) hostile, rejective

(3) Affection of your father towards you:

- (a) warm
- (b) indifferent
- (c) hostile, rejective

(4) Your affection for your mother:

- (a) attached
- (b) indifferent
- (c) hostile
- (d) non-committed

(5) Your affection for your father:

- (a) attached
- (b) indifferent
- (c) hostile
- (d) non-committed

(6) What is your estimate of your mother's concern for you:

- (a) Good
- (b) fair
- (c) poor
- (d) firm but kindly

(7) What is your estimate of your father's concern for you:

(a) Good

(b) fair

(c) poor

(8) Do you spend more time with your father or mother?

.....

(9) Are your parents aware of how you spend your leisure-time?

(a) Yes

(b) No

(10) How do you spend your leisure-time?

(a) playground

(b) movie

(c) church

(d) school-mates

(e) friends outside school

(f) with parents.....(i) both parents

(ii) mother only

(iii) father only

(11) Your mother's discipline towards you:

(a) lax (relaxed or inattentive)

(b) overstrict

(c) erratic (irregular)

(d) firm but kindly

(12) Your father's discipline towards you:

- (a) lax
- (b) overstrict
- (c) erratic
- (d) firm but kindly

(13) Parents' disciplinary attitude:

- (a) physical punishment (underline the correct answers)
- (b) deprivation of privileges
- (c) threatening/scolding
- (d) reasoning
- (e) appeal to pride

For questions (14) to (20) used the answer as follows: (a) Usually

(b) Sometimes

(c) Never

(14) Does your father know where you are when you are away from home?.....

(15) Does your mother know where you are when you are away from home?.....

(16) Does your father know whom you are with when you are away from home?.....

(17) Does your mother know whom you are with when you are away from home?.....

(18) Do you share your thoughts and feelings with your mother?.....

(19) Do you share your thoughts and feelings with your father?.....

(20) How often do you talk over your future plans with your parents?.....

(21) Would you like to spend more time with your parents? Yes... or No...

(22) Have you even felt unwanted by your parents? Yes... or No...

Section C : Offences, by types (underline the offences you think you have committed).

(1) Vagabondage: Truancy

Ran away from home

Driving without licence.

Liquor violations:

Illegal possession

Buying as a minor

Drinking alcohol (underline the correct answers)

Theft:

Automobile theft

Bicycle theft

Theft of tools, money

Burglary

Shoplifting

Stealing fruits

Dishonesty: Possessing stolen goods

Gambling, cheating

Sex offences: Heterosexual relations, rape cases.

Other cases: (name them).....

(2) How you become involved into these delinquent acts?

(a) deceived into

(b) forced into (underline the correct answers)

(c) persuaded

(d) denied

(e) willingly

(f) beyond parental control

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