# Study on the Influence of Economic Development Level on Juvenile Delinquency Rate

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Abstract. The relationship between economic development level and the juvenile delinquency rate is a topic that economists have been focusing on. The author tries to analyze this issue from two perspectives of theoretical analysis and empirical data. In the aspect of theoretical research, through dialectical analysis of the relationship between economic development and crime rate, the positive and negative influence mechanism of economic development on the juvenile crime rate is revealed. In addition, according to the characteristics of youth groups, we also optimize the efficient path measures to prevent youth crime. In the empirical research part, combined with the data of the bulletin of the Supreme People's court and the statistical yearbook, the relationship between economic development and juvenile delinquency is tested. It is noted that from 2002 to 2015, the juvenile delinquency rate in China increased with the increase of per capita GDP, but after considering the problem of the gap between the rich and the poor, the above conclusions are completely opposite. The research demonstrates that the gap between the rich and the poor remains unchanged. Economic growth has an inhibitory effect on juvenile delinquency.

**Keywords:** Economic development; Juvenile crime rate; Gap between the rich and the poor; Gini coefficient.

# 1. Introduction

Juveniles, or teenagers, are the ones who are 13 to 19 years old. Puberty is a special period for juveniles to have physical and mentality growth. However, they are experiencing intense emotion instability caused by identity crisis. If they failed to pass it, then teenagers will enter the next stage: self-diffusion which causes the fluctuation of crime rate. This explains why the crime rate of teenagers are higher than those of elders. The supreme court use the varying crime rate data as an indicator to see the varying degrees in the country. Juveniles' criminal involvements are always regarded as a serious issue within China. The relationship between the level of economic development and juvenile delinquency has always been a hot issue in the academic circle.

It was hypothesized that juvenile crimes were influenced by poverty and the lack of education, however, it is disproved by recent trends. Originally, there was no prison in primitive world, but the number appears to increase as the economy grows. Notwithstanding the fact that China's economy and education quality has been rapidly growing in the past 80 years, it has been proven by statistics that 70% of the crimes involve with juveniles: the crime rate still remains high. According to China's national survey on Juveniles' crime, "A 42% increase from 2000 and 12% were arrested for aggravated assault, an increase of 69% (Print Edition Beijing)." It is discovered that young criminal groups have commonalities in living environment, conditions, psychology, education, social reconstructions and other factors.

Two elements that are strongly influenced during economic development are absolute income and the social gap. When people cannot be supported with sufficient resources due to poverty and aware that they can't change the current situation, then the crime rate increases. That is because the social gap within those groups is hard to pursue. Fortunately, the problem of social gap will be alleviated which the problems in developing countries will be solved after it is developed. Scholars soon realize the significance of this issue. Economist, psychologists, and sociologist place great importance on this universal issue in China. Most of the studies of juvenile delinquency start in the big aspects of politics, social reconstructions, and psychology.

Some research shows that there are no uniform relationship between economic development and juvenile delinquency. For example, the economic growth of the United States and Brazil has a definite relationship with juvenile delinquency, while Japan, Singapore and other countries have a

negative relationship. These contrary evidence show that the crime problem is a very complex social problem, which urges us to rethink the relationship between economic development and juvenile delinquency, and further explore the mechanism between economic development and juvenile delinquency.

# 2. Literature Review: The Relationship between Economic Development and Crime

In view of the relationship between crime rate and economic development, many scholars give the results of data analysis. In his book crime and modernization, Shelley studies the development of the world's major industrialized countries for more than 200 years, and finds that in the process of modernization of these countries, with the fiscal growth, the crime rate is also increasing. Shelley also studied the major developing countries in the world (except China), and found that many developing countries are also facing the rapid growth of crime rate that industrialized countries have encountered on the way to modernization. Therefore, from the perspective of the economic progress of all countries in the world, Shelley believes that most countries have experienced the simultaneous increase of crime rate and economic development. Of course, Sherry's research also distinguishes between violent crime and property crime. Two kinds of crimes of different natures are not synchronized with the level of economic progress. Generally speaking, violent crime tends to decline with economic development, while property crime tends to rise.

As we mentioned in the introduction, there are also some divergent conclusions in the study of exposing the relationship between economic development and crime rate. After comparing the criminal activities and the changes of social progress in France from 1826 to 1878, the Italian criminologist Gallo concluded that in the period of rapid economic development in France, crime did not increase, but actually decreased. Therefore, he believes that the economy is backward and the number of crime is high, while the number of crimes will decrease with economic development. In 2006, Eric D. Gould, Bruce A. Weinberg and David B. mustard published a paper on crime rate and the labor market. Through combing the crime rate and wage level of the United States from 1979 to 1997, they found that the crime rate and salary level of the United States in that period were inversely related. In other words, Eric and others believe that the improvement of economic development level can help reduce the crime rate.

There are also some studies that think that economic development and crime rate are not simply linear correlation. For example, based on the empirical test of China's 1986-2012 time series data. Wu Shiwei found that no matter in the short term or in the long term, there is an inverted U-shaped relationship between criminal crime rate and economic growth. The greater the income gap between urban and rural areas, the higher the level of collective criminal crime rate. In addition, a few scholars think that there is no relationship between economic progress and the level of crime rate. Any view that links the two is lack of support in theory and can not be tested with actual data.

In fact, in the vast majority of literature, the relationship between the economic situation and crime problems is quite close. The reasons for the final conclusions are not only the statistical caliber and statistical technology, but also the differences in control variables such as statistical period and national conditions. These differences also remind us that as an extremely complex crime problem, any theory that wants to explain crime with a single factor is questionable, and the comprehensive evaluation of multiple factors is closer to the essence of the crime problem. Therefore, this paper first analyzes the diverse effects of economic development on juvenile delinquency from a dialectical perspective, and then explores the path mechanism of these effects.

#### 2.1 Ways of Inducing Juvenile Delinquency by Economy

Modern scholars have long recognized the particularity of adolescence. Hall, a psychologist, believes that adolescence is the most special stage in the progress of life. Violent physical changes lead to turbulent psychological changes, and individuals are full of intense and unstable emotions. Erickson also believes that individuals will have an identity crisis in adolescence, and if they can't

get through it successfully, they will have self diffusion. Just because of the particularity of adolescence, the crime rate of the group in this stage will show the characteristics of extreme fluctuation. Take the growth rate of juvenile criminal punishment in recent 15 years as an example, its fluctuation is significantly higher than the overall growth rate of criminal punishment in the same period. As showed in Figure 1, the growth rate of juvenile criminal punishment fluctuates from - 15% to 20%, close to 35%. It can be seen that young people are the most likely to commit crimes due to the impact of external environment than adults. What are the inducing factors of economic progress to juvenile group crime? According to the literature review, the academic focus on the absolute income (wealth) and the gap between the rich and poor (distribution) these two factors.

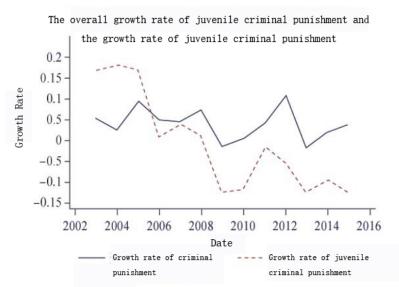


Figure 1. Comparison between the growth rate of juvenile groups and the overall crime

From the perspective of absolute income, economic situation plays a key role in human demand. When the youth living in poverty can not meet the most basic needs and improve their economic conditions, their probability of going astray will increase. As Maslow's theory of needs States, a person who lacks food, self-esteem and love need food first; as long as this need is not met, he will ignore or cover up other need. The crime caused by poverty is rooted in the fact that its low-level needs cannot be realized.

The hypothesis of crime induced by absolute low income is challenged after the economic development has been brought to a certain level. At this time, the material level of the whole society has reached a high level. According to this hypothesis, the crime rate of the entire society should tend to decline at this time. However, as we mentioned above, the decline of crime rate does not show a general trend. As a result, a view based on the uneven distribution of social and economic development, which leads to the rise of the crime rate, has emerged. In fact, this point of view is also very consistent with the idea of "not suffering from little but suffering from inequality" in human society. According to Zhang Baoyi's investigation on the economic living conditions of the juvenile delinquents and their influence on the crime, the objective economic living conditions of the juvenile delinquents may have limited influence on their crime, while the decisive factor is the subjective evaluation of the juvenile delinquents on their own living standards, which is mainly obtained by comparing with the living conditions of the surrounding people. Overseas research also reveals this phenomenon. Fraulein P, Lederman D, Loayza n, after analyzing the data of 39 countries from 1965 to 1995, found that the violent crime rate of these countries was positively correlated with the Gini coefficient of these countries. These studies show that the gap between the rich and the poor affects the crime rate through distinct forms.

Through the above analysis, we find that the induced effect of the economy on juvenile delinquency can not be simply explained by the correlation between economic growth rate and

juvenile delinquency rate. In fact, the consequences of economic development are also diverse. As the "fruit" of our attention, juvenile crime rate is an association of multiple "causes".

# 2.2 Means of Restraining Juvenile Delinquency by Economic Development

A natural result of economic development is the increase in per capita wealth. The increase of per capita wealth greatly satisfies people's material desire. As a part of society, the youth group can also benefit from the increase of social wealth. Tian Hecheng, Wan Guanghua and Huo Xuexi, based on the historical data of China's economic growth, income gap, population mobility rate, urbanization level and crime rate from 1955 to 2007, and combined with the relevant theories, think that economic growth can indeed lead to the decline of crime rate. The data of 53 years shows that in China, no matter what kind of economic system, economic growth itself will bring down the crime rate.

In addition to the inhibition effect of economic growth on juvenile delinquency caused by the increase of shared absolute wealth, the inhibition effect of economic growth on juvenile delinquency can also be transmitted through the labor market. Generally speaking, the school-age people in the youth group are often at the bottom of the labor force after entering the labor market. The proportion of these jobs affected by the economy is large. When the economy is in the upward channel, these jobs provide more job opportunities. Therefore, the employment rate of the school-age youth has been improved. In addition to bringing income to this part of the youth, work can also make Its life is more plentiful and regular. On the contrary, when the economy is in a downward channel, in the face of a large reduction in the demand for low-level jobs, the employment opportunities of school-age youth will also be greatly reduced, and the consequences of the rising unemployment rate will be transmitted from two ways to the rising juvenile crime rate. One is the increase in crime rate caused by the decrease or even a lack of income. The impact of this part can be explained by the effect of unconditional income (wealth) hypothesis. The second is that some of the school-age youth have no regular life, have a lot of leisure time every day, combined with the youth in a specific physiological stage, excessive energy makes some occasional crime increase sharply. The empirical test of the impact of China's economic development on the transmission of the labor market and the juvenile delinquency rate is difficult. The main difficulty is that the gap between the official statistics of urban unemployment rate and the real unemployment rate may be large. Some scholars think that the data of urban registered unemployment rate published in China is far higher than the actual level. In this study, the registered unemployment rate of Chinese cities and towns in the past 15 years has been provided with the China Statistical Yearbook. We find that the data have been around 4.1% over the years, and the fluctuation range is extremely narrow. The relationship between the data and criminal punishment rate of minors is shown in figure 2. The correlation between the two is weak, and the correlation coefficient is only 0.29. We think this may be due to distortion of the conclusion caused by the statistical quality.

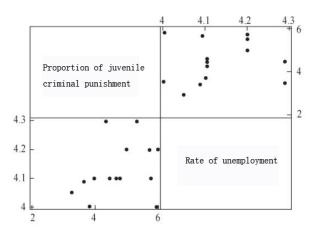


Figure 2. urban unemployment rate and criminal punishment of minors

In order to make up for the problems caused by data distortion of urban registered unemployment rate, some scholars verify the relationship between unemployment rate and crime rate through research. According to Cong Mei's investigation of the criminals in Tianjin prison, 10.6% of all the criminals were unemployed before being arrested. This does not contain the peasants who are unemployed in the city. If they add up, they account for 59.8%. In the follow-up investigation on the recidivists, 79.3% of them did not find work after returning to the society, 72.4% of them had unstable economic income, and 39.1% of them could not solve their economic difficulties through normal channels. These studies make up for the distortion of the correlation between unemployment rate and crime rate caused by the underestimation of previous unemployment rate data, and reveal the correlation between unemployment rate and crime rate.

### 2.3 Mixed Effect of Economic Development on Juvenile Delinquency

We have analyzed the positive and negative effects of the economy on juvenile delinquency. From the existing literature and the above analysis, there should be a definite correlation between economic growth and juvenile delinquency, but it should be noted that the correlation is transmitted through different aspects of economic development. In order to increase the perceptual understanding of this problem, we take GDP growth rate as the proxy variable of economic development, use the growth rate of juvenile criminal punishment in recent 15 years as the proxy variable of juvenile crime growth rate in China, draw the correlation diagram between them in Figure 3, and through the analysis of the data in recent 15 years, we find that there may be a relationship between economic growth and juvenile crime Correlation at moderate intensity. For more detailed and comprehensive significance analysis, we will conduct further research later.

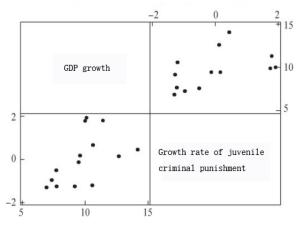


Figure 3. GDP growth rate and juvenile criminal punishment growth rate

From the perspective of human history, the overall trend of economic growth is constantly upward, and the external factors such as per capita wealth, social civilization, legal construction environment, education level are constantly improving, but the empirical test of crime rate does not give a continuous upward or downward trend line. In addition to some years with unusual time, the overall fluctuation of crime rate is not violent from a macro perspective. Been doing this mean that there is no connection between economic development and crime rate, or juvenile crime rate? Economic development does not affect juvenile crime prevention? To answer these questions, we need to extend and interpret the connotation of economic advance. As mentioned above, economic development is defined as the tangible welfare growth process of a country or region according to the average population. It is not just the increase and expansion of wealth and economic body, but also the change of its quality, that is, the innovation of economic structure and social structure, the improvement of social life quality and input-output benefit. Although economic growth is an important indicator of economic progress, it can not be simply understood as economic growth. In the process of economic development, social structure is also in a changing process, so the impact of economic development on the juvenile crime rate is a dynamic process. That just says, when the

economic growth reaches a certain stage, the gap between the rich and the poor begins to appear, which leads to the rise of juvenile crime rate. With the further development of the economic and social structure, the gap between the rich and the poor is controlled, the juvenile crime rate will have a downward process, and with the further development of the economy, the juvenile crime rate will have a reciprocating trend. In many aspects, economic development has the same repeated effect as above, which is caused by the fluctuation of juvenile crime rate caused by the dynamic change of the economic structure.

# 3. Analysis on the Correlation between Economic Development and Juvenile Delinquency

#### 3.1 Data Source and Processing

In order to further clarify the role of economic growth on juvenile delinquency, we find out the number of juvenile judgments and the number of criminal penalties each year from the judicial statistics bulletin of the National Courts over the years. It should be pointed out that in recent years, courts have become more cautious about juvenile judicial decisions (see Figure 4 for comparison with adult criminals). The number of judgments has a trend of decreasing with time, and the variables such as economic growth have a trend of increasing time. Just because there is a correlation between these factors we consider, we can infer that the tendency problem caused by its own correlation will have false regression. In order to eliminate this influence, we will add a time trend variable to eliminate this problem.

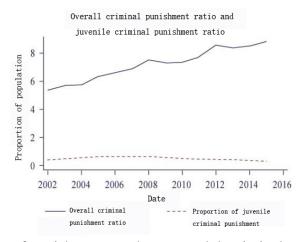


Figure 4. Comparison of punishment rate between adult criminals and juvenile criminals

The selection of economic growth variables comes from the statistical yearbook over the years. We select the unemployment rate, Gini coefficient, the GDP growth rate, population and urban rate in the past 15 years. The specific data are shown in Table 1. Among them, the unemployment rate data represent the labor market, which reflects the inhibition effect of economic growth on juvenile delinquency discussed above. Gini coefficient reflects the influence of relative wealth. That is, distribution problem on juvenile delinquency rate. The GDP growth rate is used to represent the rate of economic development, so as to judge whether the economy is in a period of prosperity, recession or platform. The population is used to estimate the juvenile crime rate so as to measure the change of juvenile crime assess more objectively. The data of the urban rate is used to reflect the level of social urbanization. Because of the more obvious effect of cities on population aggregation, urban rate, as an indicator of economic development, will also have a certain impact on the size of the juvenile crime rate. The data collected in this data analysis are listed in Table 1. First, we construct a simulation equation between economic growth and juvenile crime rate: LNY =  $a_1 lnpgdp + a_2 jx + a_3 ue + ln a_4 cl + a_5 t + a_6 lnpgdp2 + U$ , LNY stands for the logarithm level of juvenile crime rate, the ratio of the number of juvenile judgments to the number of national criminal

punishments is taken as the proxy variable of the crime rate, lapped stands for the logarithm level of per capita GDP, 1npgp2 stands for the square term, which is used to reflect the non-linear change of per capita GDP, JX stands for the Gini coefficient, which is used to reflect the gap between the rich and the poor, UE stands for the urban unemployment rate Level, CL for town rate, t for time variable. The regression results are presented in table 2.

Table 1. Data analysis table

Year	Unemployment rate( % )	Gene coefficient	GDP growth rate(%)	Number of juvenile judgements	Number of criminal punishments	Population (10000)	Urban rate (%)
2002	4.00	-	9.1	50030	690506	128453	39.09
2003	4.30	0.479	10	58870	730355	129227	40.53
2004	4.20	0.473	10.1	70144	752241	129988	41.76
2005	4.20	0.485	11.4	82721	829238	130756	42.99
2006	4.10	0.487	12.70	83697	873846	131448	43.90
2007	4.00	0.484	14.20	87525	916610	132129	44.94
2008	4.20	0.491	9.60	88891	989992	132802	45.68
2009	4.30	0.490	9.20	77604	979443	133450	46.59
2010	4.10	0.481	10.60	68193	988463	134091	47.5
2011	4.10	0.477	9.50	67280	1032466	134735	51.27
2012	4.10	0.474	7.70	63782	1154432	135404	52.57
2013	4.10	0.473	7.70	55817	1138553	136072	53.7
2014	4.09	0.469	7.30	50415	1164531	136782	54.77
2015	4.05	0.462	6.90	43839	1213636	137462	56.1

Table 2. Economic growth and juvenile crime rate

lny	Coef.	Std.Err.	t	P > t	[95% Con]
lnpgdp	15.77343	4.115249	3.83	0.009	5.703778
jx	5.688344	4.786585	1.19	0.28	- 6.024007
ue	- 0.12106	0.2279	- 0.53	0.614	- 0.6787093
cl	0.05811	0.02391	2.43	0.051	- 0.0003956
t	- 0.06724	0.054533	- 1.23	0.264	- 0.2006765
lnpgdp2	- 0.79962	0.218259	- 3.66	0.011	- 1.333681
_cons	51.86492	115.7515	0.45	0.67	- 231.3687

From the regression results, the increase of per capita GDP level in recent 15 years is consistent with the increase of juvenile delinquency rate. The coefficient of per capita GDP level passes the

test at the significance level of 5%. This conclusion is obtained on the basis of controlling Gini coefficient, unemployment rate, urban rate and a time trend, which show that under the premise of other conditions unchanged, with the economic growth, the juvenile crime rate has a trend of increasing. This part of the conclusion gives us a general understanding of economic growth and the juvenile delinquency rate, but we also want to know how the economic structure and social distribution behind economic growth affect juvenile delinquency rate. Therefore, we re-establish the model and add the interaction effect of economic growth and social gap between the rich and the poor into the model, trying to find out the relationship between economic growth and juvenile crime rate under the premise of the same gap between the rich and the poor.

Interaction effect model: LNY =  $a_1lj + a_2lnpgdp + a_3jx + a_4ue + a_5cl + a_6t + a_7lnpgdp2 + U$ , in which the new variable j represents the interaction between the logarithm of GDP per capita and Gini coefficient. The regression results are presented in table 2. It can show in table 3 that the coefficient of a single variable is not significant. However, we found that the joint F test of the interaction term and the logarithm of GDP per capita passed at the 5% significance level. In addition, the symbols of control variables other than the unemployment rate have not changed. Considering that the unemployment rate coefficient is close to 0 in our two models. Therefore, the model after adding interaction items is generally credible.

From the regression results, the influence of per capita GDP on juvenile delinquency rate has changed. We found that on the basis of Gini coefficient average 0.479 and per capita GDP logarithm average 10.1, after the derivation of per capita GDP, the influence of per capita GDP on the juvenile delinquency rate is - 0.48. This means that after adding the interaction term with Gini coefficient, the impact of per capita GDP on juvenile delinquency rate has completely changed. Under the condition of constant Gini coefficient, with the increase of per capita GDP, juvenile delinquency rate tends to decline. The result reveals the deep-seated problem behind the phenomenon that economic growth has a positive impact on juvenile delinquency, that is, the deep-seated factors that affect juvenile delinquency are the gap between the rich and the poor in society, while economic growth itself has a restraining effect on juvenile delinquency.

#### 3.2 Empirical Results and Experience in Comparison

In this empirical analysis, the rise of the unemployment rate is also one of the factors leading to the rise of juvenile crime rate. This is further confirmed in the research of Chen Chunliang and Yi Junjian. The research of two scholars shows that the rise of criminal crime rate in China can be attributed to the decline of employment conditions in low-income groups, especially vulnerable groups, in the process of economic transformation to a large extent. The decline of employment conditions leads to the deterioration of the living conditions of low-income groups, which induce more people to choose crime rationally. Existing research shows that the decline of employment conditions of vulnerable groups can be attributed to the institutional segmentation of the labor market to some extent. These studies are also consistent with people's simple feelings. As mentioned in the first part of this paper, the youth working age groups is often at the lowest end of the employment market and is most affected by the economic environment. For minors who have not reached the working age, the decline of their family economic income will directly lead to the decline of their living conditions, and then trigger the crime risk through education, family, psychological cognition and other channels. The impact of urban rate on juvenile delinquency is a positive correlation in our model. The existing literature shows that a large number of people gather in the city and some criminal behaviors breed, which is also included in the field of juvenile delinquency. Finally, we find that economic growth does not have a linear relationship with the increase in juvenile delinquency. With the further economic growth, the growth rate of juvenile delinquency shows a downward tendency. This is also corroborated by the view that the relationship between economic development and juvenile crime rate is spiraling.

Table 3. Interaction effect of economic growth and juvenile crime rate

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lny	Coef.	Std.Err.	t	P > t	[95% Con]
lj	- 8.1845	11.31796	- 0.72	0.502	- 37.2782
lnpgdp	21.61249	9.143109	2.36	0.064	- 1.89063
jx	83.98243	108.384	0.77	0.473	- 194.628
ue	0.063234	0.348385	0.18	0.863	- 0.83232
cl	0.052215	0.026221	1.99	0.103	- 0.01519
t	- 0.12442	0.097384	- 1.28	0.257	- 0.37475
lgdp2	- 0.87367	0.249473	- 3.5	0.017	- 1.51496
_cons	116.926	150.5002	0.78	0.472	- 269.947

# 4. Economic Countermeasures to Reduce Juvenile Delinquency Rate

#### 4.1 Reduce the Proportion of Poor Families and Increase Investment in Legal Resources

"Eating is bigger than the sky, living and working in peace and contentment". People can live together in peace only after solving the basic survival problems. In real life, there are many cases in which young people go on the road of crime because of family poverty. For example, in the case of two brothers taking hostages to save their mother in Baiyun District, Guangzhou in 2009, their families were in a very difficult fiscal situation, and they were hit by serious illness of their relatives. The ultimate crime was lamentable. Although it is only a case, it's extended significance is to remind us that absolute poverty is still an important incentive for juvenile delinquency. Based on the survey the writer conducted in a prison located in Guangdong province, 45.8% of the juvenile prisoners believed their family's financial situation is ordinary and 37.5% of them believed their family is poor. Efforts to improve the level of economic development will not only improve the income of ordinary families, but also provide more job opportunities for working age youth. In addition, the government and social public welfare institutions will have more financial resources and resources to invest in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. For instance, to strengthen the legal education of teenagers, the existing survey shows that the legal concept and legal knowledge of the youth groups in China are still very scarce. According to the survey report jointly released by the youth legal education base of the Ministry of education and the Youth Legal Education Research Center of China University of political science and law, the average accuracy rate of the pupils participating in the survey in the legal common sense test is 63.8%; the average accuracy rate of all the junior middle school students participating in the survey in the legal common sense test is 55.8%; all the senior high school students participating in the survey The average accuracy in the legal knowledge test is 53%. It will play a decisive role in preventing juvenile delinquency to strengthen the legal knowledge and awareness of juvenile groups.

In addition to investment in legal education, profitable growth can also bring hope to young people. French existentialist philosopher Sartre once said that "hope is part of human beings. In terms of determining a goal to achieve this, on the one hand, human actions are always gestated in the present, from the present to a future goal". In the period of economic prosperity, young people have a bright future and life is so full of hope. From the psychological point of view, as a spiritual force, hope has a positive impact on personal growth initiative, self-confidence and future orientation.

In addition, some scholars believe that poverty is not just the low level of income and lack of capacity, but also the concept of vulnerability, no voice and social exclusion into the category of poverty. They believe that those who are susceptible to external shocks and are in a state of

isolation within themselves are in a state of poverty. These people are on the edge of politics and society, have no voice, lack of legal protection, and are to some extent excluded from society. In this way, the connotation of the concept of poverty developed from the initial material poverty to fight poverty at the end of the 20th century. The poverty of rights is a kind of poverty that lacks political, economic, cultural and social elementary human rights. In the process of economic progress, we must also pay attention to the rights and poverty of these young people.

# 4.2 Focus on Economic Distribution and Narrow the Gap between the Rich and the Poor

The world bank issued a weighty report in 2007. Between 2001 and 2005, regardless of the fact that China's economy grew at an annual rate of 10%, the real income of the poorest 10% of the 1.3 billion people fell by 2.4%. In contrast, the number of juvenile criminal punishments in this period has soared from 50000 to more than 80000. We can refer to the relationship between them. For young people, their body and mind are still at the stage of progress. Under such realistic conditions, this group is far more likely to be covered by the external environment than adults. The problem of the gap between the rich and the poor may more easily affect the young people's views on things, and finally lead to crime through various additional forms of expression. In particular, we need to note that the problem of the gap between the rich and the poor is not simply manifested in the uneven distribution of wealth, but also in the form of uneven distribution of opportunities, uneven distribution of processes and uneven distribution of results. Because the wealth gathering party can often obtain more societal resources and occupy more realistic opportunities, it can finally obtain a satisfactory result. However, the wealth at the bottom of society is often unsatisfied with the result of the realization of self-worth, which leads to negative emotions. The specific path of transmitting unlawful behavior is complex and diverse. From a multi-disciplinary perspective, it may also involve psychological factors, which are closely linked to the inner feelings of teenagers in their growth process, especially in their early years. For example, in the case of Ma Jiajue, a famous university student, Ma Jiajue killed four schoolmates for three days in a row, whose motive for the killing was always surprised and puzzled by the public, experts and scholars. In fact, despite the fact that Ma Jiajue's family is very poor, he did not show dissatisfaction with the poor life before entering university. After entering the University, the social relations will be enriched. He can no longer immerse himself in his study. He needs to communicate with others and learns to deal with the injustices of life. At this time, he found that the poverty of his family made his insight and social communication ability lower than other students. Finally, after some accidents happened as a fuse, tragedy was inevitable.

From the above analysis, we can see that relative wealth leads to inequality of opportunity, process and result. Therefore, in the process of economic development, we should pay attention to the equality of opportunity, the fairness of the process, the transparency of the results, from the large institutional framework, cultural immersion to legal protection, so as to give the relatively poor teenagers a promising future.

# 4.3 Carry out Prison Vocational Education and Improve Labor Skills

Reform education that prisoners receive in prison mainly includes education reform, labor reform and prison reform. Although judiciary authorities are not required for carrying education for prisoners, it is necessary to combine serving time with education in order to change prisoner's view of life and to help them discovering their true values. Government should attach importance on the moral and legislative education while having the skill development for prisoners as well. In the process of these education, it is necessary and indispensable to provide scientific and reasonable vocational skills training for all prisoners, especially the youth groups. In this way, those who are released by the prison can better adapt to the changing society by having suitable skills and attitude to live and work, hence decreasing the crime rate.

Despite the fact that some prisons in China have Chinese traditional cultural education and some labor lessons, most of the juveniles believed that those knowledge are not applicable in reality. According to a prisoner manager in Guangdong province, the prison provides ideological, cultural,

and technological education for the prisoners. For the ideology, they focus on the education of morality, legislation, patriotism. For the cultural education, they provides traditional Chinese education materials based on juvenile's ages and educational backgrounds. For the technical education, the prison provides courses for vehicle repair and maintenance, pastry, and weaving. However, based on the survey I conducted in a prison in Guangdong province, 54.2% of the prisoners believed that they are not going to apply the technical skills learned in prison to reality, stating that the skills are unmatched with the speed of society's development and it'll be difficult for them to obtain a job and gain sufficient money to support themselves. Skills such as weaving and survival skills are believed to be the most unpractical expertise they have ever learned. Not only that, the prisoner manager believe the juvenile prisoner's employment and recommitment rate after being released are not optimal as well. Although it's hard to collect and record the recommitment rate, there's an approximate 9% by the prisoners' manager. And he stated there're several factors that lead to this result: the lack of economic resources, going back to the illegal business, personality and psychological defect, and the family.

First, vocational education can help employment. Most of the juvenile prisoners drop out of junior high school or even primary school or play truant. Their education level is not high and they have no offensive skills. The key is to have qualitative instead of quantitative education. This can be achieved by having a studying atmosphere in the prison. Holding specialized classes, studying groups and clubs, and competitions can motivate juvenile's learning behavior. Vocational and technical training implemented in prison can help the prisoners get a skill, which is conducive to finding jobs and increasing employment opportunities after they get out of prison. Secondly, vocational skill education can reduce the rate of recidivism. Vocational skill education in prison is a series of systematic and scientific education system. After a long time of development and reform, it has been very complete. It not only trains the prisoners' professional skills and imparts cultural knowledge, but also teaches the prisoners' Ideological and moral, corrects their wrong ideas, sets up correct outlook on life and values, and promotes the prisoners to better integrate into the society Yes, reduce the chance of recidivism. Thirdly, the existence of the instructor is also beneficial, enabling juvenile prisoners to talk about their future career plans or psychological state. Since juveniles still have a long way to go after returning to the society, adequate education is crucial to turn juveniles into beneficial people in the society. Those instructors need to pay attention to those juvenile prisoner who have difficulties after being released and provide appropriate help. Fourthly, it's vital to have vocational-technical school working with supervisors to ensure the skills taught in prison is updated and appropriate to the society. This can not only help the prisoners to have stabilized works, but also enable the society to have enough workers to manufacture products.

# 4.3.1 Pay Attention to Vocational Education of Prisoners

First of all, establish the core position of education reform. The core position of educational reform in the prison reform system must be comprehensible, and both the leading cadres and the grassroots police need to strengthen their understanding. Therefore, it is necessary to change the thinking of the grass-roots policy, strengthen the publicity of the importance of educational transformation, deeply understand the core role of educational transformation, and put the means of educational transformation into practice. Only in this way can be a virtuous circle be formed and the position of educational transformation in the hearts of all prison managers be gradually promoted.

Secondly, the idea of lifelong education of criminals should be established. On the one hand, in all the education, training and transformation activities of prisoners, we should make clear the important position of life-long education thought, take it as a single topic throughout the whole education link, constantly educate and guide prisoners, constantly understand the current teaching thought and situation, understand the importance of learning all the time, fundamentally accept the idea of life-long learning, and let prisoners Form the habit of learning actively and accepting new knowledge. On the other hand, in the implementation of prison reform, to create a good learning atmosphere, strengthen the construction of prison culture, we can set up various groups of learning interests, prisoners can choose to join according to their own preferences, enrich their rest time, strengthen the construction of cultural hardware, enrich the contents of books in the prison reading

room, set up learning corner, reading club, calligraphy group, etc., so as to In order to make prisoners from passive acceptance of knowledge, into active learning, and then achieve the goal of lifelong learning.

## 4.3.2 Enrich the Content of Vocational Education and Training

First of all, improve the technological content of productive technology training projects. Prison vocational education should put the education reform in the most important position. The ultimate goal is tantamount to correct the prisoners. Labor is only the means of reform. Labor reform does not have the interest relationship. Relying on labor can make the prisoner's master the training skills they have learned, not learn the technology because of labor production. Only by mastering the technology in labor can they really master a hand at making a living better social integration. The prison system should continue to develop, and the prison education system should continue to improve. According to the vocational education needs of prisoners, we should reasonably arrange labor and production activities, expand the scope of productive technology training subjects, reduce the labor time of low-tech projects, and learn more labor activities with actual technology. The high-tech labor project can not only enable the prisoners to learn the technology, but also bring higher benefits to the prison production activities. Secondly, the prison can introduce the regional vocational education system. Teachers and experts from vocational colleges are requested to give lectures. Prisons provide venues. Vocational Colleges in society provide mechanical support and teachers. A variety of vocational skills are provided by vocational and technical colleges, which enroll and register for all prisoners in prison, and then conduct reasonable screening, which can not only meet the needs of all prisoners, but also test their own abilities, find their own areas of expertise, and improve their interest and enthusiasm in learning. Finally, it is an important part of vocational and technical education to establish the relevant system and rules of vocational guidance for prisoners. Many prisons also set up corresponding employment guidance centers to supervise the employment rate of prisoners. Vocational guidance can play an important role in prison, and it is the only way young people to understand the occupational needs of the outside society. Vocational guidance can provide affordable reference for young people, so that young people can better choose their vocational skills and have a strong interest in learning. The employment guidance center will give a series of employment suggestions and guidance to the young prisoners. When the young prisoners are in prison, they will arrange vocational education course and conduct tests reasonably. The young prisoners can learn more information through this department, and the prison can also improve the current education courses according to the vocational needs of the society, replacing the impractical ones education subjects.

# 5. Conclusion

Prevention of juvenile delinquency is a topic of concern to the entire society. In addition to strengthening the construction of the legal system, we can also solve this problem from the perspective of economic development. The existing research on the relationship between economic growth and the juvenile delinquency rate is not rich enough. This paper analyzes the impact of economic development on juvenile delinquency through the trial data of the Supreme People's court and the data of China Statistical Yearbook. In this process, in addition to verifying some existing conclusions, we also found that the influence of economic growth on juvenile delinquency also needs to consider different levels of social development (the gap between the rich and the poor, system construction, etc.). Finally, the relationship between economic growth and the juvenile delinquency rate is a spiral change, which also solves the puzzle why juvenile delinquency rate is relatively stable in the long term and relatively violent in the short term.

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