

A Comparison Study of the Home, Emotional & Social Adjustment of Delinquent and Non-Delinquent Adolescents

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ABSTRACT:

Despite the attention it is currently receiving, delinquency is not a new phenomenon. Three hundred years ago John Locke, the great English educator, deplored delinquency is much the same vein as we do today. Six thousand years ago, an Egyptian priest carved on a stone, "Our earth is degenerate children no longer obey their parents". Nevertheless current rates of delinquency are reason for serious concern, not only in the India, but in most other countries as well. From the beginning, in every civilized society, a definite punishment system was prevailing to check the criminal behaviors.

KEY WORDS: delinquency, punishment.

INTRODUCTION:

In many countries the meaning of the juvenile delinquency is so broad that it embraces practically all manifestations of juvenile behavior under the influence of certain theories. Juvenile delinquency is identified either with maladjustment or with form of juvenile behavior, which actually are mere reflection of poor living conditions or in adequate laws and regulations then being incorrigible smoking without permission, collecting cigarette butts, hawking and the like are considered juvenile delinquency. Very often these forms of delinquency are hidden in statistical data under the vague term.

It is reasonable to believe that all or at least a vast majority of normal children, some time indulge in a form of behavior that might come with in a purview of the juvenile court. Whether a given child will get into trouble depends largely on the interpretation that is attached to his conduct and the willingness or ability of the parents to deal with it. Considering to the real scope of legal provisions on insubordination. Truancy, running away, tempering and petty theft, it would be difficult to find any paragons of virtue, who would be wholly exonerated of delinquency, save through parental understanding and leniency. The lack of uniformity among jurisdictions makes comparative studies especially difficult. Although violations of Criminal laws and ordinances are generally considered delinquency when committed by a juvenile. Many states give exclusive jurisdiction to the criminal court, if violation is of a certain kind. In studies of the illegal conduct of juveniles they would of courts have to be included but if they do not figure in the records of these courts, which have not often, been the chief source of data for delinquency studies. Delinquency constitutes one of the major social problems is both developed and developing societies. It refers to behavior under 18 years of age which is not acceptable to society and is generally regarded as calling for some kind of admonishment, punishment or corrective action. Thus delinquent behavior may range from truancy to incorrigibility and the use of illicit drugs to commitment of murder and other serious crimes. It may be pointed out that the actual incidence of juvenile delinquency is difficult to determine, since many delinquent acts are neither reported nor processed in the criminal justice system. However, it has been reported that the number of delinquent acts has increased from 22077 (1966) to 52610 (1987), an increase about 138 percent within 21 years. It is also alarming to note that female sex is not the way behind the male in committing delinquency. Female delinquents have increased from 4434(1966) to 13555(1987) an increase of about 206 percent within 21 years. After 27 years (2014) what will be the 'numbers' of male and female delinquents, it can be only estimated on the basis of percentage increase between 1966 and 2014. No doubt, it will be alarming for parents, citizens of the

country, social thinkers and administration at last. Considering the problem as a social evil the present study was undertaken to explore the socio-psychological linkage of delinquent behaviors.

Delinquency is one of the major forms of social maladjustment in children. Some psychiatrists suggest that juvenile delinquency is a pattern of behavior manifested by children and adolescents below the age of 18 years who violate the laws of the land and the accepted mores, and that is antisocial character. According to Shankar U. (2012), "juvenile delinquents are those whose antisocial tendencies are so grave that they become a subject of official actions. Modern concept of delinquency highlights that children who are called delinquent are deficient, primarily in terms of social laws and norms of conduct and also in their ability to confirm with the social milieu.

DELINQUENT AND NON-DELINQUENT:

It has been observed that the delinquents differ more or less from the normal population in their range of intelligence, educational achievement, personality, their adjustment to the problems of life and both the nature and the rate of their emotional development.

The I.Q. of several delinquent groups have been found out to distributed themselves in a normal scatter, but with the centre at some point between 82 and 88 instead of at normal 100. The extreme usually vary from below 50 to above 150. The majority of these delinquents (60%) could be classed as normal or low normal, 4 per cent were bright and 2 per cent brilliant, 11 per cent border line and 21 per cent definitely defective.

There seems to be little, if any thing the matter with the native social capacities of the delinquents, although many of them become maladjusted because they express their social talents in anti-social ways. In general, they make friends readily. Some delinquents have district qualities of leadership. Robertson (2009) has observed the participation in social activities of 100 delinquents and 100 non-delinquents boys of the same age and intelligence. The delinquent boys showed greater increase in participation from the lower to high ages than the non-delinquent and a consistently higher average participation at all ages. In his paper, delinquents were unpopular, enough with their teachers and other school officials. But once they are on playground, they participate freely and naturally in whatever is going on.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

So far we have been examining the theoretical explanations of delinquency, its meaning and concept, types, causes, characteristics, rehabilitation and its linkage with anxiety, socio-economic status and adjustment with regards to home, emotional and social areas. In this connection, it is now proposed to highlight empirical bases of delinquent behaviors and their linkage with certain socio-psychological variables.

HOME ADJUSTMENT:

Adjustment is a psychological process by means of which the individual manages or copes with various demands or pressures. The adjustment patterns and process are indicators of individuals personality and behavioral patterns. Psychologists have tried to know the adjustment patterns of the individual in different areas, like, home, health, social, emotional, school and so on. It is matter of fact that well adjusted person would show less delinquent behaviors and vice- versa. Home adjustment is interlinked with delinquent behaviors of the adolescent? To answer this question, it was hypothesized that delinquents would have poor home adjustment than non-delinquents. To test this hypothesis high and low scorers on JDI were compared in terms of their home adjustment and findings were presented in table 1

Table – 1

Comparison of High and Low Scorers on JDI in terms of their Home adjustment.

Mothers	Groups	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Working	High	100	12.96	6.80	3.82*
	Low	100	9.36	6.54	
Non working	High	100	13.11	7.52	2.95**
	Low	100	10.24	6.90	

SIGNIFICANT AT 0.01 LEVEL

It is evident from table-1 that high scorers on J.D. inventory have scored significantly higher (mean = 12.96) in comparison to the low scorers (Mean= 9.36) in case of working mothers. The comparison between the two means has yielded a t- value of 3.82 which is significant at 0.01 level of confidence. Needless to mention that high scores on Bell Adjustment Inventory are indicative of poor adjustment. Thus it can be concluded from the present findings that high scorers on delinquency having poor home adjustment and vice-versa. Therefore, the hypothesis that delinquents have poor home adjustment than non delinquents gains support from the present findings. A similar trend of data has been found for the respondent, of non-working mothers. The obtained t-value (t-2.95) between the mean scores of these two variables is also significant beyond chance. Moreover, a further analysis was done to explore the association between these two variables by the help of product moment coefficient of correlation. The correlation value was 0.198 which is significant beyond chance.

EMOTIONAL ADJUSTMENT:

To examine the linkage between emotional adjustment and delinquent behaviors of the respondents, it was hypothesized that delinquents would have poor emotional adjustment than their non-delinquents counterparts. To test this hypothesis high and low scorers of working mothers on Juvenile Delinquency inventory were compared in terms of their emotional adjustment. The findings were presented in table 2.

Table -2
Comparison of High and Low Scorers on JDI in terms of their Emotional Adjustment.

Mothers	Groups	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Working	High	100	15.87	5.76	3.35**
	Low	100	13.22	5.37	
Non working	High	100	14.72	7.02	0.46*
	Low	100	15.18	7.05	

* **SIGNIFICANT AT 0.01 LEVEL :**

** **NOT SIGNIFICANT.**

Data as presented in table-2 reveal that high scores on JD- inventory on emotional adjustment than low scorers on the inventory (Mean = 13.22) in case of working mothers. The comparison of two means has yielded a t= value of 3.35 which is significant beyond chance (t= 3.35, df= 198; p is less than 0.01). It mean the two groups differ significantly in terms of their emotional adjustment. It is also evident from the results of table-2 that delinquents have a poor emotional adjustment than non-delinquents. Thus the hypothesis formulated for the empirical verification gains support from the present findings. But a reverse trend of data was observed for the respondents of non-working mothers. Here, the high scorers on the JD- inventory scored slightly lower (Mean = 14.72) on emotional adjustment than their low scorer counterparts (Mean = 15.18). However the obtained t-value (t-0.46) is not significant beyond chance. However, the correlation coefficient between these two variables has yielded a r-value of 0.213 which is significant at 0.01 level of confidence.

SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT:

Social adjustment is expressed in terms of shyness, submissiveness, introversion, affiliation, belongingness etc. A person's behavior depends upon his social interactions, relations, and so on. Keeping this in view, in the present paper, it was hypothesized that "the two groups identified as delinquent and non-delinquent do not differ significantly in terms of their social adjustment. To test this hypothesis the two groups were compared statistically and findings were summarized in table-3.

Table-3

Comparison of Delinquent and Non-delinquent Subjects in respect of their Social Adjustment

Groups	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Delinquent	120	12.25	4.86	1.70*
Non-delinquent	120	11.16	5.24	

*** NOT SIGNIFICANT.**

The findings as summarized in table-3 reveal that delinquents have scored (Mean = 12.25) higher (indicative of poor adjustment in social area) on social dimension of Bell Adjustment Inventory in comparison to the non-delinquents. The obtained t-value between the two groups was, however, found to be insignificant beyond chance ($t=1.70$, $df = 238$, $p > .05$). It indicates that the two groups do not differ significantly in terms of their social adjustment. In other words, we can say that the social adjustment of the respondents does not corroborate significantly to the delinquency among them. Thus, the null hypothesis formulated in the present paper gains support from the present findings. The findings of the present paper are in expected direction and matched with our day to day observations. In fact, in behavior or in practice delinquents/ criminal are not less social than any non-delinquent adolescents. In some studies, it was found that delinquents are intelligent and contact better in the society. Nevertheless, most delinquents are atleast average in I.Q. and of itself does not appear to be a primary factor in delinquency in majority of cases. However, in some studies, it was found that delinquents appeared to feel less capable of establishing close personal relationship with either peers or adults, especially the letters. Not expectedly, they appeared significantly less impressed by the dominant ethical values and goals of own culture than their non-delinquent matches. They also appeared significantly more likely than the non-delinquents to respond to environmental pressures with hostility, rejection, or simply withdrawal from the situation, rather than by acceptance, either for their own sake or that of others. On the basis of above discussion, it is obvious that social adjustment of the adolescents has direct or indirect link with their delinquency. However, due to the lack of empirical support and insignificant research findings, the findings of the present paper cannot be generalized. Some more and more studies are needed in this direction.

CONCLUSION:

In this paper, home, emotional & social adjustments were also found to be significant in affecting the delinquent behavior among the subjects. Delinquents have scored significantly higher in these three adjustment areas as compared to the non-delinquents. Social adjustment was found to be insignificant in affecting the delinquent behavior among the subjects. Although delinquents have scored higher on this dimension than non-delinquents, the statistical analysis was found to be insignificant beyond chance. It may be pointed out that psychological variables as covered in the present paper are not exhaustive. Some attempts should also be made to highlight the role of motivational structure, parental behavior, insecurity and value system of the male as well as female adolescents in the development of delinquent behaviors. In spite of cretin limitations of the present paper, it may prove to be a guideline for further researches conducted in this area.

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