CHAPTER VI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
Juvenile delinquency is posing a serious challenge to the progress and well-being of the society. It is basically a psycho-social problem and so naturally there is grave concern among the psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, criminologists and others dealing with the well-being and prosperity of the humanity. The rapid increase in the incidence of delinquency causing distortions in civic life and the human values is worrying many sensitive people in this world. Rapid attention is being paid for correcting this social disease. It is well realized that prevention is better than cure. This step in the elimination or control of antisocial behavior among the children is a complex one entailing the cooperation of home, school and society. An attempt should be made to understand the full dynamics of this phenomenon which is exhibiting a rising trend.

The present day society swept with rapid scientific and technological advances brought about a sweeping change in the way of life of the people.
The urban life with the characteristic feature of formality and a feeling of insecurity is causing increase in the deviant behavior among the younger people. In order to obtain a clear perspective about the problem of juvenile delinquency, it has to be viewed from different angles. Only when there is proper understanding of the root causes of delinquency, there is possibility for taking up remedial measures and rehabilitation work.

Considerable research work was conducted to find out the various factors related to delinquency. Vast literature has been gathered to focus attention on the origination of delinquency among the children. Many of the researchers attempted to focus their attention on one or the other causes of the deviant behavior. In most of the cases the multi-dimensional aspect was not stressed. So the present investigation is an attempt to assess the important role played by the various factors having simultaneous impact upon this problem. The combined effect of the psycho-social variables was studied by using the multiple regression analysis. In this type of
statistical analysis the combined effect of the various variables as well as the independent contribution of each variable is explained. Apart from this the contribution of each variable in combination with other variable also is assessed. In addition to this ANOVA, t-test and Duncon's multiple range test are also used.

In the present investigation a probe into certain psycho-social factors related to delinquency proneness of school going and non-school going children is attempted. Here purposefully, instead of actual delinquent tendency, a predisposition of delinquency, in otherwords, delinquency proneness was taken as the dependent variable. The independent variables constitute schooling, broken home conditions, neuroticism, mental ability, size of the family, order of birth, disharmony between parents and quarrels among the siblings.

The following hypotheses were formulated in connection with the present investigation:

1. Delinquency proneness would be the result of the combined effect of schooling, neuroticism,
mental ability, size of the family, disharmony between parents and quarrels among the siblings.

2. Delinquency proneness is significantly related to the schooling.

3. Delinquency proneness is positively related to broken home conditions.

4. Delinquency proneness is positively related to neuroticism.

5. Delinquency proneness is negatively related to mental ability.

6. Delinquency proneness is significantly related to disharmony between parents.

7. Delinquency proneness is positively related to quarrels among the siblings.

8. Delinquency proneness is positively related to the size of the family.

9. Delinquency proneness is significantly related to the order of birth.

The instruments employed in the study were delinquency proneness inventory, neuroticism scale
and Raven's Standard progressive matrices test. A pilot study was carried out for the standardization of the first two instruments. Reliability was estimated and item analysis was done for establishing the validity of the test.

R.P.M. was used to test the subject's mental ability. In addition to this, information about the subject was gathered with regard to his family life. The number of children in the family, the order of birth of the subjects, the relationship existing between the parents of the child (harmony and disharmony between parents), the broken or non-broken home condition of the family, and lastly the interpersonal relationships existing among the siblings were all obtained. A carefully designed data sheet was utilized for the purpose.

One hundred and ten school going and one hundred and ten non-school going children formed the sample for study. All of them belonged to low socio-economic status and they were all from urban locality. Their age ranged from ten to
fourteen years, and all of them were boys. Simple random sampling procedure was followed in the selection of the subjects.

The instruments were administered to the subject under similar testing conditions and data were collected regarding the delinquency proneness score, neuroticism score and mental ability of the subjects. Relevant information was gathered about the various familial variables in question. The data were analysed using the statistical techniques ANOVA, t-test, Duncon's multiple range test and multiple regression analysis.

The important findings of the investigation may be summarized as follows:

1. Delinquency proneness is the result of the combined effect of schooling, neuroticism, mental ability and disharmony between parents. They act as the potential factors in predisposing the individual towards delinquency.
family and quarrels among the siblings are insignificant contributors for delinquency proneness, when all the independent variables are taken together.

2. Non-school going children are more prone to delinquency than school going children. This shows that schooling will have a socialization effect upon the children and they are moulded in the school to become responsible citizens. Left for themselves without schooling, the non-school going children are likely to develop tendencies leading to antisocial behavior.

3. It was found that broken home conditions and delinquency were positively related. It is an established fact that a broken home due to divorce or separation of the parents leads to uncongenial condition and disrupts the normal personality development of the children. This is due to the lack of emotional attachment and arousal of a feeling of
insecurity. An important finding of this research was that lack of father will have grave consequences and lead to more delinquent tendencies than due to lack of mother.

4. Delinquency proneness is found to be positively related to neuroticism. This conclusion holds good in the case of children from the broken home conditions as well as those from the non-broken home conditions. This revelation is in the expected direction since most of the studies pointed out the intimate relationship between delinquency and neuroticism.

5. Another important finding is that delinquency proneness is significantly associated with low mental ability. This finding does not agree with the several research findings which pointed out that mental ability or intelligence is not a significant causative factor in delinquency.
6. Disharmony between parents and delinquency proneness are found to be closely interlinked. Quarrels and conflicts between the parents cause irreparable damage to the normal personality development of the child and the analysis of the data in the present investigation proved that parental disharmony causes more delinquency proneness among the children.

7. The quarrels among the siblings create an uncongenial atmosphere in the family and this factor was found to be positively related to delinquency proneness.

8. The bigger the size of the family, higher were the scores on delinquency proneness. Thus it was found that the size of the family is positively related to delinquency proneness. In a bigger family, naturally there will be lesser attention being paid to the needs and requirements of the children. The consequence of this is frustration and lack of security for
9. When a comparison was made between the delinquency proneness scores of first borns, middle borns, last borns and only children it was found that middle born children were more prone to delinquency than other categories of children. The first borns in the family get proper attention from the parents and in addition to this they are expected to shoulder some responsibility. These advantages make them immune to delinquency. The last born children also derive the attention of the parents as well as the other siblings in the family. The only child is well looked after as a center of attention in the family. So the middle borns are put at a disadvantageous position and are predisposed towards delinquency.
Suggestions for further research

On the basis of research work undertaken by the present investigator, the following suggestions are offered for future research in this field.

1. Some of the variables like child rearing practices will play an important role in delinquent behavior. So a study may be carried out including the above variable in the investigation.

2. The scope of the study may be made more broader by including both boys and girls in the study and identifying separately the causative factors for delinquency for both the sexes. This may reveal some additional information regarding differential contribution of the factors leading to delinquency when sex also was taken as another variable.
3. The delinquency proneness scale may be utilized by the juvenile guidance centers or counselling centers in the schools and a follow-up work may be carried out.

4. Intensive case studies of individuals exhibiting higher scores on delinquency proneness will lead to valuable contribution. This will be an important step in the direction of preventing delinquent tendencies among the children. This may be carried out by the social workers, school psychologists, counsellors, criminologists and others.

5. Early identification of the delinquency prone children will be an important step towards correction of their behavior. Otherwise the deviant behavior becomes firmly established in the personality dynamics of the individual. So special measures may be taken in the school in this regard.