CHAPTER II
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CHAPTER II

DELINQUENCY IN RETROSPECT

2.1 Introduction

Delinquency is a world-wide phenomenon and has been a matter of concern both for the society and for the Government. It is the outcome of the industrialisation and the urbanization. Scientists, social agencies and the Governments are striving to understand the phenomenon so that some remedy could be made. There are numerous studies conducted during last four-five decades depicting different causes for the onset of delinquency. These studies are from different societies, western and eastern, differing in varied aspects like sample, tools, research design, etc.

In the present chapter an attempt is made to review the previous studies. The onset of delinquency is found to be associated with different variables like heredity, physique, social class and socio-economic status, working mothers, mass media, academic performance, intelligence, perceptual characteristics, self-concept, urban-rural differences, sex differences, family background, interpersonal relations, emotional stability-instability, etc. We shall discuss in brief the significance of these variables.
2.2.1 Hereditary Factors

The role of environmental factors are more prominent than to genetic factors in the development of antisocial behavior. (Rosenthal, 1975). However, Rutter (1927b) has suggested that delinquent behavior is not inherited as such but inherited temperamental differences, in association with family discord and disruption, may contribute to the development of antisocial models of responding. Heredity does not destine one to become psychopathic or to engage in antisocial behavior, although it may be one of the contributing factors.

2.2.2 Chromosomal Abnormalities & Antisocial Behavior

In 1961 it was revealed that some males display what has been referred to as the XYY Syndrome, having one more than the usual compliment of Y Chromosomes (Sendberg, Koeuf, Ishihara Hauschka 1961). Individuals with this syndrome often display a variety of characteristics that distinguish them from the general population, including below average IQ, greater than average height, and tendencies toward social withdrawal and behavioral problems. Ratcliff and Field (1982) have suggested a possible relationship between XYY characteristics and childhood emotional problems, which in some instances may present with symptoms of conduct disorder.
At present the relationship between the XYY chromosomal make-up and antisocial behavior is unclear. Most persons displaying antisocial behavior do not display this syndrome, and not all persons with the syndrome display antisocial behavior. So where as some relationship may exist, this particular chromosomal abnormality does not account for the vast majority of delinquent or criminal behavior. It might be pointed out that even if one accepts the view that XYY individual show a tendency toward antisocial behavior, this does not necessarily imply that the behavior is generally based on it. As Rosenthal (1975) has pointed out, individuals with chromosomal abnormalities may simply be more likely to show antisocial behavior as a result of the psychological distress resulting from the physical anomalies associated with syndrome.

2.3.1 Physical Factors

Lombroso (1911) believed that delinquents were 'Moral idiots' who differed from normal men in basic and inborn physical characteristics. He showed that typical criminals possessed certain physical characteristics or anomalies such as a slanting forehead, flattened nose, long ear lobes, a large jaw with no chin, heavy supraorbital ridges, either excessive hairiness or an abnormal absence of hair, an extreme sensitivity or nonsensitivity to pain.
Kretschmer, the German Psychiatrist (1925), contended that he could classify human beings into three rather different physical types and espoused body build as a correlative of behavior. Lambroso's views were again vindicated by Hooton (1939) the American anthropologist, somewhat later.

2.3.2 Sheldon's Typology

Sheldon (1949) postulates three basic physical types - ectomorph, relatively tall, thin with long arms and legs, and limited development of viscera, and musceltone
the mesomorph, characterized by solid muscular development with broad shoulders and narrow hips; and the endomorph, relatively round soft body structure, overdeveloped viscera, but without much musculature.

In his work with juvenile delinquent males, Sheldon found a heavy proponderance of mesomorphs. Mesomorphs are much more common in the delinquent group; endomorphs and ectomorphs are very rare. Men with a mesomorphic build have an excess of energy, a liking for vigorous activity and a strong response of frustration. His three body types, endomorph, mesomorph and actomorph are connected with psychological tempamental types - viscerotonia, somatotonia and cerebrotonia, successively. Sheldon and his coworkers have found support in the work of Gluecks
(1956) who have concluded that body build plays greater role in precipitating delinquent behavior. In their study of 500 delinquent boys, the percentage of mesomorphs in a correctional training school was 60 percent as against 30 percent in the control group. On this basis they suggested that "some body types have a greater delinquency potential than do others". But this conclusion has been argued that this does not prove anything more than the presence of a greater number of persons of a particular type in a group. This in no way suggests a relationship between body build and deviant behavior.

2.4.1 Social Class & Socioeconomic Status

There seems to be a close relationship between social class, socio-economic status and delinquency. It has been found that juveniles derive evenly from all social classes, and the type of offence does not vary much from class to class. (Palmei, Storey and Briscoe, 1967). Delinquency may be a result of nonfulfilment of values and goals of a given class, and this is more true for middle class (Bertram 1965). Males from lower class are more likely to be involved in delinquent conduct than males of other social classes (Garrett, Marcia, Short, James 1945). Higher social class is also not
immune to delinquency. Affluence and over protection seem to be causes of delinquency in higher class.

2.4.2 Social class and socio-economic status go together. Socio-economic status is a study of individual's position as related to social relationships in a given society. It influences individual's relationship with others and is associated with prestige and respect. (Kulshrestha, 1972). Families of delinquents, regardless of socio-economic status, usually have certain characteristics that are different from the families of the non-delinquents. Family economics is one of the contributing variables of delinquency. It plays a major role when combined with other factors. Some studies have shown that delinquency is largely a lower socio-economic phenomenon (Clark and Wenninger, 1962; Erickson and Empey, 1965; Knoff, 1979). Several studies have, in fact, shown that there is no difference in socio-economic levels when unrewarded instances of delinquent behaviour are obtained through anonymous questionnaire (Empey and Erickson, 1966; Havey and Gold, 1973). Some studies have indicated the absence of significant difference in the amount of delinquent behaviour of boys and girls belonging to different socio-economic strata (Nye, Short, Oison, 1959; Vigil, 1968). There are considerable studies stating that delinquency is unrelated to socio-economic status (Epps and Edgar, 1967; Storey and Briscoe, 1967; Havey and Gold, 1973).
2.5 Working Mothers

Some investigations reveal that working mothers contribute to the onset of delinquent behaviour. If the mother is at work, she cannot properly look after her home and rear her children satisfactorily. Such children show stronger tendencies towards delinquency and become more prone to antisocial behaviour (Nye 1968). This effect has been found to be greater for girls than for boys. The Gluecks (1934) found in their study of the thousand delinquents that their mothers were employed over four times as frequently as married women in their country generally. Mothers who are industrially employed often have to neglect their children and deprive them of many common aspects of family life. When the mother is away from home all day, not only the children suffer from the basic functions of the family, but their future is also endangered by the high expectancy of their own delinquent conduct.

2.6.1 Mass Media

Mass media like the press, the movies, the comics, the radio and the television keep behind their impact on the minds of the readers, listeners and viewers. It has been found that movies and the television pornography
play a distinct role in the creation of antisocial behaviour among teen-agers (Haines, 1965). The recent studies conducted in seventies and early eighties support the above stated conclusion. Likewise students, as a result of television, spend less time for their studies and reference work (Times of India, 15th Oct, 1987 and 3rd Feb., 1989). However, delinquents themselves do not consider movie and television as a booster for their delinquent activities. In a study conducted by Blumer and Hauser (1983), it was revealed that only 10 percent of the boys and 25 percent of the girls thought that television and movie had played a role in their delinquent activities. Some researchers (Guillemant, 1967) have maintained that movies alone do not lead to juvenile delinquency as in 90 percent of the countries there is a strict censorship. Television and movie are not the primary factors in the onset of delinquency. They function as catalytic agents when other factors are already present. Of course, their role as a contributory factor demoralizing the juvenile and adolescents cannot be ignored.

2.6.2 Movies

It is a fact that delinquents show much more interest in movies than non-delinquents (Healy and Bronner 1963). In this study it was found that delinquents
(33 percent) attend movies excessively several times a week. Regular attendance once or twice a week was the habit of 88 percent of the delinquents as against the 40 percent of the control group.

2.7.1 Intelligence and Academic Performance

There are diverse views about the role of intelligence in causing delinquency. The varied findings have emerged out of the investigations conducted during the last five decades or so. The earlier studies reported that the mean IQ of delinquents range between 75 to 85 or almost to 90 (McClure, 1933; Lave and Witty, 1935; Owen, 1937; Lichtenstein and Brown, 1938). But we should not consider intelligence as the lone factor responsible for delinquent behaviour. Some investigators have shown that the possession of a low I.Q. does not necessarily predispose a child to delinquency, though obviously the problem of learning and relearning is greatly qualified by mental level (Beckman 1932; Young, 1947). Intelligence of delinquents as assessed by the Weschsler intelligence scales was in the normal range when measured by perceptual motor tasks; and in the high dull normal range, when measured by largely verbal scales (Prentice and Kelly, 1963). It was suggested, however, that the true incidence of intelligence in delinquency may not be significantly different from
general population. As well there is general support for the view that there is no direct relationship between defective intelligence and delinquency (Uday Shaker, 1958). Intelligence in itself has hardly any bearing on the behaviour difficulties which are the reactions of the whole personality. Number of investigators have indicated a relationship between mental retardation and delinquency. They found that the intelligence of retarded delinquents was below average. It was also noted that they performed poorly in school and had low verbal fluency, inadequate cultural background and certain personality factors. (Schaller, Elizabeth, 1968; Ostrinanska, Zofia, 1968). Healy and Bronner (1963) have concluded that 13 percent of the delinquents have an intelligence quotient below 70. Likewise, Rao (1960) and Shivanandan (1984) found female delinquents and criminals at lower intellectual level. Some investigators have shown that I.Q. has an effect on delinquency independent of class and race and further added that this effect is mediated through a host of school variables (Hirschi, Travis, Hindelang and Michael, 1977).

2.7.2 Delinquents are generally recognized as poor academic performers in school although as a group they do not differ from nondelinquents in intelligence or
achievement test scores (Hathaway and Monachesi, 1963; Elliott, 1966; Elliott, Vass and Wendling, 1966). There is a consistently reported relationship between school dropout rate and delinquency. The delinquency rate for dropouts is estimated as ten times higher than the rate obtained for the total young population (Schreiber, 1963; Jaffry and Jaffry, 1970).

Hargraves (1967) showed in his study that pupils who were relegated to bottom stream classes on account of their poor scholastic performance developed hostile attitudes towards authority and manifested a high level of delinquency. This finding has been challenged by other investigators (Offord et al., 1978; Offered, 1981). They concluded that the scholastic retardation associated with delinquency was not a prime cause but the delinquency itself might be one of the likely consequences of early deprivation (Embridge 1975). They offered findings by stating that early deprivation is an important factor contributing to both delinquency and scholastic retardation. There is a surprisingly high relationship between achievement and delinquency. Cortes and Gatti (1960) have found that TAT achievement scores of delinquents average higher than those of non-delinquents.
2.8 Perceptual Characteristics:

There are studies showing a relationship between perceptual characteristics and delinquent behavior. Delinquent girls tended to reduce the perceived size to a greater extent than non-delinquent ones (Compton and Norms, 1967). Greater differences as related to perceptions of fathers than mothers were found among delinquents as compared to non-delinquents (Madinnus, C.R. 1965). The analysis of the perceptual responses of delinquents revealed that they were not close to their fathers. As well fathers also were not interested in their delinquent children (Lang, Rudoff and Walters, 1976).

2.9 Self Concept

The nature of personality dynamics in the criminals and delinquents has been known through the study of their self-concept. An appropriate or otherwise concept of the self is an important component in non-delinquency and delinquency respectively. This view has been supported by the investigations carried out by different researchers (Reckless, Dintiz and Key, 1956 and 1967). They studied the self concept of boys from a high delinquency area who were grouped as highly
likely or highly unlikely to become delinquent. They found a definite relationship between the way an individual felt about himself and the way he felt about other persons. This finding was supported by Stock (1971). It has been found that the negative feelings about oneself tends to hold negative feelings towards other people in general. Some researchers have shown a difference in the self concept of the delinquent group and the normal group (Lakshmi, M.V. and Kodandaram, P., 1982). Delinquents are less self-accepting, less closely identified with their parents and felt less understood by their parents (Deitz, G.E. 1959).

2.10 Urban Rural Social Setting

Delinquency happens to be more common near the centre of the large city and less frequent towards the periphery (Shaw and Makay 1942; Lander 1954). Urban delinquency rates vary with many conditions like general educational level, average rental costs, rate of population change, percentage of owner occupied homes and frequency of substandard housing (Lander, 1954; Morris, 1958). It has been found that rural boys display significantly less skill and knowledge in the commission of their offences and urban boys appear in court more frequently than rural boys (Lentz W., 1966).
The problem of juvenile delinquency is a part of the general rural and urban setting concerning - health education and welfare of all men inhabiting a certain geographical area or region. The basic needs of the human beings are the same regardless of where they belong to or live in. Nevertheless, because of a somewhat differential way of living and social setting, these human needs assume a complexion peculiar to the environment which determines them.

2.11 Male-Female Differences

There are marked sex differences in the types of juvenile crime. Among boys delinquency consists mostly of stealing, disorderly conduct, burglary, destruction of property, acts of mischief and carelessness, traffic violations, drug addiction and injuries to persons. For girls, by contrast, the most common offences are sexual irregularities, running away, petty stealing, ungovernability and incorrigibility (Maller, 1937; Burrows, 1946; U.S. Childrens' Bureau 1946; Zakolski 1949; New York Times, 1952). Boys engage in a wider variety of delinquent behaviour than girls; and on the whole, their behaviour is of a more serious nature in that it is harmful to others; while that of girls, it is more harmful to themselves.
Boys have higher rate of delinquency than girls. In most of the modern societies approximately five times as many males as females become juvenile offenders. It has been noted that boys in an industrialized societies are traditionally reared by their mothers as compared to children in peasant families. They have relatively little opportunity to identify with their father or copy masculine forms of behaviour (Pearsons 1949). At the age of puberty, however, they are expected to become men and to shift their identification from the mother to the father. In an attempt to assert their masculinity boys may well turn to delinquent behaviour. In contrast, girls continue to identify with their mothers and do not suffer the same "crisis of identity" that boys do (Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences, Vol.4 1968, p.87). The boys who become delinquents have been found to be active, excited, assaultive and destructive; and the girls to be aimless, incorrigible, indulging in sex and less vigorous (Waltemoer and Saunders 1954). Relationships within the family are very much disturbed among the girls than among the boys (Cowie and Cowie 1968). Girls are less prone to develop delinquency as compared to boys and they require greater influence from their environment to fall into bad ways (Otterstrom 1970). The behaviour of boys may need relatively small stresses to
become delinquents as compared with the large stresses needed in the case of the girls (Cowie and Cowie 1968).

Cockburn and Inga (1965) found that the boys had committed more offences against property; whereas most of the girls had appeared before the court being, "in need of care and protection" or "beyond control". In general the rate of boys is and has been much higher than the rate of girls. These conclusions have been corroborated by other investigators also (Manshurdt, Mrs. R. Show, 1947; Hansa Sheth, 1961; Shanmugum 1976).

David (1976) studied the familial and psychological factors contributing to girls' delinquency. Her study revealed that unlike male delinquents who find satisfaction is committing offences along with their rebellious peers; the female offender often commits it alone and their behaviour is an expression of their own personal deprivation. In David's study majority of the female delinquents were found to come from unhappy and broken homes caused by parent's desertion or separation. In case of sex – delinquents, it is found that parents themselves indulge in immoral behaviour by having extra-marital relationship. The juvenile has often a poor image of mother. In case of some delinquents ill treatment by the step mother seems to be common.  

2.12.1 Family Background

Family is the human group centrally concerned with biological and social relations, reproduction and generally considered an universal unit of social organization in its primary form as constituted by a man, a woman and their socially recognized children. The family and particularly the mother-child relationship is held to be extremely important in early development occurring as a result of living in the family and is described as primary socialization. The factors like broken home, family tension, parental rejection, parental emotional instability, family economic and disturbed family relationships are conducive to delinquent behaviour.

2.12.2 Broken Homes

More delinquent than non-delinquent children come from broken homes in which one parent is absent through death, separation, divorce or desertion (Anderson 1968; Glueck and Glueck 1968; Cortes and Gatti 1972). Broken homes and large families are more frequently related to delinquency; broken homes leading to female delinquency

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and large families paving the way for male delinquency (Andrew 1976). Wattenberge and Saunders found a higher proportion of broken homes for juvenile offenders; 56 percent of the boys and 32 percent of the girls came from homes in which there was much quarreling. Likewise, dislike of the father was expressed by 5 percent of the boys and 16 percent of the girls (Cowie and Cowie 1956). Like Gluecks other investigators, e.g., Browning, Gold, Slocum, Stone, Peterson and Becker 1978) also found a significantly greater number of delinquents than nondelinquents from broken or disorganized homes.

Allport Gordon (1951) has distinguished between a structurally broken home and a functionally broken home. Functionally broken home is a significant factor in middle class families where inter-personal relationships lack in affection. In one of the Indian studies it was found that regardless of sex, delinquents were more from psychologically broken homes than from structurally broken homes. 3 Gibson (1969) also found that homes broken by parental desertion rather by death were more associated with delinquency and this association was strongly in the more socially favoured portion of the sample.


If the family was broken with one or both parents absent due to separation, divorce, desertion or death, or the family was disorganized as a result of frustrations and instability, the end result was maladjusted children who become involved in delinquency. These findings were supported by Burt, Slawson and Merrill.

2.12.3 Emotional Environment:

Family environment is an important factor which can have a marked effect on the child. Emotional stability of the parents is also an important aspect which can affect family environment of the child. Delinquent behaviour has been found to be directly related with disturbances and emotional instability in one or both the parents.

In families, where one or both parents have emotional disturbances, the youngsters run a much greater risk of developing problems that often manifest themselves in delinquent activity. The Gluecks found that a significantly large number of parents of delinquents had problems themselves and came from homes that had mental retardation or an alcoholic in the family. Parents of delinquents were often inferior, physically, intellectually and emotionally. Most of the delinquents came from broken homes and in a majority of cases the parents show definit emotional problems. Richard Stern agrees on the fundamental

importance of the family in shaping behaviour, but he
does not believe that a broken home is a major cause of
delinquency. He explains that the actual breaking up
of the home is preceded by much disruption, disorganization
and tension. The broken home itself is not the major
contributing factor to delinquent behaviour. The tensions
and problems actually contribute to breaking up of the
home.

McCord and Zola have pointed out that quarrelsone,
neglecting families actually had a higher crime rate than
homes in which a permanent separation had disrupted the
family. Conflict and neglect within the home predisposes
a child to crime, even more so, than broken home.
Disruptive, quarrelsome and tension producing relationship
between parents disrupt the entire family. This total
family disruption can often contribute to and even produce
delinquent behaviour. It is evident that marital adjustment,
family cohesiveness, and the amount of tension existing
in the family are directly related to juvenile delinquency.

A lack of parental affection during childhood is
likely to result in the development of a weak superego
that is unable to control antisocial impulses (Schuerfeld,
1971). Even earlier investigators found a close
relationship between maternal rejection and delinquent
behaviour of the subjects (Aichhorn 1925; Newell, 1934;
Glueck and Glueck, 1950; Friminder 1951; Toby, 1957; Graggier 1959; Ferdinand 1964; Oltman and Friedman, 1967 Bruce, 1970; Singh and Sharma, 1973). Shanmugam (1977) also pointed out that most striking finding was that more number of delinquents came from home background involving rejecting parents.

Thus we find that emotional deprivation as a result of lack of parental love has much to do with juvenile delinquency. If rejected child does not find love and affection as well as support at home, he will resort to deviant group outside the family. Parental rejection and absence, especially of a father, show a far reaching effect. Nye has pointed out that many studies have found that mutual rejection of parent-child markedly affects positive relationship and can ultimately lead to delinquent behaviour. In fact, rejection by family in different forms induces delinquency.

2.12.4 Family Discipline

Some researches have shown a relationship between parental discipline and delinquency. Results of a number of studies indicate a positive relationship between severe parental punishment and the level of delinquency, aggression, especially in males. The effect is more potent than socio-economic class. A severe punishment specifically leads to emergence of delinquent tendencies.
Glueck and Glueck found that the parents of delinquents used physical punishment more than verbal discussion. Mothers in such families were much more permissive and less strict than father. Likewise, parents of delinquents were less consistent in their disciplinary measures than were the parents of non-delinquents. It has been found that firm, love oriented discipline and also consistent but harsh discipline produce a less than average quota of delinquents (McCord and McCord, 1959). When parents threaten their children for misbehaviour but not carry out their threats, the child soon realizes that his parents do not mean what they say and proceed to do what he wants to do (Pollack, 1968). Inconsistent discipline is always dangerous and induces indiscipline and delinquency in children.

It has also been found that lax or erratic discipline involving punitive methods is strongly related to delinquency (McCords and Zola, 1972). In brief, discipline and the way it is administered can have a marked effect on delinquent and adolescent behaviour.

2.13.1 Interpersonal Relationship

Studies of juvenile delinquents have revealed that in most of the cases family relationships are bad. The adolescents, who are deprived of love and help gradually
feel unwanted, unloved and rejected. The delinquent has little love for his parents or siblings. He has little concern for the welfare of the family and is unwilling to follow his parents' advice or guidance. This resentful attitude accompanied by hostility and unwillingness to confirm is carried over from the home to his relationship with society in general (Healy and Bronner, 1936; Symonds, 1939; Zucker, 1943; Foups, 1945; Shulman, 1949; Glueck and Glueck, 1950; Caugh and Peterson, 1952). Delinquents report that they are dissatisfied with their homes. They are also highly critical of their parents and siblings and feel that their parents show favouritism to their siblings.

The interpersonal relations within the family is an important aspect for the growth of the child. If interpersonal relations are not good, child will develop problematic behaviour. Step parents, foster parents, or adoptive parents may bring about defective family relationship. Cyril Burt (1925), quotes in his book "The Young Delinquent" that among the delinquent children 57.9 percent suffer from defective family relationship; while among the non delinquents, only 25.7 percent suffer.

2.13.2 Relationship Between Parents

Frequent quarrels and disharmony between the parents due to any cause are important factors in the
causation of juvenile delinquency. Parental discord and parental personality problems are likely to interfere with family relationship and with child rearing practices in diverse ways (Aichorn, 1967; Glueck and Glueck, 1968; Freeman and Savastong, 1970). If one of the parents is psychotic, neurotic, alcoholic, retarded or seriously disturbed, it brings about disharmony between the parents as well they become inconsistent, neglectful and rejecting both in attitude and behaviour towards their children. Emotional instability in one or both parents is not only frequent background finding of delinquent youngsters but also a characteristic that can be traced to the previous generation of parents (Aichorn, 1969).

2.13.3 Relationship Between Parents and Children

The developmental picture of children depends on the relationship with their parents. Generally every parent loves his children. But merely love is not sufficient to produce a happy parent-child relationship. When mother or father tries to get the child to do something by indicating that they will love him more if he does what is expected of him. To make affection depend on good behaviour is a great mistake and it may lead to disturbed parent-child relation. It has been
found that the interpersonal relations between aggressive boy-delinquents and their parents are on a behavioural level characterized by a lack of dependency on the part of the son (Bandura and Walters, 1960). When there is a lack of identification between parents and children, having very little in common with each other, they do not communicate with each other. Many times parents do not know what their children are doing and children also do not know what their parents are doing. The lack of respect breeds a feeling of irresponsibility towards parents and consequential emotional attitudes increase juvenile antisocial activities.

Quite a number of prominent researchers have observed the tremendous influence of parent-child relations on all aspects of child life (Shoben, 1949; Bowlby, 1953; Crendell and Preston, 1955; Jackson, 1956; Hewkes, 1957; Mohan and Gaier, 1959 and Brontenbrenner, 1961). Analytic writers like Erickson (1946) and Hallmann (1959) have discussed the relationship between early experiences of parents and child’s psychological state. According to them, early experiences of parents affect their own personality, which in turn is related to child’s psychological state.

The structure of parent-child relationship may vary considerably from culture to culture, and even
from family to family. Tiwari (1974) has suggested the following dimensions of parent-child relations. They are like acceptance-rejection, dominance-submission, encouragement, love-hate, democracy authoritativeness, trust-distrust, reward-punishment and tolerance-hostility. The power relationship between husband and wife is perceived by the child and it affects his identification choice. Hoffman (1960) suggested the indirect effects of the chain of dominance, that is, from father to mother, from mother to child, and from child to other children. Child's identification choice and his adjustment to the society may be influenced by whether or not parents relation in the family corresponds to the male-female relationship in the larger society (Hoffman and Lippitt, 1970).

2.13.4 Relationship Between Siblings

The relationship between siblings colours child's interaction with parents and it affects his personality and home adjustment. According to Tiwari (1979) love, cooperation, help and trust are the four important dimensions of siblings interaction. Disturbed interpersonal relation between siblings creates family tension and stems emotional deprivation, which tends to create delinquent. Andry (1959) places heavy emphasis on defects in the father-child relationship as a leading factor in delinquency.
All types of interpersonal relations within the family contribute to child's personality and adjustment. The disturbed interpersonal relations, whether between the parents or between parents and children or between siblings, may lead delinquent behaviour.

2.14.1 Personality

People are not born with antisocial traits and tendencies. Social and environmental factors influence in individual. His physical, mental and emotional aspects, the social drives, the character and the specific modes of social expressions constitute the facets of his personality. Every individual has a knowledge about himself and is quite aware of his role in society and his social status. All these aspects also are the integral parts of individual's personality. There is an intimate relationship between individual's personality and environmental influences, and delinquency has to be seen from that perspective. Delinquency may be an end result of the subtle effects of interactions between the individual and his environment. These interactions lead to the establishment of particular personality sets.

2.14.2 Personality Traits

Delinquency involves behaviour traits which indicate deviation far from the mores and standards,
attitudes, interests, values and the normal modes of social expression. Juvenile delinquents have been found to possess some characteristic features of the personality that shed light on the causes of delinquency. Gluecks (1968) has pointed out that immaturity in sentiment and lack of emotional balance were found to be eight times more in delinquents than in the normal children. He also found out the considerable difference regarding general interest and forms of recreation of normal and delinquent children. A delinquent child was found to take much interest in works of adventures of of dangerous nature. He was also found to take considerable interest in seeing pictures and films. Among his interest and modes of recreation were found such practices as cigarette smoking, gambling, staying away from home, breaking things and travelling without ticket.

Healy and Bronner (1936) stated that delinquents were definitely more active, restless, energetic, or as showing more uninhibited behaviour than the controls. Of the 68 delinquents recorded only 11 were less active. 41 controls in the study were characterized as subdued, retiring, quiet, inactive, placid, non-aggressive, not carrying for adventure or excitement. Hyperactivity, over restlessness, extreme physical aggressiveness, great impulsiveness or some allied manifestations were recorded
for most of the delinquents. Not a single control was so characterized. Siegman (1961) found that delinquents are highly 'present oriented' and do not plan for the future. Shanmugam (1974) also found that delinquent boys had high degree of psycholicism, impunitive reactions and a lack of extra punitive reactions, extraversion, suggestibility and aspiration. Delinquents girls were highly rigid, suggestible and lacked intelligence.

Disobedience, fighting, stealing and destructiveness have been noted in delinquents of both the sexes (Achenbach and Edelbrock, 1976). It was also revealed that boys have more of the under controlled problems; whereas girls have more of the over controlled problems (Achenbach and Edelbrock, 1981). The great majority of the delinquents appear to possess the traits of typical antisocial personality. They are impulsive, guiltfree, resentful and incapable of maintaining close interpersonal relationship. Boy-delinquents generally give more physically aggressive responses (Brodzinsky, Messer and Tew, 1979).

2.14.3 Pathological Characteristics

Some investigators have found the pathological characteristics like neuroticism, high autonomic arousal, deep rooted frustration and anxiety in delinquent children.
Jaspal (1977) has noted that the delinquents are significantly more neurotic than the non-delinquents. Neuroticism is a predisposition to strong autonomic activation which produces high arousal (Eysenck, 1970). Arousal is a state of the individual which can affect his behaviour (Davio and Tune, 1970). Neuroarousal has a motivational potential equivalent to drive which may reinforce extraverted tendencies favouring crime and antisocial conduct. So the person with high extraversion and high neuroticism score is more likely to commit antisocial and criminal acts (Eysenck, 1972). Arvinder Singh (1981) through his study has supported the stated findings.

Sharma, Geunthey and Mansingh (1982) have found number of distinguishing features among delinquents. They appear to be less intelligent, more assertive, more worrying, depressed and guilt-prone. They also show more tension and frustration and are more dependent. Their behaviour seems to be related with lower intelligence which makes them less adjustable and less efficient. They significantly differ from non-delinquents on anxiety factor. Sources of anxiety may be many, for example, the dissatisfaction of their needs, the behaviour of the parents or some other factors.

2.14.4 Emotional Instability

Emotional instability is one of the most important causes of delinquency. Hathaway and Mohachesi (1953) have
shown that many delinquents are emotionally disturbed. A child’s personality is rendered unbalanced through lack of love and affection, emotional insecurity, very strict discipline, feeling of insufficiency and insecurity. All these aspects inspire the child to delinquent behaviour. Healy and Bronner (1936) found that 93 percent of the delinquents in their study manifested symptoms of emotional imbalance. They also found that no less than 91 percent of the delinquents examined gave clear evidence of being or having been very unhappy and discontented or extremely disturbed because of emotionally provoking situations or experiences.

Inner tensions and emotional disturbances as contributing factors of delinquent behaviour have been stressed by Burt, Slawson, Carr, Gluecks and Sheldon. They regarded emotional immaturity as a significant factor. The lack of affection between parents leads to destructiveness as well as destructive sadistic trends. Higher proportion of delinquents were found to be sons of parents whose conjugal relations had actually reached a breaking point.

2.15.1 Classification of Delinquents

There are three types of juvenile delinquents: the socialized delinquent, the neurotic delinquent and the psychopathic delinquent. Each of these types exhibits
certain traits that distinguish it from the other types and from non delinquents (International Encyclopaedia of the Social Science ed. by David L. Sills, Vol. 4, p. 37).

2.15.2 Socialized Delinquent

The socialized delinquent has been analyzed by such researchers as Albert J. Reiss (1952). R.L. Jenkins and Lester Hewitt (1947). The socialized delinquent does not suffer from any particular psychological disorders, other than those characterize the typical adolescent. His crimes are not motivated by deep seated anxieties or unresolved conflicts, but rather by a simple desire to conform to the norms of his gang. Typically such a boy comes from a transitional urban area where a gang subculture has become entrenched. In his immediate social environment delinquency has evolved into an accepted, even honoured, pattern of life, a legitimate way of achieving prestige in the juvenile community.

The socialized delinquent seems to be produced by a frustrating and inconsistent familial background. Compared with noncriminal children, the socialized delinquent has most often been raised in a family characterized by parental conflict, rejection or neglect (Glueck & Glueck 1960).
2.15.3 **Neurotic Delinquent**

Neurotic delinquent suffers from deep anxiety, intense insecurity, and often pervasive guilt. For such a boy, criminal behaviour is a way of expressing an unresolved conflict and offers a release from anxiety. The neurotic child often commits his crimes alone and usually commits only a single type of crime. His behaviour exhibits a compulsive quality that is often absent in socialized delinquents. The motives behind the neurotic’s crimes are varied and difficult to comprehend. The arsonist, for example, may set fires because of exhibitionistic desires; the neurotic burglar may commit his offences because the act of burglary offers him sexual release (Abrahamsen, 1960). Neurotic delinquents generally emerge from a middle-class, conventional environment than do socialized delinquents. Their families exhibit severe emotional strain, and their parents are usually neurotic or psychotic. Some studies have described the neurotic delinquent as possessing a "relatively weak ego" - and as tending to isolate himself from other people, particularly other children (Hewitt and Jankins 1947).

2.15.4 **Psychopathic Delinquent**

The psychopathic delinquent is relatively rare. From society's point of view, perhaps it is the most
dangerous of young criminals. The psychopath's distinguishing traits are—(1) his inability to form a lasting emotional relationship with other human beings and (2) his almost total lack of guilt, remorse or inhibition.

The psychopathic delinquent commits a wide amount of crimes and has remarkably high rate of recidivism. Almost all investigations of psychopaths' environments indicate that they have been raised in homes characterized by extreme parental brutality, neglect, discord, and intensely severe discipline. Many have come from foster homes or orphanages. They suffer from a neurological disorder, perhaps of a type that decreases his ability to inhibit impulses (McCord and McCord 1964).

2.16 **Summary**

From the review of previous work mentioned above, we see that there are multiple causes for the onset of delinquency. We can not conclusively state that delinquency is a direct result of one or two causes. Each variable mentioned above contributes to the development of delinquency.