CHAPTER III
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METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS OF ENQUIRY

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CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS OF ENQUIRY

3.1 Introduction:

Juvenile delinquents designate a widely heterogenous group of offenders (Jurkovic and Prentice, 1977) and it also be pointed out that the label juvenile delinquent is applied only to a segment of those individuals who violate statutory norms. Technically, a person does not become a juvenile delinquent until so adjudged by a court. In terms of societal norms delinquent can be construed as a function of deficient behavioural controls. They show deficit in social skills, academic skills, interpersonal skills and self-care skills. Many of them commit crimes in pairs or groups (Rushing, 1969). Actually their groups have been referred as 'near groups' (Yablonsky, 1959) in the sense of the shifting roles of its members, its low cohesiveness, and its unstable leadership and organization.

Delinquency has been found to be a consequence of multiple factors and researchers in India and abroad have attempted to know the dynamics of delinquency by using various methods of investigation. It would be better
to know about the design of the present study, the operational
definitions of the terms, tools used and the statistical
analysis done.

3.2 Design of the Study:

Under this heading we have to consider the purpose
of the study, various variables and hypotheses, sample,
tools employed and about the data collection. We shall
discuss them in detail.

3.2.1 Purpose of the study:

Delinquency is an outcome of number of factors. In
this research it is presumed that the individual personality,
especially emotional instability, disturbed interpersonal
relations in the family and the family background are the
potent factors in the causation of delinquency, and the role
of these factors, singly and jointly, has been studied. We
may show the interaction of these variables in the following
equation -

\[ D = f (T, P, fb \text{ and } Dir) \]

Where

\( D \) = delinquency

\( T \) = time that elapses during development

\( P \) = personality pattern of the individual,
especially the emotional instability

\( fb \) = family background, and

\( Dir \) = disturbed interpersonal relations,
Thus delinquency is a result of interactions among these factors during the age period (T) of the individual. As well probing has been made to differentiate the factors leading to male or female delinquency.

3.2.2. Variables and hypotheses:

The basic variables included in the study are age, sex, education, occupation, social class, caste etc. The independent variables are as under -

i) Personality pattern (Emotional stability/instability)

ii) Family background and

iii) Interpersonal relations in the family

a) relations between the parents

b) relations between the parents and the children

c) Parents discipline pattern

d) relations among siblings

The dependent variable is the onset of the delinquency/non-delinquency.

The main hypotheses to be tested in this study are given as under -

i) Delinquents and nondelinquents do differ in their personality pattern, especially emotional stability. Delinquents are emotionally unstable as compared to non-delinquents.
ii) There exists a significant difference in family backgrounds of delinquents and non-delinquents.

iii) There exists a significant difference in relationship between parents of delinquents and non-delinquents.

iv) Relationships between delinquents and their parents and between non-delinquents and their parents differ significantly.

v) Sibling relationship of delinquents and non-delinquents do not differ significantly.

vi) There is no significant difference in discipline pattern of parents of delinquents as well as of non-delinquents.

3.2.3. Sample:

For the present study incidental sampling method was used. This method was to be followed as the population of institutionalized delinquents was very limited. In all 600 subjects were studied, 300 delinquents and 300 non-delinquents. Delinquents were from the institutions like observation home, Yerawada Industrial School and certified school. These Institutions were from the city of Pune. Non-delinquents were pupils studying in Marathi medium
Secondary schools and were living with their parents. The age range of the subjects was between 11 to 18 years. Likewise equal number of boys and girls were included in delinquent and non-delinquent groups. Both the groups were matched as far as possible on the variables like age, sex, education, occupation, economic status of the family, etc. The sample studied is shown in Table No. 1.1.

**TABLE No. 1.1**

**SAMPLE STUDIED IN THE PRESENT RESEARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Delinquents (Living in institutions)</th>
<th>Non-delinquents (Living with Parents)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of girls in both the groups could not be more than 100 as it was difficult to obtain institutionalized delinquent girls.

It was found that respondents were born in rural or in urban area. The distribution of respondents according to their birth place is shown in Table No. 1.2.
### TABLE No. 412

**DELIQUENCY AND BIRTH PLACE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth Place</th>
<th>Delinquent</th>
<th>Nondelinquent</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The respondents were mainly from four religious groups, that is Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist. The distribution of the respondents according to their religion is shown in Table No. 413.

### TABLE No. 413

**DELIQUENCY AND RELIGION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Delinquent</th>
<th>Nondelinquent</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The respondents were enquired about their caste and were divided into three major groups, that is Advanced, Semi-advanced and lower castes. Advanced Castes included Brahmins, C.K.P., Sarswat, Kayastha, Jain, etc. Semi advanced castes included Maratha, Mali, Sali, Kosti, Sonar, Sutar, Lohar, Kasar etc. Muslims and Christians have also been included in Semi advanced; and Lower castes included Buddha, Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes etc. The distribution of the respondents according to their castes is shown in Table No. 44.

**TABLE NO. 44**

**DELINQUENCY AND CASTES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Castes</th>
<th>Delinquent</th>
<th>Nondelinquent</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi advanced</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Castes</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the respondents were divided into four educational groups mainly illiterate, primary, pre secondary and secondary. The distribution of these respondents according to their education is shown in Table No. 45.
TABLE NO. 15

DELINQUENCY AND EDUCATIONAL LEVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Delinquent</th>
<th>Nondelinquent</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>... 81 ...</td>
<td>... 41 ...</td>
<td>... 122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>... 169 ...</td>
<td>... 114 ...</td>
<td>... 283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Secondary</td>
<td>... 26 ...</td>
<td>... 143 ...</td>
<td>... 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>... 24 ...</td>
<td>... 2 ...</td>
<td>... 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>... 300 ...</td>
<td>... 300 ...</td>
<td>... 600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondents from both the groups were of age between 11 to 18 years.

3.2.4 Tools employed:

The tools employed in this research are given as under:

1) Questionnaire

ii) The personality Inventory by T.E. Shanmugam

iii) Test of parental Cordial Relations by Prof. V.V. Jogawar.

iv) Test of Acceptance of the child by the parents and test of acceptance of the parents by the child - by Prof. V.V. Jogawar.

v) Sibling Relationship scale

vi) Test of Democratic Attitudes of the parents by
3.2.5. **Data Collection**

The delinquents were contacted in their respective institutions. The questionnaire and the psychological instruments were administered to them individually. The non-delinquents were contacted in their respective schools. All the schools were from the city of Pune which are located in different areas of the city.

It took about two to two and half hours for each individual for administering the questionnaire and different psychological tests.

3.3. **Operational definitions of the terms:**

Some terms have been used in this study with a specific meaning attached to it. The terms that have been used frequently are:

i) **Personality pattern**

ii) **Interpersonal relationship, and**

iii) **Family background.**

The explanations of these terms are given as under:

1) **Personality Pattern**: The term 'personality pattern' is not used in its broader sense. Here the emphasis is on emotional stability or instability as shown by the subjects included in both the groups.
2) **Interpersonal relationship**: The term interpersonal relationship is limited to the familial experiences of the subjects. Different types of family relationships have been studied. They are as under:

   i) Relationship between the parents - as perceived by the respondents.
   ii) Relationship of respondents with their parents.
   iii) Relationship of respondents with their siblings.
   iv) Mutual acceptance of parents and child, and
   v) Democratic Vs. authoritarian attitude of parents as perceived by the respondents.

3) **Family background**: This term includes whether the family has normal or psychopathogenic background. Psychopathogenic background considers a) the criminality in the family, b) the abnormality in the family, and c) the disruption in the family including suicide, loss of parent, divorce, chronic illness, etc.

3.4 **Descriptions of Instruments used**:

   As mentioned earlier, different tools were used to collect the data. They consist of specific procedures by which the researcher gathers and orders his data prior to their statistical manipulation. Use of such tools makes a study more objective and frees it from personal biases and
projudices. It is better to know about the tools used in the present study in detail. We shall discuss them one by one.

3.4.1 **Questionnaire**

It is a device for securing answers to questions which are asked and filled in by the researcher in a face-to-face situation. This tool is useful to elicit the information which cannot be collected through standardized psychological instruments. Researcher can collect the information on the psycho-social aspects of the respondents he intends to study by using this tool. For example, in the present study the information is collected about the basic variables like age, sex, occupation, education, economic status, size of the family. Besides this much information was collected about the criminality and abnormality in the family as well the factors responsible for family disruption. The details of the questionnaire are given in **appendix-A**.

3.4.2 **Personality inventory**

The personality inventory constructed by T.E. Shanmugam was used. This inventory is in English and consists of 100 items. The reliability of this inventory was found by different methods like test-retest method, split-half method and Kuder's method of rational equivalence. The
reliability coefficients for the stated different methods were respectively +.99 with 't' value of 101.9; +.92 with a 't' value of 126.9 and +.94 with a 't' value of 134. The validity of this inventory was measured by scores obtained from the delinquents and criminals. It was found to be satisfactory in assessing general conditions of emotional instability in the individuals.

The said test was translated into Marathi for the present research work. The test-retest reliability with a sample of 100 and with a gap of two months was found to be 0.71. For validity it was administered to delinquent boys. It was found that Marathi version could measure the emotional instability among delinquents and non-delinquents.

3.4.3 Test of Parental cordial relations:

This test, constructed by Prof. V.V. Jogawar, was used to measure cordiality between parents as perceived by the delinquents or non-delinquents. The test is in Marathi version and was standardized on Maharashtrian sample. This test covers the dimensions like parental respect for each other, parental habits and conflicts, trust, general adjustment, dominance-submission and cooperation.
The test-retest reliability is 0.78. The validity coefficient using children's direct rating as external criterion is 0.28.

3.4.4 Test of Acceptance of the child by the parents and test of Acceptance of the parents by the child:

This test, constructed by Prof. V.V. Jogawar, is in simple Marathi and was standardized on Maharashtrian sample. The test measures the perception about the mutual acceptance between parents and the child. There are separate response blanks for father and mother. These scales yield independent scores for father and mother. The test-retest reliabilities of the scales are .75 and .73 respectively. The content validity of these two scales is quite satisfactory. The coefficient of validity using children's ratings as external criteria is 0.32 for each scale.

3.4.5 Sibling Relationship Scale:

This scale was used by Mrs. Wadkar in her Ph.D. work. It measures the relationship between the respondent and his siblings. It covers the dimensions like love, cooperation and trust. All items are in simple Marathi in a statement form and in first person. The items cover simple activities like play and also complex feelings like hostility. This
scale measures the degree of mutual relationship between siblings. The test-retest reliability of this test was found out and it was 0.71.

3.4.6. **Test of Democratic Attitudes of the parents:**

This test, constructed by Prof. V.V. Jogawar, measures the dimensions like freedom of expression and of dress fashion, perceived discipline, punishment, excessive attention and respect for child's views. It is in simple Marathi and was constructed for pupils in Maharashtra. It yields separate scores for father and mother.

The test-retest reliability of this test is 0.74. The content validity was established. The coefficient of validity by using childrens' direct rating as external criterion is 0.26.

3.5. **Statistical analysis:**

Both the groups were compared statistically on three variables, namely, personality pattern (emotional instability) family background and interpersonal relationships. Statistical significance was also found out between boys and girls included in both the groups. Likewise effect of variables in causing delinquency was measured singly as well as jointly.
3.6. **Summary:**

In this chapter mention has been made of sample, hypotheses, tools and basic terms. This chapter gives us the direction of the present research as to who were the respondents and how the data was collected.