SYNOPSIS
INTRODUCTION:

The problem of truancy is one of the important concerns among the public school authorities. It has become more acute in the urban area and especially in industrialized societies. Recently it has attracted the attention of social scientists and educationists. In the thesis the investigator has humbly attempted to study scientifically and systematically the problem of truancy, as it exists in the public-schools of the city of Ahmedabad.

PROBLEM:

The main problem of the present investigation is the psychological study of some factors associated with truancy among the school going children. It is a comparative study of truants and non-truants.

PLAN AND PROCEDURE:

The basic approach to the analysis of any persistent behaviour consists in the exploration of the forces and circumstances that are responsible for it. Any such behaviour has its origin in multiplicity of causes which are often interwoven and confused. But still there may be some elements which may be either exaggerating or precipitating the result in a particular way. In order
to understand its manifold aspects, comparison is a fundamental method. In the present study a group of truants has been compared with non-truants and their similarities and differences have been investigated here. In view of this the investigator has used two matched groups design, and thereby tried to introduce experimental control by keeping some variables such as sex, age, intelligence and economic conditions constant for both the groups viz, truants and non-truants.

SAMPLE:

In this investigation two groups viz, truants and non-truants which are known as experimental and control groups respectively. Each group consisted of 200 children of both the sexes. The subjects for both the groups came from several mixed sex primary schools run by Municipal Corporation and located in different parts of the city of Ahmedabad. Members of both the groups were selected on the basis of rating by teachers and monitors and the school records.

DATA:

Data for both the groups were obtained from the school records, teachers, parents or guardians and by
interviewing the child. For checking the validity of the data collected almost all the available and possible sources were made use of.

First the records of 200 truants and of about 400 truants were prepared with respect to matching variables. Then an attempt was made to match as many as possible from the 400 non-truants with truants, on the basis of sex, age, intelligence and economic conditions of the family.

For collecting all the data, information sheets were used. They included several items, which were thought to influence the truant behaviour in the school. The list of items such as interest, intelligence, birth order, use of leisure time, personality adjustment, total number of siblings, sibling relationship, parental education and occupation, parental attitudes, the nature of psychological and physical conditions in the home, attitude towards the school, participation in school activities, etc. was prepared on the basis of opinions taken from the experts in the field such as teachers, social workers and the inspectors of the schools.

Some of these items were also modified on the basis of experience gained during the interview by the present investigator.
The items were conveniently classified into following four categories:

(a) Items concerning the child,
(b) Items concerning the schools,
(c) Items concerning the parents and the siblings, and
(d) Items concerning the home.

The investigator has also used personality inventory to study general and specific adjustment as well as check-list regarding misbehaviour manifestations of both the groups.

Data pertaining to both truants and non-truants was collected for items included in the above mentioned categories.

**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:**

After collecting the date for both the groups separately, frequency of the incidence of a particular factor among the truants was compared with that of the non-truants and differences were found out. The 't' test was used largely in dealing with quantitative data. Where qualitative data was involved the investigator used the chi-square test.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Factors found statistically significant in each category are then analysed and correlationally discussed fully in the main thesis.