CHAPTER V

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In human development appropriate and socially approved behavior has special
significance. Development of socially accepted behavior among the children is the primary
aim of family, society, and culture. Every society has its own norms of behavior; if the
behavior of child is in accordance with the norms of the society; then it is believed to be a
socially approved behavior. Deviation from the norms in the behavior is not appreciated, and
if the behavior of the child is harmful to the society, it is termed as antisocial behavior.
Several researchers had brought out importance of several factors which contribute to the
development of antisocial behavior among the children. However, most of the causes put forth
by the researchers are sociological in nature. The reason is clear, juvenile delinquency has
been extensively studied by the sociologists and hence it is natural for them to propose that JD
is the result of several sociological factors. In present study social and psychological
approaches were adopted; but the emphasis was given on a good number of psychological
factors or variables.

In present study four different groups were treated. They were juvenile delinquent
males (JDM); juvenile delinquent females (JDF); non juvenile delinquent males (NJDM); and
non juvenile delinquent females (NJDF). There is a common belief that JDs are coming from
such homes where the parental education is low; hence first the details about the parental
education of JDs and NJDs were considered. Surprisingly, the parental education of the four
groups of subjects was more or less similar. When poor parental education is considered as
one of the cause of delinquent behavior then the researchers think that because of poor
education the parents are not better employed and are poor and are poor socially, and
culturally also. They are poor, their living conditions are also bad, all these results in failure
on the part of the parents to develop socially approved behavioral characteristics. Often it is
observed that in many cases the children are encouraged to commit crime by poorly educated
parents for some immediate material gain. Once they are encouraged they perceive it as a
reward and the act is repeated. When the parents fail to understand the long term
consequences of minor crimes or the criminal behavior which can be ignored easily it helps in developing delinquent behavior among the children.

In fact the children are more associated to the mothers so it is mother who is responsible for shaping the behavior of the child to a considerably great extent. Hence, the mother's education was also taken into consideration and it was found that mothers of the subjects in the NJDs groups were relatively more educated than the mothers of the subjects in the delinquent groups. Results of the study showed, that significantly large number of mothers, of the subjects who were non delinquents were more educated. In our country earlier the females were not allowed to study and for a very long time several communities were deprived of the opportunity of education. The result was, significantly large number of females remained uneducated or illiterate than males. In the absence of education the illiterate mothers are ignorant about many things. They develop learned helplessness. They find it difficult to decide what is good in the long run. There is absence of acculturation. Illiterate mothers find it difficult to keep control on their children, even when they knew that their children are developing antisocial behavior.

Because of poor education, absence of proper guidance, and poor financial conditions parents of such children are engaged in laborious professions. They have to work for a longer period, their nature of the work is hard, and above all for the work they are doing they are poorly paid. The nature of work is tiring, in such circumstances, these people develop drinking habits. In some of the communities which are socio economically backward, drinking is common that is why when the drinking habits among the fathers were found out, it was seen that in all the four classified groups the fathers of the subjects were found drinking wine everyday. There were a few exceptions but their number was less. Around 90% or more fathers of JDs and NJDs had the habit of drinking wine, after consuming wine, these people loose control over them and sometimes they themselves indulge in quarrels with others. The ultimate result is, the family atmosphere is spoiled and it has bad effect on the children. In such families the children are likely to be vagabond. When the fathers and in many cases mothers also consume wine, many of the activities of their children which are criminal in nature are ignored. When these are repeated again and again the criminal activities are
reinforced. Development of antisocial behavior among the children could be attributed to a considerable extent to the unhealthy atmosphere in the family. There are several families in which everyday the parents quarrel with each other. Among the poor families living in slum areas these are common phenomena; however, all the children of these families do not develop criminal behavior. Some children understand or grasp the situation properly and learn to tolerate the consequences of quarrels between their parents. Some children fail to develop the necessary tolerance and rebel against the everyday phenomenon. In present study, in all the four groups, it was found that most of the parents were quarreling with each other either daily or very oftenly. However, the percentages of parents quarreling everyday was little less among the non delinquent groups than among the delinquents groups.

Children at young age first imitate their parents. When the youngsters formed their peer groups then their role models change. At this age the stories of bravery and in which something different is mentioned attract the children most, so their role models change. They develop the desire of doing something different from what the member of their peer groups do. This is the age in which the children do not get the treatment of a child in the home and neither they are accepted by the adolescents; because of such conflicts there is every possibility that the children are likely to be attracted towards the delinquents or criminals living in the vicinity. In present study when the Ss were asked about any JD or criminal living near their homes then it was found that there were a few respondents who reported that either the delinquents or the criminals were living in their neighborhood. Compared to them there were very few non delinquent respondents in whose neighborhood there were criminals or delinquents. It indicates that every child or most children they do not imitate the behavior of criminals or the delinquents. Generally, those children who are neglected by the parents and who feel themselves insecure, because of other members of their age groups, they are likely to take the help of such antisocial elements for securing protection and gradually develop delinquent behavior. It has been observed that most of the delinquents were member of the one or the other gang. In the remand homes when the children were asked, is this their first crime? many reported that it is their first crime which they had committed. Often this crime is not committed with predetermined intention sometimes that behavior is a kind of fun for them but for that they were punished by the judicial, magistrate. According to the nature
of the crime the children are admitted in the remand homes for a specific duration. Often it has been observed that even though the child has committed a petty crime and he was admitted in the remand home perception of society toward him changes. It creates lot of troubles in his adjustment and rehabilitation in the society. As a result the child might rebel against the society and thus commit another crime. Hence psychologists often suggest that there is a need of changing the attitude of people towards the crimes and criminals. Details about the duration of stay in remand home were collected. It was found that some were staying since the last 6 months; some were staying in remand home for a longer period or even more than two yrs. Unfortunately for the proper rehabilitation of the JDs there are no such long term planning; the JDs have become a kind of neglected society. The probable reason might be, majority of JDs who are admitted in the remand homes belong to lower level of society and it's a long tradition that this vast majority of people intentionally or unintentionally are neglected in Indian society. In present study there was not a single child admitted in the remand home who belong to the higher SES in the society.

Children in the families up to certain age, sometimes exhibit unusual behavior, such behavior is not attained seriously and many times such unusual behaviour of the children is ignored purposefully. This kind of behavior remains unobstructed, still after a particular age the children hesitate to commit the same delinquent behavior. In most of the cases of the JDs some one other is responsible for motivating the delinquents to behave in the specific manner. The children who are more suggestible, they commit the crime easily when other suggest them to do so and often it happens in case of those who are poorly educated. In fact it was believed that educational status and delinquent behavior are associated to each other. In order to examine this, the educational qualification of the subjects was taken into consideration. It was found that relatively a large number of illiterates were there in the JD groups. On the other hand, those who have studied up to 8th standard or up to S.S.C. their number was significantly large among the NJDs. From these results it is clear that educational standard and delinquent behavior are associated to each other. However, there are two opinions among the researchers regarding this point. They believe that those who are poorly educated they commit crime unintelligently and that is why they are caught easily and labeled as JDs. Those who are more educated they also commit crimes however they commit crimes intelligently

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and hence they are not caught. WHATSOEVER, the case might be the nature of the society is such, that visiting a hair cutting shop is treated as lower grade where as for the same purpose visiting the beauty parlor is a matter of respect in the society.

Even though many children develop antisocial behavior and delinquent behavior they are not caught by police. Secondly labeling the behavior of the child as antisocial depends on the reference groups or the family background of the child and hence some of the individuals are seen in the reformatory while the others are not labeled as delinquents. Mostly two categories of crimes for which the children were caught and placed in house for JDs, they were theft and running away from home. Infact, there are two common crimes that are observed at this age. Children at this age are tempted for stealing what they do not have. Many a times they are allured by fantastic world outside their home. Restrictions from their parents are disliked by the children and hence they run away from the homes. Running away from home is more common among both boys as well as girls. Sometimes even the innocent children are placed in the homes for JDs, these are the children who are lost in fairs and public places and their parents could not be traced out. Sometimes due to poverty and frustration the parents themselves leave their children. Such children are caught by the police and kept in such homes.

Most of the JDs were from rural areas or small towns and those who were from the urban areas they were the residents of slum areas of the cities. Either absence of formal education or poor education make their field limited. They do not develop any other skills, and the result is; they are good for menial jobs only. Often they waste their time in roaming, gossiping, or watching the people gambling or doing other activities. Since, there is no meaningful work their empty mind becomes devils workshops, and they indulge in antisocial activities. Among the total sample of the study approximately 50% were going to school before they were admitted in the home for JDs, some of them were helping their father; and female delinquents reported that they were assisting their mothers in the household activities. Generally, at young age when the children are kept busy in studies and some good hobbies are developed or their energies are utilized for playing games and developing skills; such children are less likely to develop delinquent activities or delinquent tendencies. In fact at this age the
children need proper guidance and counseling's however, such provisions are not there especially in the slum as well as in the rural areas.

Self concepts of the juvenile as well as non juvenile groups were measured. The first self concept was physical self concept. It was hypothesized that physical self concept of NJDs is significantly better than the JDs. Also the females have significantly better physical self concept than the males. It was bound to be, the reasons are simple the JDs don’t care about their physical appearance as they become victims of varied types of anxieties. Whosoever commits crimes anxiety is most likely to occur and then these children are engrossed in the anxiety. Once they are successful in committing a crime and they remain uncaught then they get courage to repeat the time. Those who are non delinquents they have to appear in socially approved manner both physically as well as psychologically. Females are more aware about their physical appearance and are generally more conscious about it, hence in general, the physical appearance of the females is generally better than that of the males.

In case of social self concept also it was hypothesized that the non delinquent females have significantly better social self concept than the JD males. Result supported these hypotheses very strongly. Since the JDs are indulged in antisocial activities it is difficult for them to develop superior social self concept. On the contrary the NJD’s behavior is well in accordance with the social norms and hence their S.S.C. is likely to be superior. Despite the fact that in the society, the prime position is that of men but it is expected that all the social rules must be observed by the females. Naturally, the behavior of the females is more in accordance with the social norms and requirements, whereas the males don’t follow the social bindings on them. In the present study the females had significantly better social self concept than the males.

The third type of self concept was intellectual self concept. Since long in Indian society the intellectual field was believed to be the domain of males even though the females are doing much better job in intellectual fields also. Still it is believed that the males are superior to females in intellectual activities. One of the hypothesis of the study was; intellectual self concept is significantly better among the NJDs and males than among the JDs
and females. This hypothesis got partial support in present study. The NJDs had significantly better intellectual self concept than the JDs. However, males and females had more or less similar intellectual self concept. This could be attributed to the changing patterns observed among the females.

In present study moral self concept was also measured. The activities in which the JDs are involved, they are treated as immoral activities and hence it was assumed that the moral self concept of the NJDs is significantly better than that of JDs. Secondly morality is expected more from the females than from the males and hence it was assumed that moral self concept among the females is significantly better than that of the males. Results of the study showed that NJDs had significantly better moral self concept than the JDs. Similarly the females had significantly better moral self concept than the males. The NJDs preferred to behave in socially approved manner and try to develop moral behavior among them. Morality is respected in the society and those who behave in a socially approved manner they prefer to cherish moral behavior. The JDs keep themselves away from the moral activities. Obviously, their moral self concept was likely to be poor; in case of females immorality might cause several difficulties among them. Hence in all the societies' morality is cherished more by the females than by the males. In present study also moral self concept of the female was significantly better than of that the males.

Among the JDs emotional disturbances are common phenomenon. Such temper tantrums are seen among the normal individuals also. However, there frequency or occurrences are less where as among the JDs such temper tantrum are likely to be more frequent. When the emotional self concept of the four classified groups of subjects was examined it was found that the NJDs had significantly better emotional self concept than the JDs it is natural also. Often because the socialization of JDs do not take place properly. Up and downs in their emotions are seen more frequently. They find it difficult to keep control on their emotions. On the other hand, in case of NJDs they are purposely taught to keep control on their emotions. In other words, the NJDs develop emotional stability which helps in developing superior emotional self concept. On the other hand, the JDs are likely to be affected by emotionally, due to which they develop poor emotional self concept.
In the society the females are always taught and often forced to keep control on their emotions. Such controls are relatively less on the males. It was hypothesized that the females have significantly better emotional self concept than the males, and this hypothesis got very strong support from the results of present study.

The last type of self concept measured in the study was aesthetic self concept. It is a universal phenomenon that the females have better aesthetic self concept than the males. Hence it was assumed that the NJD females have significantly better aesthetic self concept than the males. This hypothesis was strongly supported by the result of the study. The NJDs are taught to keep the things neatly by their parents. They are taught all these things and if they obey they are rewarded. In other words, through this aesthetic sense is developed by the NJDs groups. JDs are such children who do not like to carry out the work orderly and they prefer to be disorderly without obeying in the elders. Similarly, the females are expected to keep things in order, such restrictions are there on the males also. However, it is a common observation that the disorderly kept things are being put in order by the females in the home. So to some extent by nature and to some extent by social and cultural bindings aesthetic sense is developed better by the females than the males. In present study the NJDs and the females had shown significantly better aesthetic self concept than the JDs and the males.

An important factor that was measured with the help of a standardized scale was the sense of security. It was hypothesized that sense of security is significantly more among the NJDs than among the JDs. Secondly, it was assumed that sense of security is significantly more among males than the females. Both these hypothesis got very strong support. The reasons are simple behavior of the JDs is not in accordance with the norms of the society, their behavior is not appreciated by the family members and not even by the society. Sometimes they are punished by the elderly members in the family for their erroneous behavior. So often committing the crimes or indulging in antisocial activities the JDs are experiencing the sense of insecurity. It is this sense of insecurity among the JDs which directly or indirectly instigate them to commit the crime. The NJDs on the other hand, are
secured they get love, affection from the family members and from the members of society. Hence they are encouraged to behave in socially approved manner.

Sense of insecurity among the females is a common characteristic, because of physiological built up and social and cultural teachings the females develop sense of insecurity. Since long the females were ruled by the males and in India even today it persists, the females depend upon the males. This dependency is mainly responsible for developing sense of insecurity among females.

Satisfactory or successful adjustment in home and society is necessary for the normal development of an individual. In present study degree of adjustment of the four classified groups was measured. It was observed that the male and female non delinquents were much better adjusted, where as compared to them the delinquents were poorly adjusted. One of the hypothesis was, the non delinquents are significantly better adjusted than the delinquents. Since the statistical analysis showed that regarding adjustment the delinquents and non delinquents differed significantly from each other, the hypothesis was retained. Degree of adjustment generally depends upon the way parents had given training to their children. In general, the family atmosphere of the juvenile delinquents is not congenial; secondly either the parents do not have time to look after their children properly or the children are neglected by their parents. The ultimate result is, first the children develop disobedience and later on they become adamant. They develop a kind of hatred towards the society. In case of the NJDs the opposite characteristics are developed. They try to be obedient and respect the elderly persons in the family and society also. The NJDs are afraid of the social punishment and they try to maintain the status of respect of their family. Probably because of similar such reasons the degree of adjustment among the delinquents and non delinquents was found to be significantly different.

Anxiety is a common feature among the JDs. In fact anxiety is common among the people. Everyone has one or other kind of anxiety. However, people differ in the severity of anxiety. Even though the JDs pose that they are not afraid of anything this is their overt behavior, intrinsically they are afraid of many things. Often they realize that most of their
activities are not approved by the society but they find it difficult to keep control on their behavior. In fact what they cannot gain through legal means, they use illegal means for getting their desires fulfilled. In present study it was hypothesized that anxiety is significantly more among the JDs than among the NJDs. This hypothesis got very strong support. The non delinquents, if their desires are not fulfilled they try to satisfy themselves saying that it was their bad luck or after sometimes their desires can be fulfilled. They do not dare to use socially unapproved techniques of fulfilling the desires. The JDs on the other hand, either by socially approved or socially disapproved means fulfill their desires. In other words the JDs cannot resist their needs; however, when they fulfill their desires by socially disapproved means then they definitely experience anxiety. On the other hand, since the juvenile non delinquents are taught to keep controls on their desires anxiety is generally less among them. Similarly anxiety is seen among the girls than the boys. It is generally so because the social restrictions are more among the girls than the boys. Fear factor is imbibed more among the girls than among the boys. Naturally the females have significantly more anxiety than the males.

When the factor of delinquency was kept constant and the sex differences were examined then also it was found that with regards to the factor of anxiety the sex differences were highly significant. Among the females, the anxiety was found to be significantly more. These results definitely support the assumption of the study and the reasons are simple; more anxiety among the females could be easily attributed to the ageold, cultural, and social system predominant in India. To some extent it could be attributed to the physiological factors. Naturally the females are physically weak than the males. This weakness either directly or indirectly might be responsible for developing more anxiety among the females.

 Neuroticism is a very common phenomenon to some extent neurotic behavior is observed in most people. However, neuroticism was believed to be more among the JDs than the NJDs. Results of the present study also showed significantly more neurotic characteristics among the delinquent subjects of the study than the non delinquent subjects. Neurotic behavior is a relative term. Its criterion differs from culture to culture and sometimes even from society to society. In fact JDs disobey the norms of society and also of the family. To a
considerable extent their such behavior is a kind of deviant behavior. Going against the norms of the society disobeying the teachings of elderly persons are in one or the other way associated to neurotic behavior. However, the neurotic behavior that is considered in clinical psychology is relatively different from the socially approved behavior among the delinquents. The non delinquents obey the elderly persons, in the society they follow the norms of the society, and behave in accordance with the socially approved behavior.

Regarding neuroticism more significant sex differences were observed. Because the delinquents behavior is deviant from the socially approved behavior they are generally admitted in the schools for behavior modification.

Results of the study discussed so far clearly indicate that to a great extent the problem of JDs is psychological. Self concept of the JDs is distorted. They generally develop the sense of insecurity and find it difficult to adjust satisfactorily in the family and society. Compared to the non delinquents the delinquents experience more anxiety and even the neurotic behavior is relatively more predominant among them. It is necessary that the psychologists should make use of their techniques to reform them and bring them into the main stream of the society.