CHAPTER VI

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Human development from the stage of infancy to the adulthood is not a smooth sailing process. One has to encounter a number of developmental task characteristic of each stage, the successful accomplishment of which enables one to ascend and reach higher levels of maturity. Several agencies such as home, school, and community assist growth process. To assist the development of ego parents prescribe certain codes of conduct, the violation of which is frowned upon. Gradually the individual learns to incorporate within his self a series of Do’s and Doesn’t this is equivalent to the formation of conscience, which in Freudian terminology is called the superego. While the id always operates on the pleasure principles, the ego is governed by the reality principles, superego checks the impulses of id, thereby acting as conscience people. With this background delinquent behavior could be considered. Delinquency is an expression of aggression in socially non acceptable ways. It is a kind of rebellion against the established social order. Society can function smoothly only when all members conform to the codes of conduct written as well as unwritten. During the period of adolescence some individuals tend to view rules and regulations as an encroachment upon their freedom and liberty. They are prone to react violently, unmindful of the consequences of their actions. JDs are young offenders, usually in their late teens, who be sent to a reformatory school for education and rehabilitation.

JD is regarded as serious social problem in many countries. Delinquency is found in all nations and is particularly widespread in highly industrialised nations that have large cities. It is believed that a third or more of those boys living in slum areas of large cities may appear in juvenile court atleast ones. Girls are becoming increasingly involved in JD. Today about one of the every five youngsters appearing in juvenile court in western countries is a girl. Delinquent behavior is prohibited by law and is carried out by youth approximately up to age of 18. The exact lower and upper age limit of JDs differ from country to country and even from state to state, but age 10 has been recommended by experts as most logical cut of point for children who are old enough to understand that their behavior is wrong. In Unites States
the upper age limit is 16, in four jurisdictions, seventeen, in eight eighteen and in thirty nine. In India however, the upper age limit is 18 yrs in all states.

Defining delinquency is a difficult task. In legal terms delinquent's behavior is that behavior which is prohibited by law and it is carried out by youth approximately up to the age of 18. There is a wide range of juvenile behavior which in one culture is crime while in another culture it is not, that is why notions about what behavior should be defined as delinquency are not set unchanging, and in fact are frequently questioned. Everybody agrees that delinquency has something to do with misbehavior but not all misbehavior is delinquent, even when it might be considered inappropriate behavior for the age of the individual. Both the quality of the behavior and degree of the social deviance are factors in judging an act delinquent or psychopathological; on the other hand, in ordinary parlance JD refers to the failure of children to meet certain obligations expected of them by the society in which they live. JD refers to the antisocial acts of children and of young people under age. Such acts are specifically forbidden by law or may be lawfully interpreted as constituting delinquency or as requiring some form of official action. It means deviations from normal behavior.

In search of the causes of the delinquency several studies were carried out. Most of these studies were focused on family relationship or on neighbourhood or community conditions. The results of these investigations have shown that it is doubtful that any child becomes a delinquent for any single reason. Many people accept without question that the family is a major influence on the phenomenon of delinquency. What happens in the family is believed to have great impact on how children behave in other social institutions and on whether they become normal or delinquent.

Views expressed by psychologists are mainly concerned with variables that relate to early childhood experiences which influence the formation of the personality or learning of behavior. Psychologists who traced personality development feel that much early emotional deprivation is directly associated with, and related to later psychological disturbances and emotional problems. The greater the deprivation, the greater the emotional insecurity and therefore the greater the chance of emotional problems or deviant behavior. Psychologists
who traced learning feel that the inappropriate use of rewards and punishments, and the absence of models for appropriate behavior can result in the learning of delinquent behavior. Children who are not adequately trained and who do not have warm and caring models are most likely to become delinquent. The early life experiences of the child in the family lay the groundwork for the type of feature behavior and the development of attitudes, value, and a life style. Parental hostility, rejection, inconsistency can contribute to delinquent behavior. The family is backdrop in which the child learns to deal with emotions and drives and to handle problem in socially accepted manner. When the family doesn’t help the youngster to adjust to the environment, he/she looses the most important means of psychological supports and most effective agent for socialization. Thus individual variables such as motivation, drive, values, needs, self concept, sense of insecurity, anxiety etc have extreme importance in developing delinquent behavior.

Poverty is regarded by many as one of the great social problem of society. Poverty is usually thought of as condition of living, in which a person and the family because of either inadequate income or unwise expenditure of the available income are unable to maintain a minimum standard of living. That is why they cannot provide for the physical necessities of life and consequently they are not able to function of which they are a part. Such conditions of the family might develop delinquency among the children. Researchers believed that since peer association is a critical factor during adolescence, influence of peer group on the JD is remarkable. This brief description suggests that JD is a product of more than one factor.

Aim of Study:

Main aim of the study was to collect the brief case history of JD and search the common factors observed among them. In addition to this, to measure the anxiety, neuroticism, security, adjustment, and different kinds of self concepts of JD and non JD, and search whether they differ significantly from each other on different psychological measures.
Objectives of Study:

The study was carried out to fulfill the requirements of following objectives:

➢ To collect a brief case history of JD and search the common factors that are responsible for their delinquent behavior.
➢ To measure the anxiety of JD and non juvenile delinquents and search whether they differ significantly, or not on anxiety measure.
➢ To measure the neuroticism of juvenile delinquent and non juvenile delinquents and search the extent to which they differ from each other.
➢ To assess the sense of security and sense of insecurity among the juvenile delinquents and non delinquents and find out who are having significantly more sense of insecurity.
➢ To measure the adjustment of the juvenile delinquents and non juvenile delinquents and search who are significantly more or better adjusted than the others.
➢ To measure the physical self concept of juvenile delinquents and non juvenile delinquents and find out whether they differ from each other significantly, or not.
➢ To measure social self concept of subjects and search whether the classified groups differ from each other significantly, or not.
➢ To study the intellectual self concept of juvenile delinquents and non juvenile delinquents and find out the extent to which they differ from each other.
➢ To assess the moral self concept of the subjects and search whether they differ significantly from each other, or not.
➢ To study the emotional self concept of the subject and examine whether the specified groups differ from each other significantly, or not.
➢ To measure the aesthetic self concept of the subjects and search the extent to which the classified groups differ from each other.
Hypotheses of the Study:

In the present study following hypotheses were framed and tested for whether they should be retained or they should be rejected:

- The juvenile delinquents have pathetic case history where as the non juvenile delinquents subjects have non pathetic or normal background.
- Anxiety is significantly more among the juvenile delinquents than non juvenile delinquents; anxiety is significantly more among the females than the males.
- Neurotic behavioral characteristics are significantly more predominant among the juvenile delinquents than among the non delinquents. Sex differences are not significant with regards to neuroticism.
- Juvenile delinquents have significantly more insecurity than the non juvenile delinquents. Females have significantly more insecurity than the males.
- Non juvenile delinquents and the females are significantly better adjusted than the juvenile delinquents and the males.
- Physical self concept is significantly better among the non juvenile delinquents than among the juvenile delinquents. Female subjects have significantly better physical self concept than the males.
- Social self concept of non juvenile delinquents is significantly better than juvenile delinquents. Female subjects have significantly better social self concept than the males.
- Intellectual self concept of non juvenile delinquents is significantly better than that of the juvenile delinquents.
- Males have significantly better intellectual self concept than the females.
- Non juvenile delinquents have significantly better moral self concept than the juvenile delinquents. Females have significantly better moral self concept than the males.
Emotional self concept of non juvenile delinquents is significantly better than that of juvenile delinquents. Females have significantly better emotional self concept than the males.

Non juvenile delinquents have significantly better aesthetic self concept than that of juvenile delinquents. Females have significantly better aesthetic self concept than the males.

Sample of the study was selected from four different places namely; Nagpur, Amaravati, Yawatmal, and Buldana. Those subjects or those JDs who were above the age of 13 yrs were selected by using purposive sampling technique. The total sample of the JDs comprised of 186 subjects, of which 93 were girls and 93 were boys, equal number of non delinquent subjects were selected for using purposive sampling technique, from the same four districts namely; Nagpur, Amaravati, Buldana, and Yawatmal. Thus, the total sample comprised of 372 subjects, of which 50% were girls and 50% were boys; among them 50% were JDs and 50% were NJDs. Age range of the subjects was 13 to 18 yrs and educational standard was 6 to 10.

For collecting the data following tools were used. A case history schedule was constructed specifically for the present study. In fact two little different case history schedules one for the JDs and other for the NJDs were devised. With the help of this brief case history schedules the case history of the subjects were collected.

An Anxiety Scale developed and standardized by Cattell was used to measure the anxiety among the subjects.

Adjustment Inventory constructed and standardized by Asthana was used for measuring general adjustment among the subjects of the study.

A Self Evaluation Scale devised and standardized by Bena Awasthi was used for measuring 6 different types of self concepts.
Kundu’s neurotic personality inventory which was constructed by Ramanath Kundu was used for measuring neuroticism among the subjects.

First the case history of the JDs were collected partly from the official record and partly through the case history schedule. However, in case of the NJDs the brief case history was collected through the case history schedule only. Directly the subjects were interviewed and the information was sought. The other scales were also administered on the subjects either individually or on small group of subjects. There were a few respondents who preferred writing the responses themselves, to such respondents copies of the scale were given and the filled copies were collected from them.

For analyzing the data both descriptive as well as inferential approaches were used. Case histories of the subjects were described and the communality of the responses were denoted by the percentages. For analyzing the data collected through the scales the inferential approach was used and for this purpose a 2x2 factorial design was framed, in which the subjects were classified as JDs and NJDs as well as males and females. These data were first treated by means and SDs and later on two way ANOVA was used. Earlier, responses given to some of the items in the case history schedule were treated by percentages and \( \chi^2 \) test of significance. On the basis of the results of study following conclusions were drawn:

- Father’s education and JD were not associated to each other. However, mother’s education and JD were associated. Significantly large number of mothers of JD were either poorly educated or they were illiterate than the mothers of NJDs.
- Drinking habits among the fathers of JDs and NJDs was more or less similar.
- Physical punishment from the parents was received by significantly large number of JDs than the NJDs.
- Quarrels in the families of JDs and NJDs were very common. No significant difference was observed.
- Physical punishment was found strongly associated to JDs, most of the JDs reported that their parents were beating them severely
Presence of criminals or JDs in the vicinity was found influencing the behavior of children; however, no such significant influence was observed.

Often the delinquents functioned in gangs. However, in present study significantly large number of JDM were member of one or the other gang of delinquents but very few female delinquents were members of any gangs.

Duration of stay in the “home for JDs” varies according to nature of the crime committed by juveniles. In present study very few juveniles were found staying in the “home for JDs” for a longer period.

Significant differences were observed between the JDs and NJDs with regards to their educational standard. NJDs were significantly more educated than the JDs.

Surprisingly large number of JDs also expressed their desire of continuing education

Physical self concept was significantly better among the NJDs than the JDs. Also it was significantly better among the females than the males.

Social self concept was significantly better among the NJDs than the JDs. Females had significantly better social self concept than the males.

NJDs had significantly better intellectual self concept than JDs. No significant sex differences were observed with regards to intellectual self concept.

NJDs had significantly better moral self concept than the JDs. Females had exhibited significantly better moral self concept than the males.

Emotional self concept of NJDs was significantly better than that of the JDs. Female subjects had significantly better emotional self concept than the male subjects.

Aesthetic self concept was significantly better among the NJDs than the JDs. It was found significantly better among the females than the males.

Sense of insecurity was significantly more among the JDs than the NJDs. Among the females the sense of insecurity was significantly more than the males.

NJDs were significantly better adjusted than the JDs, degree of adjustment was more or less similar among the males as well as females.

Anxiety was seen significantly more among the JDs than the NJDs. Among the females the anxiety was significantly more than the males.

Neuroticism was seen significantly more among the JDs than the NJDs. No significant sex differences were observed regarding neuroticism.
Suggestions:

Considering the results of study following suggestions are made.

➢ JDs should be studied from psychological point of view and the etiological causes of JD should be traced out.

➢ There are several evidences that even though the family conditions and surroundings are similar only a few children develop delinquent behavioral characteristics and the major lot prefers to behave in a socially accepted manner. It indicates that there might some personality characteristics that are associated with the delinquent behavior, these characteristics should be explored through psychological studies.

➢ With globalization there are unbelievable changes observed in the behavior of young generation. They disregard the traditional values and behave in a different manner; there is a need to rethink about the concept of delinquent behavior because it is to be studied with changed context and references. Psychologists should take this task of studying the JDs from different perpectives.

Recommendations:

➢ Prevention is always better than cure. Hence there is need to bring in change in the attitudes of the society towards the child behavioral problem. Non government organization and government organization must function in collaboration with each other for brining the positive changes in the society.

➢ Delinquent behavior is often associated with poverty. It doesn’t mean that the children coming from higher socioeconomic background do not develop delinquent behavior. Unfortunately, for some type of behavior the children of lower socioeconomic background are punished immediately, whereas similar behavior of the children from higher socio economic strata is perceived as the behavior of immaturity, and they escape the punishments.
Not all the old traditions and the values are appropriate in the modern day's context. However, due to ignorance, illiteracy, and poor educational status among the lower socioeconomic stratum the old customs still persist. It is necessary to bring in radical changes among them. This task must be taken by various organizations on war-footing.