The child is born into this world equipped with certain inherited capacities, tendencies & traits of personality. During his growing period, parents invest their energy and resources for the development of these capacities in a desirable direction so that he can mould his personality as per social norms. But not all children and adolescents stick to norms and values, they deviate behaving as delinquents causing injury to self and the society. Juvenile delinquency has become a world-wide problem, no class, creed, colour or nation is free from it. This pervading problem stretches its octopus arms over developed countries like U.S.A., U.K, France to developing countries like India. Moffitt (1993) mentions that all children have proneness for delinquency, however, if proper guidance is provided to the individuals then their behaviour can be moulded in a socially acceptable way else they may become deviant.

Hence, there is a strong need for critical examination of those traits which are positively related to delinquent behaviour. Further since prevention is better than cure, the root cause of delinquent behaviour should be studied. The present study is an effort to investigate the personality traits of children during formative years of their life and also to examine associated interest-patterns of young children.
Numerous studies have found delinquent behaviour to be related to biogenic, psychogenic and sociogenic causes but the delinquent behaviour during formative years i.e. 9-12 years have not been touched upon. Hence, the present study has been undertaken with a view to study the personality traits and interest-patterns of the delinquent and non-delinquent children.

The study has been divided into six chapters. In the first chapter the concept, measurement and theories of delinquency have been explained. The second chapter reviews the relevant studies. The third chapter elaborates the problems and their related hypotheses. The method adopted in the present study has been discussed in the fourth chapter. The fifth chapter deals with result and discussions, which reveal that there are certain personality traits, such as, aggression, excitability, emotional instability, guilt-proneness, tension and frustration etc. that are highly related to delinquent behaviour. Similarly, delinquent behaviour has been found to be related to certain interest-patterns also, such as, sports, crafts, outdoor activities and agriculture.

On the basis of above findings, the parents and social workers are advised to identify the critical personality traits, as highlighted above in the children and take remedial measures as deemed fit to avert further deterioration and thus slam the gateways for delinquency shut. Likewise the interest-patterns should also be identified in the delinquent children to facilitate channelisation of negative traits of personality to reap out the best of their abilities.
The sixth chapter gives a brief summary of the present study. It is hoped that the identification of traits associated with delinquency at an early age would provide guidelines to parents and social workers in minimizing delinquency. Similarly after knowing the interest-patterns of young children, their behaviour can be moulded in desirable direction, thus reducing delinquency to much extent.

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