Antisocial behaviour is any behaviour that causes or is likely to cause alarm, harrassment, or distress to any person. Antisocial behaviour is an issue of major concern to parents, teachers, police and governments and is a significant cost to the community. A large and varied set of behaviours, ranging from quite serious to relatively minor acts are
commonly included in definitions of antisocial behaviour. The behaviours range from criminal acts to socially unacceptable behaviours. Greater understanding of the course and causes of antisocial behaviour can inform early intervention and prevention efforts. Antisocial behaviour in individuals is of great interest to the mental health professionals and social scientists both because of the disruptions, it causes in families, schools and communities.

A large and varied set of behaviours, ranging from quite serious to relatively minor acts, are commonly included in definitions of antisocial behaviour (Elliot & Ageton 1980; Mak 1993). ASB is behaviour that lacks consideration from others and may cause damage to the society, whether intentionally or through negligence. This is opposite to prosocial behaviour which helps or benefits the society. Anti-social behaviour is labelled as such when it is deemed contrary to prevailing norms for social contacts. This encompasses a large spectrum of actions. A wide variety of other activities are deemed antisocial behaviours. Antisocial behaviour is an issue of major concern to parents. Teachers, police and governments and is significant cost to the community.

Based on the literature on personality variables and anti-social and pro-social behaviour, and the results obtained from different studies (Goma, Perez & Torrubia 1988; Goma & Puyane 1991; Goma 1991), it was concluded that there is a personality profile of Ss engaged in high physical risk activities. In general, the studies conducted under the lights of the Eysenck’s dimensionial theory of personality (Eysenck 1977; Eysenck & Eysenck 1985), it may be predicted that people committed crime and have been incarcerated should have high scores on E,P and N.
Antisocials are normally characterized as aggressive, hostile, criminal, unstable, anti-authority, immature, mentally defective, poor in perseverance, less dependable, low in goal striving, inconsistent, possessing neurotic and psychotic dispositions, having feeling of guilt, in security, inferiority, and rejection. All of these, however, cannot be subjected to scientific and systematic investigation at a time. The present study is designed to investigate the relationships between antisocial behaviour, personality and socioeconomic status. The behaviour of antisocials was studied with the help of various psychological instruments purport to measure personality dimensions in terms of Eysenck’s dimension of Psychoticism, Neuroticism, Extraversion-Intraversion along with Socio-economic Status.

In view of the above mentioned earlier work, it can be argued upon that the present systematic, well-organized and analyzed study of the antisocial respondents in relation to their personality variables and socio-economic status would yield fruitful results.

Research Problem

A study of the effects of SES and Personality on Antisocial behaviour.

Broad Objectives of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to investigate the ASB in relation to different dimensions of personality based on Eysenck’s Model of Personality and Socio-economic Status. This study will be made by administering several psychological instrument to understand the relationship between ASB, personality dimensions and SES.

Specific Objective of the Study

On the basis of the findings of the previous researches and existing theories, it may be hypothesized that variables namely - personality dimension and socio-economic status
jointly related to antisocial behaviour. In order to test such a broad hypothesis, the present study is designed to attain the following objectives.

1. To study the personality correlates of antisocial respondents on different dimensions of personality based on Eysenck’s Model of Personality.

2. To study the functional relationship between socio-economic status and anti-social behaviour.

**Specific Research Questions**

Kerlinger (1969) has indicated that the best way to represent the research problem is to express them in question form between two or more variables (Kerlinger 1969). Investigator, thus, has tried to present the research problems in this study in the form of research questions, which are as follows.

1. Do the antisocial respondents differ in their scores on different personality dimensions based on Eysenck’s Model of Personality?

2. Whether there exists any significant difference in the scores of antisocial respondents as function of level of socio-economic status ?

**Hypotheses**

In the earlier sections, it has been elucidated that every individual reacts in his own unique way to a given situation depending upon his differential personality structuring, past experiences, perceptions and interpretation of the present phenomenological reality and his situational need hierarchy etc. It is also well accepted that neither all people have same frustrations in all or similar situations, nor is the magnitude or intensity same for all. Persons characterized by like traits or personality factor constellations are likely to perceive and react in much similar ways given situations. In short, personality characteristic appear
to have significant variability with the various types of behaviour patterns and problems of antisocial respondents. In order to clarify the issues and to pursue the distinct problems of antisocial respondents.

The main purpose was to study the difference in Normal and Antisocial respondents regarding certain personality dimension and socio-economic status. It was the expectation of the investigator that Normal and Antisocial respondents would differ significantly with regard to factors under investigation. More specifically, it was expected that the two samples will show a significant difference on the characteristics measured by the tests. Keeping in view the conceptual frame-work of this study, the following general hypotheses were formulated for empirical investigation.

1. The phenomenon of Antisocial Behaviour is a function of multiple factors.
2. There will be significant difference in the mean scores of Normal and Anti-social respondents on Psychoticism dimension of Eysenck’s Model of Personality.
3. There will be significant difference in the mean scores of Normal and Anti-social respondents on Extraversion dimension of Eysenck’s model of personality.
4. There will be significant difference in the mean scores of Normal and Anti-social respondents on Neuroticism dimension of Eysenck’s Model of Personality.
5. Respondents belonging to different groups- Normal and Antisocial will differ significantly on L-Scale.
6. Respondents belonging to different groups- Normal and Antisocial will differ significantly on SES Scale.

Variables Studied
Considering the literature, following model is presented as the research conceptual framework.

**Independent Variables**

(a) Type of respondents

(b) Socio-economic status

**Dependent Variable**

Scores on PEN Inventory.

**Terms Defined**

**Personality**

The term ‘personality’ is generally used to refer to stable characteristics of a person that make their behaviour consistent across situations (but many other definitions are possible, depending on the approach being taken). Hans Eysenck (1964) put forward a theory of criminal behaviour based on a very influential theory of personality, he had earlier devised and which he continued to develop throughout his career. Although this theory is usually referred to as a personality theory of offending, it is important to appreciate that Eysenck’s theory conceives of criminal behaviour as the outcome of interactions between processes occurring at several different levels of explanation.

Defining exactly what personality is, however, remains some what problematic. Some psychologists theorize that individual definitions are a reflection of the researcher’s bias rather than a true reflection of the construct (Allport 1937; Hall & Lindzey 1957; Murray 1938; Eysenck 1983). Infact, in the 1930s and 1940s, a time in which the study of personality was gaining prominence, one author recorded over 50 definitions of the construct (Allport 1937). However, for the purpose of this study, personality will be
defined as follows “the dynamic organization with in the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his (or her) unique adjustment to his (her) environments.” (Allport 1937 p. 48). Personality is seen as evolving and dynamic, determing actions: as every person is unique but also shares similar characteristics (Allport 1937).

One well developed theoretical model that takes into account a significant biological factor, temperament, is the bio-social personality theory of the British Psychologist Hans Eysenck (1977, 1997). Eysenck’s model is based on the interaction of three biological temperament source traits with socialization experiences and general intelligence (Eysenck 1997). Eysenck (1997) has identified three temperament traits - Psychoticism (P), Extraversion (E) and Neuroticism (N). Thus, PEN model proposed and advocated by Eysenck as the over arching paradigm of personality psychology.

**Psychoticism/Socialisation**

Psychoticism is associated not only with the liability to have a psychotic episode (or break with reality), but also with aggression. Psychotic behaviour is rooted in the characteristics of toughmindedness, non-conformity, inconsideration, recklessness, hostility, anger and impulsiveness. The physiological basis suggested by Eysenck for psychoticism is testosterone, with higher levels of psychoticism associated with higher levels of testosterone.

**Extraversion/Introversion**

Extraversion is characterized by being outgoing, talkative, high on positive affect (feeling good), and in need of external stimulation. According to Eysenck’s arousal theory of extraversion, there is an optimal level of cortical arousal, and performance deteriorates
as one becomes more or less aroused than this optimal level. Arousal can be measured by skin conductance, brain waves or sweating.

**Neuroticism/Stability**

Neuroticism or emotionality is characterized by high levels of negative affect such as depression and anxiety. Neuroticism, according to Eysenck’s theory, is based on activation thresholds in the sympathetic nervous system or visceral brain. This is the part of the brain that is responsible for the fight-or-flight response in the face of danger. Activation can be measured by heart rate, blood pressure, cold hands, sweating and muscular tension. (especially in the forehead).

**Socio-economic Status**

Generally speaking social status is determined by economic status of people. Because of this dependence, now social scientists club social variable with economic one, and together it is labelled as socio-economic status variable. It is an important variable being employed very frequently in social sciences as well as in day to day matters. Socio-economic status would, therefore, be ranking of an individual by the society he lives in, in terms of his material belonging, economic assets, and cultural possession along with the degree of the respect, power, and influences he wields. It is usually measured in terms of parental occupation.

**Antisocial Behaviour**

ASB, similarly to crime has been considered so far mainly from the properties of social sciences, criminology, and environmental psychology. The term ASB embraces a wide range of behaviours and incidents that can be described as sub-criminal level incivilities and disorder. Hence, ASB can be defined as outward behaviour which is
harmful to others, either directly or indirectly, through the violation of important moral or social norms: it may include aggressive and delinquent acts.

**Delimitation of the Study -**

The present study due to its nature had certain limitations. Since the study was focused on antisocial respondents, the respondents belonged to age group of 20 to 50 years of age with mean age of 37.5 years from different Central Prisons of eastern U.P. viz. Central Jail Varanasi, Central Jail Naini and Model Prison Lucknow.

Only those antisocial respondents were included in the present study in whose case the crime had been proven and who were under going the sentence of imprisonment awarded to them under several sections of Indian Penal Code (1977). Under trials were excluded from the present study. The present research work envisaged to study the two variables only namely personality dimension and socioeconomic status of antisocial respondents.