

ABSTRACT OF

**Some Psychological Dimensions of Juvenile Delinquency:
A Comparison of Different Types of Delinquent and Normal Children**

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Involvement of Juveniles in the anti-social or delinquent behaviour leads to the development of criminal behaviour during the adulthood. Delinquent or antisocial behaviour of the juveniles is destructive & harmful not only for the society but also to juveniles own life. Delinquency halts the development of the juveniles as well as that of society. It has cost thousands of lives of innocent children.

The image which a child has about himself, the level of emotional competence, the way of cognizes the world and the control of reinforcement seem to have important relations with delinquency. Hence in the present study, self-image, emotional competence, cognitive style and locus of control were systematically studied among different types of delinquent and normal children. For this purpose four groups of delinquents, e.g. (i) murderers /who attempted to murder (ii) burglars / dacoits (iii) delinquent who hurt /grievously hurt, and (iv) truants were taken in the study. A fifth group of normal children was also included in the study, which served as a control group. Different types of delinquent children were taken from bostal jails or observation homes of National Capital of India, Delhi and Haryana State with due permission from authorities.

Normal Children were randomly taken from the Senior Secondary and Secondary Schools of National Capital Delhi and Haryana State. The age of different groups of subjects ranged from fifteen to eighteen years. “Offers Self-image Questionnaire” by Sharma, “Emotional Competence Scale” by Sharma and Bhardwaj, “Locus of Control Scale” by Hasnain & Joshi and “Imbedded Figure Test” prepared by the researcher on the basis of procedure suggested by Witkain were used to measure the psychological dimensions.

F-ratio showed the significant differences among different groups of subjects. Duncan’s multiple comparison test showed that truants had significantly lesser self image score than normal children but greater than all other groups. Murderers / who attempted to murder had significantly least mean self-image score. Significant differences among emotional competence of different groups were also obtained. Duncan’s multiple comparison test showed significantly highest mean emotional competence score for

normal children and least mean emotional competence score for murderers / who attempted to murder. Burglars / dacoits had significantly lesser mean emotional competence score than delinquents who hurt / grievously hurt. F-ratio for cognitive style was also found significant at 0.05 level of significance. Duncan's test showed significantly lowest mean cognitive style score for normal children. Murderers / who attempted to murder had significantly highest mean cognitive style score. They differed significantly from burglars / dacoits and normal children.. Locus of control had also significant differences among different groups of as shown by F-ratio. Duncan's range test showed murderers / who attempted to murder had significantly highest mean locus of control score. All the groups other than delinquents who hurt / grievously hurt and burglars / dacoits has significantly higher mean score than normal children.

The results of the regression analysis revealed that only 4% of variance in self-image of normal children was explained by emotional competence, cognitive style and locus of control. 2% of variance in self-image of truants was explained by these factors; 16% of variance in self-image of delinquents who hurt / grievously hurt was explained by these factors; 27% of variance in self-image of burglars / dacoits was explained by these factors; 4% of variance in self-image of murderers / who attempted to murder was explained by these factors.

The obtained results were discussed in the light of nature and severity of different types of delinquencies and existing literature on delinquencies.