

A STUDY OF PERSONALITY TRAITS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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Abstract-

The juvenile case was one of the most controversial issues in the country, with citizens demanding that the juvenile rapist be tried as an adult because it was such a horrible act. Juvenile delinquency has been identified as a major issue in India and around the world. There is no denying that today's delinquent boy, if not properly cared for, will become a criminal tomorrow. Children's delinquency should be controlled until it becomes a major threat to society. According to statistics presented by different agencies from time to time, the number of juvenile crime cases is on the rise. There is a need for a comprehensive investigation into the numerous facts and causes that contribute to delinquencies, disorderly behaviour, public indecency, and child-law conflict, as well as the problem's solution, which includes proper care and rehabilitation of the delinquent child.

Keywords- Behaviour, Delinquency, Personality, Traits, Juvenile.

Introduction

According to psychology, any child between the ages of 15 and 18 who commits a crime, regardless of whether he is apprehended or not, is considered a juvenile delinquent. In this sense, a juvenile delinquent is somebody who takes another's property forcibly or damages it, engages in anti-social behaviour, threatens another's life, or obstructs others' activities. From a psychological perspective, a child who throws a stone at a vehicle and runs away, one who sets fire without purpose, and one who puts another's life in danger just for the fun of it are all examples of juvenile delinquency.

Personality" can be defined as a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that uniquely influences his or her cognitions, emotions, motivations, and behaviors in various situations. Personality may also refer to a person's consistent patterns of emotions, feelings, and behaviours over time, which have a significant effect on our desires, self-perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes, as well as how you respond to people, problems, and stress. A person's personality is made up of the choices they've made in their lives and the memories of the

experiences they've had as a result of those decisions. Normal, genetic, and environmental influences all play a role in the creation of our personalities. Personality influences our ideals, opinions, and desires, according to the socialisation process. Personality formation is influenced by hereditary factors as well as associations with the social world in which people live."

According to Eysenck (1968) "Personality as a more or less stable and enduring organization or a person's character, temperament, intellect, and physique, which determines his unique adjustment to the environment".

Since the JEPQ is a widely used instrument among young people in many countries. Extraversion (E), Neuroticism (N), and Psychoticism (P) are the three variables in Eysenck's temperament-based theory, which is often referred to as a three-factor model of personality (P). The Extraversion (E) personality disorder is characterised by a bipolar scale with sociability and stimulation seeking on one end and social reticence and stimulation avoidance on the other.

The objectives of the study:

In the present study following objective were framed

- a) To explore personality differences in delinquents and non-delinquents.
- b) To study the extraversion on delinquents and non-delinquents.
- c) To study the neuroticism on the delinquents and non-delinquents.
- d) To study the psychoticism on the delinquents and non-delinquents.

Hypotheses of the study:

- a) Delinquents will score high on extraversion than non-delinquents.
- b) Delinquents will score high on neuroticism than non-delinquents.
- c) Delinquents will score high on psychoticism than non-delinquents.

Methodology:

The proposed study was conducted on delinquents and non-delinquents. This study was based on primary data were gathered from institutionalized delinquents living in special observation homes and a non-delinquent group is living with parents.

Sample:

A total sample of 200 subjects (Age group 14-18) was used. The sample had two main groups, i.e., delinquents' group (Study group) and non-delinquents' group (Comparison group), each group consisting of 100 subjects. Non-delinquents' group was living with parents. Delinquents group consists of juvenile offenders alleged/convicted of offences. The delinquent

sample was composed of institutionalized delinquents living in special observation Home, Shivajinagar, Pune and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Industrial School, Yerwada, Pune. Purposive Sampling Method was used.

The distribution of the total sample is depicted as follows:

| Children | Delinquents | Non-Delinquents | Total |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| Sample | 100 | 100 | 200 |

Research design:

In the present study 2 group ex post facto design was used. The two independent variables are Delinquents and Non-Delinquents. Dependent variables is Personality.

2Group Design

| Children – A | | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Delinquents - A1 100 | Non - delinquents A2 100 | 200 Sample |

Variables: Independent and dependent variables for the present study are described as follows-

Independent Variables:

Children

1. Delinquents
2. Non-delinquents.

Dependent Variable:

1. Personality

Operational Definition:

Juvenile Delinquents: A juvenile delinquent is a young person who is incorrigible or who is disobedient on a regular basis. Juvenile delinquency refers to wrongdoing committed by a child or young person who is under the age of the law of the land.

Non-delinquents: Relating to a person who is not a delinquent.

Personality: The Score on the Personality test by Eysenck were treated as the personality dimensions of the delinquents and non-delinquents.

Research Tools:

1 Junior Eysenck's Personality Questionnaire (JEPQ 1975)

JEPQ test developed by Eysenck. It extends personality assessment to children 7-17 years of age, measuring the same three major dimensions of personality i.e., extraversion, neuroticism

and psychoticism, as the adult version. It consists of 81 items. The JEPQ includes a Lie scale to detect a pattern of socially desirable responding, carefully selected after lengthy item analysis and factor analysis.

Psychoticism: This is an independent dimension which describes the personality as solitary, troublesome, cruel, lacking in feeling empathy, hostile to others, sensation seeking, and liking odd and unusual things. This factor was identified in factor analytical studies of personality reported in 1952. Those who are high on this dimension are aggressive, ego centre, impersonal, impulsive, antisocial unempathetic creative and tough minded.

Neuroticism: Neuroticism refers to the general emotional liability of a person, his emotional over- responsiveness and his liability to neurotic breakdown under stress. Those who are high on this dimension are anxious, depressed, suffering from guilty feeling, have low selfesteem, tense, irritation and emotionally unbalanced. Those who have low score on the measure of neuroticism tend to respond emotionally slowly, are generally weak and return to base line quickly, after arousal they calm, even tempered and uncontrolled.

Extroversion: Extroversion is opposed to introversion, refers to the outgoing, uninhibited, sociable proclivities of a person, venturing forth with careless confidence into the unknown, and being particularly interested in people and events in the external world. Introversion is reflected by a keen interest in one 's own psyche, and often preferring to be alone.

Lie Score: There is no doubt that personality questionnaires are subject to faking, and that in fact such- faking good|| or - is the relatively easy- faking bad||. It also seems to indicate that under ordinary conditions subjects give relatively truthful answer. It is furthermore no interpretation of individual scale is likely to proof of satisfactory unless L-scale scores are taken into account. Lie score was used to detect tendency to fake good and some degrees of social naivety. These three dimensions are conceived of as being quite independent: thus, all the theoretically possible combinations of scores were taken into consideration.

Statistical Analysis:

t-test was applied to check the difference between groups.

Graphical representation was done wherever necessary.

The analysis and interpretation of data both together represent the application of inductive and deductive logic to the research process. The data is first classified into subgroup by division and are then analyzed and synthesized in such a way that hypothesis may be verified or

rejected. The final result may be a new principle or generalization. Interpretation of the qualitative data is more dependent on the researcher's research skills, research background, intelligence, creativity and biases.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

PERSONALITY:

Hypotheses No 1. Delinquents will score high on extraversion than non-delinquents.

Table No - 1 Showing mean, standard deviation and t values of Delinquents and Non - delinquents on Extraversion

| Children | No | Mean | SD | t Value | Sign. |
|-------------------|-----|-------|------|---------|--------|
| Delinquents | 100 | 18.58 | 2.84 | 7.63 | P<0.01 |
| Non - Delinquents | 100 | 15.30 | 3.22 | | |

Chart no. 1 Showing mean, s d and t values of Delinquents and Non - delinquents on Extraversion

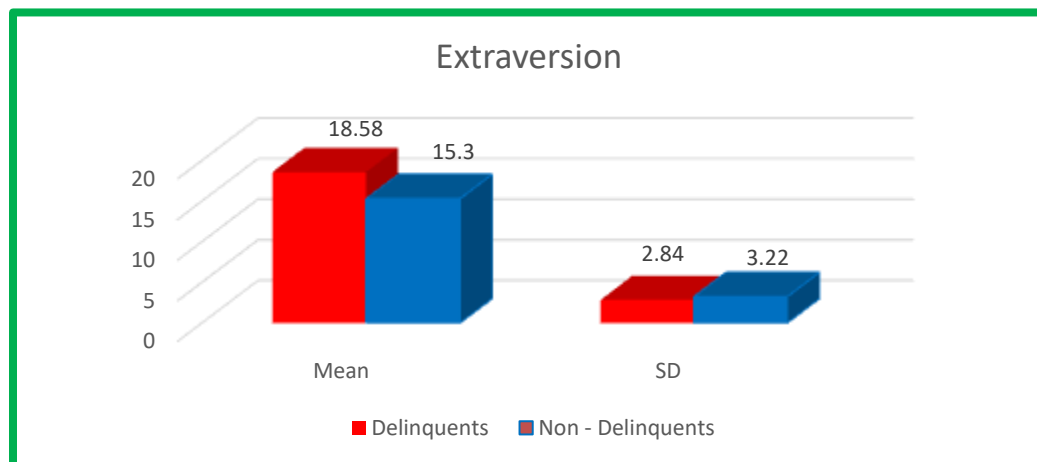


Table no. 1 & Chart no.1 exhibit mean and Sd of extraversion among delinquents is 18.58 and 2.84 whereas in the and non-delinquents it is 15.30 and 3.22 respectively. The difference between the two means is highly significant ($t = 7.63^{***}$; $P < 0.01$) at level. It means that there is a significant difference found between delinquents and non-delinquents on extraversion. Therefore, the result supports the first hypotheses stating that "*Delinquents will score high on extraversion than non-delinquents.*". Hence, the first hypothesis is accepted.

The following studies are in accordance with the present finding, where Gluecks (Glueck and Glueck, 1950), identified a number of personality traits that they felt were associated with violence, including self-assertiveness, defiance, extroversion, narcissism and suspicion and delinquents exhibit higher level of extroversion traits than non-delinquents (C.A. Daramola). according to John et al. in 1994, & Mak et al. (2003) found that high extraversion scores were a strong predictor of delinquency compared to non- delinquency.

It was observed that the delinquents' groups were high on Extraversion traits as compared to the non-delinquents. This result was consistent with Eysenck's (1997) suggestion that Extraversion was more likely to be associated with antisocial behavior. As because aggressive behavior is associated with low cortical arousal (high Extroversion), a person with a relatively under reactive nervous system does not learn restraints on behaviors and seeks for more external sensation and stimulation compared to an individual with a higher basal level of cortical arousal (low Extroversion). As a result, these individuals were less conditioned to socialization process.

Hypotheses No 2. Delinquents will score high on neuroticism than non-delinquents.

Table No - 2 Showing mean, standard deviation and t values of Delinquents and Non - delinquents on Neuroticism

| Children | No | Mean | SD | t Value | Sign. |
|-------------------|-----|-------|------|---------|--------|
| Delinquents | 100 | 14.44 | 2.61 | 7.51 | P<0.01 |
| Non – Delinquents | 100 | 11.50 | 2.92 | | |

Chart no. 2 Showing mean, s d and t values of Delinquents and Non - delinquents on Neuroticism

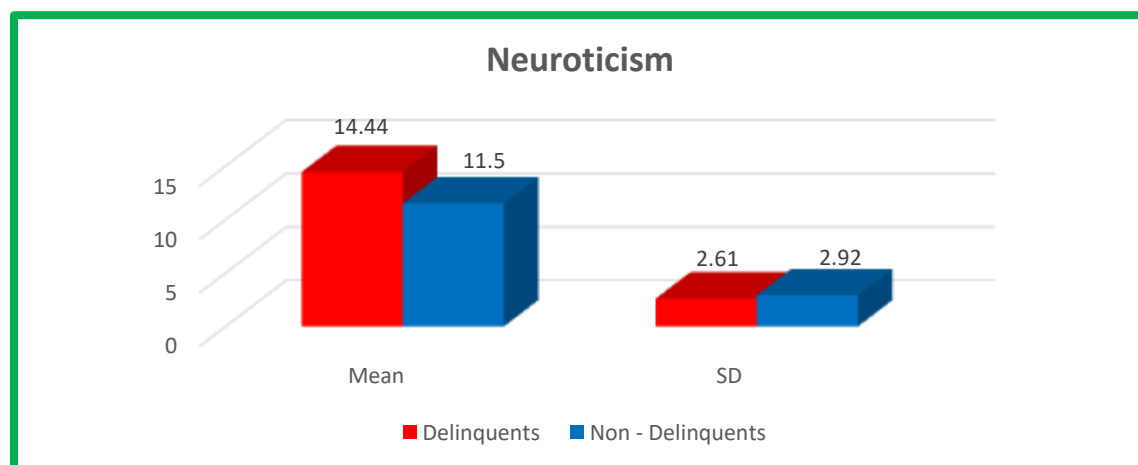


Table no. 2 & Chart 2 depicts that the mean and Sd of delinquents on neuroticism is 14.44 & 2.61 and non-delinquents on neuroticism is 11.50 & 2.92. The obtained t value is 7.51**. It is statistically significant at 0.01 & 0.05 both levels. It Concluded that delinquents' children are more neuroticism than non-delinquents' children. Therefore, the result supports the second hypotheses stating that ***“Delinquents will score high on neuroticism than non-delinquents.”*** Hence, the second hypothesis is accepted.

Neuroticism refers to the susceptibility to experience negative emotions and affect, like anxiety, angry-hostility, irritability, depression, self-consciousness, impulsivity, and vulnerability to stress (John et al, 1999). Highly neurotic children and adolescents are often described as anxious, vulnerable, tense, easily frightened, guilt prone, moody, low in frustration tolerance, insecure in their relationships with others, and disposed to easily “fall apart” under stress (Shiner, 2009). In contrast, emotional stability suggests the tendency to be relatively calm, relaxed, and secure (Miller et al, 2006). At the extreme pathological end, neuroticism can be expressed by severe affective lability, emotional distress, insecure attachment, depression, low frustration tolerance and poor or maladaptive coping strategies (e.g., substance abuse). At the extremely low end the person may lack fear (e.g., low harm avoidance) and anxiety, experience very little emotional distress, and may even appear emotionally flat in stressful situations. In adolescents, neuroticism has also been positively associated with delinquency (terLaak et al., 2003) and diagnoses of conduct disorder and substance use disorders (Anderson et al., 2007).

Hypotheses No 3. Delinquents will score high on psychoticism than non-delinquents.

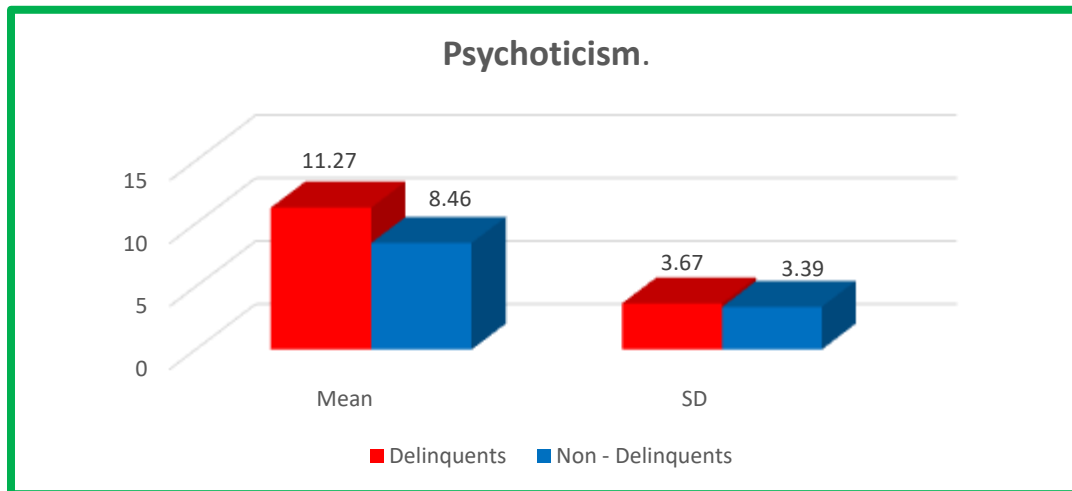
Table No - 3 Showing mean, standard deviation and t values of Delinquents and Non - delinquents on Psychoticism.

| Children | No | Mean | SD | t Value | Sign. |
|-------------------|-----|-------|------|---------|--------|
| Delinquents | 100 | 11.27 | 3.67 | 5.62 | P<0.01 |
| Non - Delinquents | 100 | 8.46 | 3.39 | | |

Chart 3 Showing mean, s d and t values of Delinquents and Non - delinquents on Psychoticism.

Table no. 3 & Chart 3 exhibit shows that the psychoticism among delinquents' children mean it is 11.27 and Sd is 3.67 whereas in non-delinquents' children mean it is 8.46 and Sd is 3.39 respectively. The t ratio is calculated (t=5.62; ** P<0.01) significant at 0.01 level. On the

base of above result, it can be concluded that the psychoticism of delinquent's more than non-delinquent's children, Therefore, the result supports the hypothesis number three that is ***“Delinquents will score high psychoticism than non-delinquents.”*** Hence, the third hypothesis is accepted.



Psychoticism is believed to increase the rigidity of thought in a person and reduce sensitivity to guilt. The traits that correlate to form this super-ordinate trait include aggressive, cold, egocentric, impersonal, impulsive, antisocial, unempathetic, creative and tough minded (Ruch, n.d.) Studies are conclusive in their findings that high Psychoticism is always involved in criminality, regardless of age, and both in offender as well as in normal samples.

The results of this study are consistent with the previous researches by Sehrish Khan (2014) delinquents have higher tendency of psychoticism than non-delinquents & Miller and Laynum (2010) by applying five factor model of personality on delinquents concluded that anti-social individuals are high on neuroticism dimension of the personality. Aradhana Kumari (2020) delinquency in his study will be high on psychoticism and extraversion moderate towards lie score and low in respect of neuroticism. Daniel Boduszek, Christopher G. McLaughlin, & Philip E. Hyland1 (2011) Psychoticism was identified to be the strongest predictor of criminal attitudes, followed by association with criminal peers, and levels of recidivism. The role of personality (psychoticism) as the strongest predictor of criminal attitudes within this sample of ex-prisoners is a unique and interesting discovery.

CONCLUSIONS:

The major findings of the present study have led to certain conclusions as listed below:

- 1) The delinquents found high score on extraversion than non-delinquent's children.
- 2) The delinquents found high score on neuroticism than non-delinquent's children.
- 3) The delinquents found high score on psychoticism than non-delinquent's children.

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