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EMOTIONAL STABILITY OF DELINQUENTS AND NON-DELINQUENTS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY



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Abstract: In this paper, delinquent behavior is studied in terms of emotional stability. Emotional instability is one of the most significant causes that lead to delinquent behavior. Emotional Stability of delinquent and Non-delinquent is measured through Emotional Stability Test. Emotional Stability Test for Children by Dr. H.A. Sengupta & Dr. A.K. Singh (Hindi) was used. A total 100 subject sample was used. For this study two main groups' namely delinquent group (study group) and non-delinquent group (comparison group) was used, each group consisting of 50 subjects. Delinquents and non-delinquents as a group show a significant difference on emotional stability. Majority of delinquent suffers from emotional problems.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, emotional instability

INTRODUCTION:

Juvenile delinquency is one of the acute and hazardous psychological behavior for oneself and community, if not checked and controlled, juvenile delinquency may lead to the criminal behavior of adulthood. Juvenile delinquency is a vital problem of the developing countries like India. In India the problem of juvenile delinquency has received comparatively little attention by the government and the researches. In the process of urbanization and industrialization large numbers of people are now migrating from the villages to the towns and industrialized cities. Emotional instability is one of the most important causes of delinquency. Emotional Stability is, as an aspect of human life. An emotional stable individual has the capacity to withstand delay in satisfaction of need, capability to tolerate a reasonable amount of frustration, belief in long term planning and is able of delaying or revising his expectations in terms of demands of the situations. In this paper, delinquent behavior is studied in terms of emotional stability

DEFINITIONS:

Juvenile Delinquency: Juvenile delinquency is not so much hereditary as it is an acquired trait in a wrong environment in which children are left to grow without proper care. Crime and delinquency are not more legal or moral problems. They are manifestations' of domestic neglect and social apathy. It exhibits a specific pattern of behavior. It also, "involves wrong doing by a child or by a young person who is under as age specified by the law of the place" (Sethna M.J. 1952)

In legal sense, juvenile delinquent is a child or a young person who is under an age specified by the law (for the time being in force) of the place concerned.

Paul W. Tappan (1949) has defined delinquency as

"any act, course of conduct, or situation which might be brought before a court and adjudicated, whether in fact it comes to be treated therefore some other resource or indeed remains untreated. To ordinary men all legal transgression are delinquencies."

Emotional stability: Emotional stability can be defined as having a congruent transition of emotional states and moderate emotional resilience to environmental influences (or cues). Someone who has the ability to cope with general changes in the environment without responding with and intense emotional reaction is said to be emotionally stable. The ability to stabilize emotions differs from the ability to regulate emotions. The signs of an emotional stability are calmness of mind and freedom from anxiety and depression. (Hey & Ashman, 2003)

According to Smitson (1974), emotional stability is the process in which the personality is continuously striving for greater sense of emotional health, both intra-physically and intra-personality.

Emotional Stability is not only one of the effective determinants of the personality patterns, but it also helps to control growth of adolescent development.

Emotional stability and Delinquency:

The basic pattern of personality is determined mainly through the interactions of family relations lead to healthy development while broken homes, disturbed relations among family members lead to unhealthy development and gradually, it may produce a delinquent child. Accepted normal children are found to be good natured cheerful, friendly, co-operative, emotionally stable and interested in work. Hurlock (1964) has stated that accepted child always feels emotionally secure and rejected one will show signs of emotional insecurity. Symonds (1939) explained that children who had been rejected were found to

be emotionally unstable, restless, overactive given to trouble making resentful of authority, more inclined to steal and quarrelsome. Accepted children, on the other hand, showed personality traits like co-operative, emotional stable, cheerfulness. If a rejected or neglected child does not get love and affection as well as support and supervision at home, he will often resort to deviant behavior outside the family. The hostile or rejected parent neither is usually nor concerned with providing the necessary support and guidance. Early emotional social deprivation disturbs emotions and the child feel disturbed. Hathaway and Mohacheri (1955) have shown that a child's personality is rendered unbalanced because of emotionally disturbed family situation that inspire the child to delinquent or behavioral problems.

Emotional instability is one of the most significant causes that lead to delinquent behavior. Healy and Bronner have shown that 93 percent of juvenile delinquents manifest symptoms replete with emotional imbalance. Peterson, Quey C. Tifamm (1962) have observed that because of tension, guilt remorse, depression and discouragement, some psychological conflicts starts and that finally lead to delinquent behavior.

Review of Literature:

Emotional stability and juvenile delinquency: Pavelenko, Chernyi and Goubkina (2009) argued low emotional stability is a common component of pathological disorders such as psychopathies alcoholism and substance abuse disorders. Martens also reported evidence of low emotional stability in trauma and anxiety related disorders. The type of role that the parent plays within the family can also affect the youngster's perception of his parents and ultimately his perception of himself. If the mother is dominating and aggressive and the father is weak, the modeling process of father to son is complicated and the formation of an adequate conscience is affected.

Gluecks found that a significantly large number of parents of delinquent had problems themselves and came from home that had an alcoholic in the family, mental retardation or emotional disturbances .and mother of delinquents, as well as fathers' were often inferior physically, intellectually, and emotionally.

According to Sharma, the emotional foundation of the delinquent child is generally weak. The emotional deprivation of the child stems from family tension, which tends to create delinquents, from psychological stand point, emotional deprivation as a result of lack of parental love has much to do with juvenile delinquency.

Riner and Kaufman noted that parents of antisocial character disorder children often acted out their own unconscious parental wishes through other children.

Aichhorn also associated behavioral disturbance of parents with delinquent behavior of their children and pointed out the negative family environments that parents of delinquents often come from.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (2004) claim that poor emotional health can cause physical symptoms such as back pain ulcers, chest pain, insomnia, headaches, high blood pressure and an assortment of illnesses associated with weak immunity. The impact of

emotional mind on the brain therefore cannot be underestimated in the study of emotional stability.

Budaev (1999) found that females have higher agreeableness and lower emotional stability than males. Gramer and Imaiike (2002) proposed that females are less emotionally stable than males. They also reported that men's emotions are stable than women. Aleem (2005) reported that male students are more emotionally stable than female students.

Sumal et al., (1998) examined the relationship between emotional stability and morality. It was observed that emotional stability was positively and significantly related to morality. Subject who was emotionally stable obtained higher scores on morality compared to those who were emotionally unstable. It was concluded that morality depend on emotional stability.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- 1 To find out whether emotional stability is a significant factor of juvenile delinquency.
- 2 To study delinquents are emotionally unstable as compared to non-delinquent.

Hypotheses:

- 1 Delinquents will be more emotionally unstable then non-delinquent.
- 2 Delinquents and non-delinquents do differ in their emotional stability.

Method:

A total number of 100 subject samples was used. For this study two main groups namely delinquent group (study group) and non-delinquent group (comparison group) was used, each group consisting of 50 subjects. Delinquents were from the institutions of observation home, Pune (Maharashtra, India). Non-delinquents were from schools in Pune itself. Incidental sampling was used for this study.

Variables:

Dependent – Juvenile Delinquency
Independent – Emotional Stability

Tool:

Emotional Stability of delinquent and Non-delinquent is measured through Emotional Stability Test. Emotional Stability Test for Children by Dr. H.A. Sengupta & Dr. A.K. Singh (Hindi) was used. This scale contains 15 items for testing emotional stability of children. The maximum possible score of this test is 15. Test-retest reliability was .70 which was significant beyond .01 level and split-half reliability was .55.

DISCUSSION

There is a significant difference in the overall average emotional stability of Juvenile Delinquent and Non-Delinquent Children.

CONCLUSION:

It is proved that that emotional instability is one of the most important causes of juvenile delinquency.

Emotional Stability Of Delinquents And Non-delinquents: A

Delinquents and non- delinquents as a group show a significant difference on emotional stability. Majority of delinquent suffer from emotional problems. Hence, delinquents are emotionally more unstable as compared to non-delinquents.

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