

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DELINQUENT CHILDREN AND NON-DELINQUENT CHILDREN ON THE FACTORS OF FRUSTRATION AND PARENTAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

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Abstract—*Delinquency (Juvenile delinquency) has become an important aspect of criminology. Juveniles have got serious forms of delinquent behavior which may hamper the stability and social command of our society. Initially, the word was having primarily meaning and applied to those parents who have abandoned and neglected their children. Now days, it is applicable on all those children who are involved in illegal and harmful activities. The present study investigation has been aimed at studying the factors of frustration and parental socio-economic status. The samples of the present study were 150 delinquent children and 150 non-delinquent children with age range from 12 to 18 years. Delinquent children were selected from Darbhanga and Bhagalpur Remand Home of Bihar and non-delinquent children were selected from the Government Senior Secondary School, Saray Ranjan, Dist.-Samastipur of Bihar. Purposive sampling method was a criterion of samples' selection. R. Kumari (1991) 'Frustration Scale' for assessing the frustration and their sub-areas/dimensions and R. A. Singh and S. K. Saxena (1981) 'Socio-economic Status Scale' for assessing the socio-economic level. T-value was used for further statistical analysis. Results showed that delinquent children and non-delinquent children were statistically significantly differed in the terms of overall frustration and parental socio-economic level. Delinquent children were found to be more frustrated as compared to non-delinquent children. However, delinquent children were found lower (poor) socio-economic levels than non-delinquent children. Therefore, this result clearly shows that delinquency behavior is affected by their parent's socio-economic status and frustration level.*

Keywords: *Children, delinquency, frustration, juvenile, socio-economic status.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Delinquency, also known as “juvenile delinquency” and “juvenile offending”, is participation in illegal behaviour by minors (juveniles, i.e. individuals younger than the statutory age of majority). Depending on the type and severity of the offense committed, it is possible for people under 18 to be charged and treated as adults. In recent year higher proportion of youth have experienced arrests by their early 20s than in the

past, although some scholars have concluded this may reflect more aggressive criminal justice and zero-tolerance policies rather than changes in youth behaviour. Juvenile crimes can range from status offenses (such as underage smoking), to property crimes and violent crimes. However, juvenile offending can be considered to be normative adolescent behaviour. This is because most teens tend to offend by committing non-violent crimes, only once or a few times, and only during adolescence. Repeated and/or violent offending is likely to lead to later and more violent offenses. When this happens, the offender often displayed antisocial behaviour even before reaching adolescence.

According to the developmental research of Moffitt (2006), there are two different types of offenders that emerge in adolescence. One is the repeat offender, referred to as the life-course-persistent offender, who begins offending or showing antisocial/aggressive behaviour in adolescence (or even in childhood) and continues into adulthood; and the age specific offender, referred to as the adolescence-limited offender, for whom juvenile offending or delinquency begins and ends during their period of adolescence.

Delinquents who have recurring encounters with the criminal justice system, or in other words those who are life-course-persistent offenders, are sometimes diagnosed with conduct disorders because they show a continuous disregard for their own and others safety and/or property. Delinquent Children are often diagnosed with different disorders. Around six to sixteen percent of male teens and two to nine percent of female teens have a conduct disorder. These can vary from oppositional-defiant disorder, which is not necessarily aggressive, to antisocial personality disorder, often diagnosed among psychopaths (Holmes, *et.al.* 2001). A conduct disorder can develop during childhood and then manifest itself during adolescence (De Lisi, 2001).

The habitual crime behaviour found among juveniles is similar to that of adults. As stated before most life-course persistent offenders begin exhibiting antisocial, violent, and/or delinquent behaviour, prior to adolescence. Therefore, while there is a high rate of juvenile delinquency, it is the small percentage of life-course persistent, career criminals that are responsible for most of the violent crimes.

According to the World Youth Report (2003), in India, juvenile delinquency tend to be attributed primarily to hunger, poverty, malnutrition and unemployment which are linked to the marginalization of juveniles in already disadvantaged segment of society. According to this report, juvenile delinquency is on the rise, a trend also linked to the rapid and dramatic social, political and economic changes that have taken place in recent decades. The principal offences committed by young persons are robbery, smuggling, prostitution, the abuse of narcotic substances, and drug trafficking. This report also noted that in Asian countries, juvenile delinquency is largely urban phenomena. Statistically as is true elsewhere, young people constitute the most criminal active segment of the population. The most noticeable trend in Asia is the rise in the number of violent acts committed by young people, the increase in drug related offences, and the high rate of female juvenile delinquency.

Also according to World Youth Report, juvenile delinquency is particularly acute and is often associated with the problem of homelessness among children and adolescent in India. There, the young people have been the hardest hit by the economic problems linked to the debt crisis in the region, evidenced by the extremely high unemployment rate prevailing within them (ibid). World Youth Report notes that the problem associated with juvenile delinquency varies from one country to another. Some countries have experienced socio-economic difficulties, while others have become prosperous. In the later group, delinquency may occur in connection with migrants seeking employment, or may be linked to factors such as continued urbanization, sudden affluence, rapid changes in the economy and the increasing heterogeneity of the population.

According to Shumaker (1997), several risk factors have been identified as indicators or predictors of juvenile delinquency and those factors represent dysfunction at several levels, specifically within the structure of the offender's family. Some of these factors include conflict within the family, a lack of adequate supervision and/or rules, a distinct lack of parent-child attachment, instability, poor home life quality, parental expectations, out of home placement and inconsistent discipline. He went further that, the removal from the home has been linked to delinquency among juveniles.

Lauren and Carl (2007) conducted the study on the biological, psychological, and sociological effects on juvenile delinquency and found that factors of juvenile delinquency is a contributing to juvenile delinquency includes absentee fathers,

absentee mothers, domestic abuse and/or violence in the home, alcohol and/or drug use in the family, parents who has been incarcerated, as well as siblings who has been incarcerated, the child's mental health history, and poverty. The result of their findings indicated a significant correlation between the number of risk factors and the number of violent crimes committed by the incarcerated juveniles. There was also a significant correlation between parental and sibling criminal history and the number of felonies committed by the incarcerated juveniles.

The present study investigation has been aimed at studying the factors of frustration and parental socio-economic status. Frustration is one of the factors which force the committing the crime. By the end of the research we are able to evaluate the explanation of frustration as a contributing factor of crime in the juvenile delinquent (delinquent children). Parental socio-economic is also another factor, we can have an understanding of the role of wealth position and social prestige of delinquent children and how they differ from normal (non-delinquent) children.

2. METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE AND AREA SELECTION -The samples of the present study were 150 delinquent children and 150 non-delinquent children with age range from 12 to 18 years. Delinquent children were selected from Darbhanga and Bhagalpur Remand Home of Bihar. Therefore non-delinquent children were selected from the Government Senior Secondary School, Saray Ranjan, Distt. -S amastipur of Bihar. Purposive sampling method was a criterion of samples' selection. Write-up of sample's name and birth place was not allowed during data collection in the premises of remand home due to secrecy of samples' identification.

INSTRUMENT: The following instruments were used-

1. **Personal Data Schedule-** A personal data schedule was prepared by present researchers to get necessary information like the age, gender, locality, caste, etc.
2. **Socio-Economic Status (Separate both Rural and Urban)-**This schedule (both rural and urban) was prepared by Singh and Saxena (1981). Eighteen questions' and twenty one questions questionnaires were provided for samples of urban and rural inhabitant respectively. The possible obtained score range may possible from 5 to 68 and 2 to 75 for urban and rural inhabitant respectively. High scores indicate the higher level of parental socio-economic status and low score as a poor parental socio-economic status (S.E.S.). This scale is standardized for studying the both delinquent and non-delinquent group of samples. Reliably coefficient were assessed through test-retest method and split-half method for knowing the S.E.S. (Rural) by Singh and Saxena (1981) and test-retest method and split half method were found to be 0.83 and

0.85 while for knowing the S.E.S. (Urban) by Singh and Saxena (1981) and test-retest method and split half method were found to be 0.89 and 0.91. The validity coefficient was 0.78 and 0.73 for urban and rural scales respectively. In other words, this scale is relabeled and valid for this study.

- 3. Frustration Scale-** This Scale was developed by Kumari (1991). It includes six dimensions of Frustration namely, Aggression (AGG), Restlessness (RT), Apathy (AP), Fantasy (F), Regression (RE) and Stereotype (S). In other words, aggregate of all the dimensions are indicator of high level of frustration. Twenty eight items are given in this scale and possible score ranges from 28-112. Subjects were asked only one mark ($\sqrt{\quad}$) in every response in every item. In other words, one to four marks is awarded as per manual norms. This scale has adequate reliable, valid and free from response biases. In other words, this scale is relabeled and valid for this study.

VARIABLES: Delinquency behaviour (delinquent and non-delinquent children) was independent variable and socio-economic status (S.E.S.) and frustration was dependent variables. Age (12 to 18 years) and Gender (male), time (day) and motivation for the work was controlled.

PROCEDURE AND ANALYSIS OF DATA: Good rapport establishment was made from all samples and said about the purpose of this study. Instruction was also given according to the guidelines of above scale. Data were collected through individual level or in group. There were arranged for sit in Distant from each subject in the situation when collected the data in group. Mean, SD, t-value, etc. was used for further statistical analysis.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic Status and Delinquency Behavior

Socioeconomic status (SES) encompasses not just income but also educational attainment, financial security, and subjective perceptions of social status and social class. Socioeconomic status can encompass quality of life attributes as well as the opportunities and privileges afforded to people within society. Poverty, specifically, is not a single factor but rather is characterized by multiple physical and psychosocial stressors. Further, SES is a consistent and reliable predictor of a vast array of outcomes across the life span, including physical and psychological health. Thus, SES is relevant to all realms of behavioral and social science, including research, practice, education and advocacy. Socioeconomic status (SES) is a composite measure of an individual's economic and sociological standing.

Table No. 1: Mean, SD, SEM, SED, t-value and p-value of Socio-economic Status (S.E.S.) between Delinquent Children and non-Delinquent (Normal) Children

Group	N	Mean	SD	SEM	SED	t-value	p-value (df =298)
Delinquent Children	150	44.02	13.55	1.23	1.51	6.291	p <.05
Non-Delinquent (Normal) Children	150	53.52	12.48	1.04			

Mean value of delinquent and non-delinquent children for Socio-economic Status (S.E.S.) was 44.02 and 53.52 respectively. SD for emotional stability was 13.55 and 12.48 respectively for delinquent and non-delinquent children. A significant mean difference was found between the groups of delinquent and non-delinquent children for Socio-economic Status (S.E.S.). T-value was 6.291 (df =298, p <.05) which was significant difference between Socio-economic Status (S.E.S.) of delinquent and non-delinquent children. The mean score of non-delinquent children's Socio-economic Status (S.E.S.) was significantly higher than the delinquent children. In other words, result of table no-1 indicates that delinquent children had lesser score on Socio-economic status and they are found to be poor and lower S.E.S. Socio-economic Status (S.E.S.) may lead a teenager into juvenile delinquency include poor or low socioeconomic status. Delinquent activity may also be caused by a desire for protection against violence or financial hardship, as the offenders view delinquent activity as a means of surrounding themselves with resources to protect against these threats. Delinquent children come from lower socioeconomic status, poor economically background and disadvantage society. Therefore, this result clearly shows that delinquency behaviour is affected by their parent's socioeconomic status.

4. FRUSTRATION LEVEL AND DELINQUENCY BEHAVIOR

Life is full of frustrations. Since many of the things we truly want require a degree of frustration, being able to manage frustration is required in order to allow us to remain happy and positive even in trying circumstances. Frustration is an emotion that occurs in situations where a person is blocked from reaching a desired outcome. In general, whenever we reach one of our goals, we feel pleased and whenever we are prevented from reaching our goals, we may succumb to frustration and feel irritable, annoyed and angry.

Frustration is not necessarily bad since it can be a useful indicator of the problems in a person's life and, as a result, it can act as a motivator to change. However, when it results in anger, irritability, stress, resentment, depression, or a spiral downward where we have a feeling of resignation or giving up, frustration can be destructive. Frustration is a common emotional response to opposition, related to anger, annoyance

and disappointment, frustration arises from the perceived resistance to the fulfillment of an individual's will or goal (De Botton, 2011) and is likely to increase when a will or goal is denied or blocked. There are two types of frustration; internal and external. Internal frustration may arise from challenges in fulfilling personal goals, desires, instinctual drives and needs, or dealing with perceived deficiencies, such as a lack of confidence or fear of social situations. Conflict, such as when one has competing goals that interfere with one another, can also be an internal source of frustration and can create cognitive dissonance. External causes of frustration involve conditions outside an individual's control, such as a physical roadblock, a difficult task, or the perception of wasting time. There are multiple ways individuals cope with frustration such as passive-aggressive behavior, anger, or violence, although frustration may also propel positive processes via enhanced effort and strive (Jeronimus, *et. al.*, 2018). This broad range of potential outcomes makes it difficult to identify the original cause(s) of frustration, as the responses may be indirect. However, a more direct and common response is a propensity towards aggression (Miller, 1941).

Table No. 2: Mean, SD, SEM, SED, t-value and p-value of Frustration Level between Delinquent Children and non-Delinquent (Normal) Children

Group	N	Mean	SD	SEM	SED	t-value	p-value (df = 298)
Delinquent Children	150	50.08	7.48	0.61	1.51	2.575	p < .01
Non-Delinquent (Normal) Children	150	48.02	6.33	0.52			

Mean value of delinquent and non-delinquent children for frustration (overall frustration) was 50.08 and 48.02 respectively. A significant mean difference (t-value = 2.575, df = 298, p < .01) was found between the delinquent and non-delinquent children on the scores of frustration (overall frustration). High scores on frustration (overall frustration) indicate the higher level of frustration. The mean score of delinquent children's frustration was significantly higher than the non-delinquent children. In other words, result of table no-2 indicates that delinquent children's group had greater score on frustration. According to this result, delinquent children are facing the problems of frustration.

5. CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of above results, it may be concluded that-

- (1). Delinquent children and non-delinquent children were found to be statistically significantly differences in the terms of parental socioeconomic level. Delinquent children come from lower socio-economic status, poor economically background and disadvantage society. Therefore, this result clearly shows that delinquency behaviour is affected by their parent's socio-economic status.
- (2). Delinquent children and non-delinquent children were found to be statistically significantly differences in the terms of overall frustration. Delinquent children were found to be more frustrated as compared to non-delinquent children.

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