

A Study of Perception toward Parents in Juvenile Delinquents in Delhi

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ABSTRACT

The present paper titled, “A study of perception toward parents in juvenile delinquents in Delhi” was conducted on 300 adolescent boys (n= 300) of different observation home in Delhi, India. The purpose of the present study was to search and evaluate the parents-child relationship from the adolescent’s perspective (age ranged from 7-18 yrs) who had engaged in criminal activities. This is an attempt to find out the correlation between different parenting practices and juvenile delinquency. For this purpose, sample was selected through quota sampling method and the present study also utilized a 3x2x2 factorial research design to measure the degree of correlation among the variables. Data was obtained by using ‘The Parental Involvement Scale (PIS-CA)’ developed by Dr. Vijaya Laxmi and Dr. Gunjan Arora. The results were found to be interesting and are expanded in the paper.

Keywords: *Juvenile Delinquents, Perception toward Parents*

In present human society, juvenile delinquency is considered as a foremost, universal and most complicated issue, as it causes major distress to the whole society. Today, every culture, society, religion, caste, community and country is facing the great damage caused by juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency gradually refers to the norm-breaking behaviours for which youths (under 18) are criminally responsible. In other words, we can say that the youths (under the age of 18) who committed any prohibited or criminal acts are known as juvenile delinquents.

Every day, the headings of different newspapers are full of different types of child offences. The offences like rape, murders and acid attacks on innocent girls are frequently done by youths below than eighteen; the case of “Nirbhaya” is the current example of such brutal offences that not only attract the attention of the human society but also put the youth offences as one of the major concern for parents, teachers, families, politicians and citizens. When people are asked to tell the main cause of juvenile delinquency, they generally blamed family and poor parenting processes as the root cause of child delinquency. In every human society, family is considered as

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the foundation of human society. Loury (1987) also stated that in many cultures, the family is considered as the central socializing institution responsible for instilling in youth a set of norms, values, beliefs and ideals. As we all know that family provides the most favourable environment for a child's overall development. The failure of families to accomplish this task may result in serious consequences for the individual as well as for the society at large. Thus, to understand the family structure and parenting process as a whole and also to find out their relationship with juvenile delinquency we need to study the parent-child relationship from the adolescent's perspective who had engaged in criminal activities. Therefore, to develop a better understanding about the psyche behind the children or adolescence offences we require an extensive review of literature related to those background variables that may be define as the root causes as well as curative or protective factors of child delinquency.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Researchers paid more attention towards juvenile delinquency in recent years. Researchers named as Glueck & Glueck, (1962), concluded that the lack of emotional ties between parents and adolescents contributes to child's involvement in maladaptive behaviour. Also, the parents who demonstrate extreme restlessness and destructiveness are more likely to play the part of antecedent to delinquency in their teenagers (Glueck and Glueck ,1962). According to Patchin (2006) ignoring the delinquent behaviours of their children or being unprepared to address delinquent behaviours when they are acknowledged are the examples of lack of parental control. Some researchers like, Marcus & Betzer (1996) also believed that adolescents who perceived a strong attachment with their parents are more inclined than their peers who perceived a weak attachment with their parent (in relation to limits, rules, and expectations). Marcus & Betzer (1996) further added that children who have strong attachment with their parents also consider their parent's reactions when tempted to engage in delinquent behavior. Patchin (2006), explained the concept of Loeber and Stouthamer-Loeber's (1986) whose findings suggested that parents who themselves have a history of criminality probably transect such behavior into their children. Literature (see Glueck & Glueck, 1962; Hirschi, 1969) also suggested that delinquents are more likely to have been raised by fathers with criminal histories as compared to non-delinquents. The cited literature clearly indicated that different parenting processes such as parental control, parental attachment, parental supervision and parental support have positive as well as negative impact on adolescent's development. Thus, on the bases of above literature it may be concluded that different parenting processes are directly or indirectly related to child delinquency.

METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURE

Statements of Research Problem:

- To find out the effect of socio-economic status on parenting.
- To find out the effect of type of delinquency on parenting.
- To find out the effect of style of delinquency on parenting.

Objectives of the Study:

This study is an attempt to examine the key variables in respect to the specific problem in juvenile delinquents through the comprehensive review and with the help of findings a more integral understanding can be made in respect with juvenile delinquents.

Scope of the Present Study:

This study will help in careful screening, clinical assessment and interventional approach in juvenile delinquents. This study considers that the findings will provides a central means to identify key variables that will improve outcomes for children's care dealing with juvenile delinquency issues.

METHODOLOGY

Independent Variables

The three independent variables for this study were socio-economic status of juvenile delinquents, type of delinquency and style of delinquency. The socio-economic status, style of crime and type of crime were decided on the bases of self-report of juvenile delinquents and information given by staff members of correction and observation homes.

Dependent Variables

The perception of parenting processes from the eye of juvenile delinquents was the dependent variable in this study. The Parental Involvement Scale was used to find out views of juvenile delinquents about different parenting processes.

Research Design

A research design is a kind of frame work for conducting a research study. Research design may b broadly classified as- descriptive, exploratory and casual research. This research project is descriptive in nature as we are studying the perception of juvenile delinquents toward their parents.

Sample Design

It may be broadly divided as probability and non-probability sampling. We have used probability sampling as the population is finite. For the present research 3x2x2 factorial design was utilized in order to test three proposed hypotheses.

Sampling Technique

For the present research study we used quota sampling. The sample of respondents was composed of 300 juvenile delinquents males.

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Data Collection

Data for the current study was drawn from different correction, observation and special homes of Delhi named as- Prayas Observation Home for Boys-1, Adharshila Observation Home and Special Home for Boys and Adharshila Observation Home and Special Home for boys-2.

Data Analysis

Mean, SD and Significance of difference (t-test) were used in the analysis phases of this study to determine the statistical relationship between the dependent and independent variables of juvenile delinquency.

Study limitations:

There were several limitations that must be considered in this research were- the results will only be generalized to juvenile delinquents of age 12-18, age composition limits the generalization of the findings. The results will only be generalized to male juvenile delinquents within the Delhi as the present study only contains responses from juvenile delinquents within the Delhi city. One more limitation is that the result will only be generalized to juvenile delinquents who were living in the correction and observation homes of Delhi.

FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Table 1

Socioeconomic status	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Significance Level (0.05)
A₁(High)	100	89.15	20.97	2.84 (high& medium)	Significant
A₂(Medium)	100	96.18	13.16	0.42 (medium& low)	Significant
A₃(Low)	100	96.96	12.75	3.18 (high& low)	Significant

Table 1: depicting significance of difference between means of juvenile delinquents having high, medium and low socioeconomic status.

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Table 2

Different Socio-economic Status	N	Mean	SD
B ₁ (violent)	150	93.12	17.90
B ₂ (non-violent)	150	95.07	14.75
t-value	1.03		
Significances level (0.05)	Significant		

Table 2: depicting significance of difference between means of perception toward parents of violent and non-violent juvenile delinquents.

Table 3

Different Socio-economic Status	C ₁ (individual)	C ₂ (grouped)
N	150	150
Mean	93.29	94.9
SD	17.74	14.97
t-value	0.85	
Significances level (0.05)	Significant	

Table 3: depicting significance of difference between means of perception toward parents of individual and grouped juvenile delinquents.

CONCLUSION

A look at table-1 indicates that socio-economic status has a significant effect on perception of youth delinquents about their parents. It is clearly visible that the results are statistically significant in all the three groups of low, medium and high socio-economic status. A look at table-2 indicates that type of juvenile delinquency also has a significant effect on the perception of delinquents toward their parents. It is also seen from table -3 that the style of juvenile delinquency also has a significant effect on the perception of juvenile delinquents toward the parents. Hence, it may be safely concluded that socio-economic status, type of delinquency and style of delinquency affect the perception of juvenile delinquents toward their parents. It is assumed that all these three variables affect the perceptual process of youths towards the parents. Therefore, parents should spend quality time with their children. Especially, during adolescent age children need more care, support and supervision of their parents. The parents who always remained friendly with their children and psycho-educate them about sex, HIV+ and negative effects of delinquency could help their children in developing a better understanding

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about right and wrong. Hence, the proper care, guidance and support of the parents could reduce the possibilities of later delinquency in youths.

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