



FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND PERSONALITY OF DELINQUENT

Khalane Shashikant Hari,

JET's Z.B. Patil College, Dhule, Maharashtra.

Abstract

Juvenile delinquent behavior is one of the most important issues we face as a nation in this new millennium. Juvenile crime is increasingly more sophisticated and its participants are becoming younger. So the researcher has focus on this study. In this study researcher has selected 200 Subjects in which 100 subjects are delinquent, while 100 subjects are normal in Dhule District (Maharashtra). The age group of the subjects range from 14 to 18 years. They had given Family environment Scale by-Moos and Moos (1974) and NEO-FFI-3 test by- Robert R. McCrae and Paul T. Costa. Taking into consideration problem and objectives co-relational design were used in present research. This research study comes to conclusion that – Normal boys are more cohesion, expressive, achievement orientated, intellectual cultural orientated, moral religious emphasis and organizational than delinquent boys. Conflict found more in delinquent boys than the normal boys. Normal boys are more extroversive, agreeableness and conscientiousness than delinquent boys. Neuroticism found more in delinquent boys than the normal boys. Personality and family environment is positively correlated at medium level.

Keywords: Family environment, Delinquent, Juvenile

According to psycho-analytical view, the delinquent is an individual who is governed by the pleasure principle. He wants to get immediate pleasure and immediate satisfaction for his needs. So he becomes victim to his own impulses. Thus it may be said that juvenile delinquency is also the result of environmental factors.

Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 – “A Juvenile is the person who has not completed 18 years of age and hence Juvenile Delinquency refers to anti social or illegal behavior by children. There are many reasons like family environment, mental disorder, social disorganization etc. because of which a child commits crime and when a child repeatedly commits a crime he is known as Juvenile delinquent.”

Act of delinquency may include:

1. Running away from home without the permission of parents.
2. Habitual behavior beyond the control of parents.
3. Spending time idly beyond limits
4. Use of vulgar languages
5. Wandering about rail road's, streets market places
6. Visiting gambling centers
7. Committing sexual offences
8. Shop-lifting
9. Stealing etc. Juveniles may do such activities single or through a gang.

The relationship between parents, not just the relationship between mother and child, has a powerful effect on very young children. Children react to quarreling parents by disobeying, crying, hitting other children, and in general being much more antisocial than their peers. And, significantly, quarreling or abusive parents do not generally vent their anger equally on all their children. Such parents tend to vent their anger on their more difficult children. This parental hostility and physical and emotional abuse of the child shapes the future delinquent.

Most delinquents are children who have been abandoned by their fathers. They are often deprived also of the love and affection they need from their mother. Inconsistent parenting, family turmoil, and multiple other stresses (such as economic hardship and psychiatric illnesses) that flow from these disagreements compound the rejection of these children by these parents, many of whom became criminals during childhood. With all these factors working against the child's normal development, by age five the future criminal already will tend to be aggressive, hostile, and hyperactive. Four-fifths of children destined to be criminals will be "antisocial" by 11 years of age, and fully two-thirds of antisocial five-year-olds will be delinquent by age 15.

Summing up the findings of the professional literature on juvenile delinquency, Kevin Wright, professor of criminal justice at the State University of New York at Binghamton, writes: “Research confirms that children raised in supportive,



affectionate, and accepting homes are less likely to become deviant. Children rejected by parents are among the most likely to become delinquent.”

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- Kierkus and Hewitt (2009) study on the contextual nature of family structure delinquency relationship, found that there is significant interaction , in respect to age and family size, also living in a nontraditional family is more criminogenic for older adolescents and for those from larger families . Single - parent family was considering as a main element in causing delinquency among children. Eitle (2006) investigated parental gender, single - parent families, results shows that living with a single fathers may be at an increased risk of being involved in diligent behavior . Rosenbaum, (1989) in a study of family dysfunction and delinquency found that young children who have strong bond with their parents are less likely to be involved in deviant act. Matalaka (1994a) in his study of juvenile delinquency in Jordan found that children who live with single parents home and who belonged to a large family and those who have weak bond with their parents are more likely to be delinquents. Flannery, et al.(1999) studies on delinquent behavior, found that young adolescents who live without parental supervision are more likely to involve in delinquent behavior. Matalaka (1994, b, c) found that parental hostility , rejection , inconsistency and bad relation between father and Mother and between one parent and the child , all contribute to juvenile delinquency. Empirical researches reported a significant impact of family disruptions and juvenile delinquency, (wells and Rankin's (1991) ; Matalaka, (1994a); Matsueda and Heimer (1987) in their studies found that children's belong to broken homes and single - parent homes has a consistent and reliable association with deviant act . Klein and Forehand (1997) in their study, family life, delinquency and crime mention that, to predicting juvenile delinquency in early childhood one should know the type of maternal parenting skills that are used with adolescent during early childhood.

PROBLEM

What is the relationship between family environment and personality?

OBJECTIVES

1. To search the family environment of delinquent boys and normal boys.
2. To study the personality of delinquent boys and normal boys.

HYPOTHESES

1. Normal boys are better than delinquent boys on their family environment.
2. Normal boys and delinquent boys would significantly differ on their personality.
3. Family environment and personality would be positively correlated.

METHOD

1) Selection of the sample

For the present study it has been decided to choose 100 normal boys and 100 delinquent boys from Dhule District in Maharashtra. Total 200 subjects selected for the present research. The age group was between 14 – 18 years were taken for the research. The sample selection method was used as purposive sampling technique. The parents of subjects are working in different areas, such as service, profession, labor and farmers. Maximum numbers of subject are from lower class families.

Groups	N
Delinquent Boys	100
Normal Boys	100
Total	200

2. Variables:

1. **Independent Variables**- Delinquent boys and normal boys
2. **Dependent Variables**- Family Environment and personality traits

3. Selection of research tools:-

Researcher will select following research tools.

1. Family Environment Scale. By –Moos and Moos (1974) this scale is composed of 10 subscales that measure the actual preferred and expected social environment of families. Internal consistency reliability estimates ranges from .61 to .78.



2. NEO Five Factor Inventory-3 (NEO-FFI-3) - By- Robert R. McCrae and Paul T. Costa- In this test 60 items are involved. These 60 items assesses the five major domains of personality.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS --

Result Table- Table-1 The Table indicating family environment scale Mean, SD, and 't' value (Normal boys and Delinquent boys)

Area	Types	N	Mean	S.D	t value
Cohesion	Normal	100	5.93	1.35	2.44*
	Delinquent	100	5.46	1.37	
Expressiveness	Normal	100	4.96	1.42	2.37*
	Delinquent	100	4.53	1.12	
Conflict	Normal	100	3.23	1.5	3.85**
	Delinquent	100	4.15	1.86	
Independence	Normal	100	5.05	1.32	1.02
	Delinquent	100	4.87	1.15	
Achievement Orientation	Normal	100	6.87	1.26	6.71**
	Delinquent	100	5.83	0.9	
Intellectual -Cultural Orientation	Normal	100	4.82	1.99	4.99**
	Delinquent	100	3.69	1.08	
Active- Recreational Orientation	Normal	100	4.59	1.45	1.84
	Delinquent	100	4.23	1.3	
Moral Religious Emphasis	Normal	100	5.23	1.63	3.61**
	Delinquent	100	4.42	1.54	
Organization	Normal	100	6.22	1.38	2.57*
	Delinquent	100	5.75	1.2	
Control	Normal	100	5.2	1.56	2.46*
	Delinquent	100	4.69	1.36	

df = 198, *0.05=1.97 , **0.01=2.60

Above table shows difference between the groups of delinquent boys and normal boys on the various aspects of family environment scale. Eight scales i.e. cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, achievement orientation, intellectual cultural orientation, moral religious emphasis, organization and control are showing significant difference between two groups at the 0.05 and 0.01 level on 198 df grade.

It is concluded that delinquent boys are more cohesion than normal boys ($t(198) = 2.44, p < 0.05$). These subscales measure the degree of commitment, help and support family members provide for one another. It is proposed that level of cohesiveness in the family affects the adolescents in some or the other way. Normal boys are more expressive than delinquent boys ($t(198) = 2.37, p < 0.05$). It means that normal boy's family members are encouraged to express their feeling directly. In normal families mostly adolescents are encouraged to think through the likely impact of their behavior on themselves and others, thus adolescents are more likely to develop a mature internalized moral code. Conflict found more in delinquent boys than the normal boys ($t(198) = 3.85, p < 0.01$). It means that the amount of openly expressed anger and conflict among delinquent boys family members.

The normal boys are more achievement orientation than delinquent boys ($t(198) = 6.71, p < 0.01$). It means that many activities (such as school and work) are cast into an achievement-oriented or competitive framework in normal boy's family. Normal boys are Intellectual cultural orientated than delinquent boys ($t(198) = 4.99, p < 0.01$). It means that normal boys level



of interest in political, intellectual and cultural activities is very high than delinquent boys. Moral religious emphasis found more in normal boys than the delinquent boys ($t(198) = 3.61, p < 0.01$). It means that normal boys are got more emphasis on ethical and religious issues and values than delinquent boys. Normal boys are more organizational than delinquent boys ($t(198) = 2.57, p < 0.05$). In normal boys families the degree of importance of clear organization and structure in planning family activities and responsibilities. Control found more in normal boys than the delinquent boys ($t(198) = 2.46, p < 0.05$). Because normal boy's family found set rules and procedures are used to run family life. Extreme control tends to have negative effects on adolescents.

Graph: 1- Showing the graph mean between Normal and Delinquent boys on family environment.

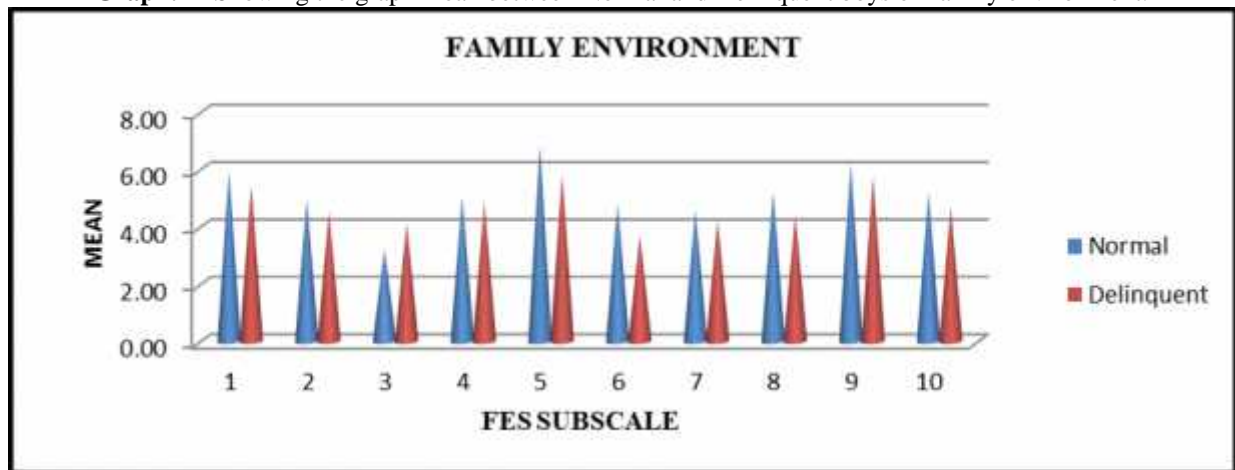


Table-2 The Table indicating Personality Mean, SD, and 't' value

Dimensions	Types	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t value
Neuroticism (N)	Normal	100	25.84	5.66	2.04*
	Delinquent	100	27.36	4.79	
Extraversion(E)	Normal	100	31.01	5.88	1.05
	Delinquent	100	30.12	6.02	
Openness to Experience (O)	Normal	100	32.03	4.43	3.93**
	Delinquent	100	29.33	5.23	
Agreeableness (A)	Normal	100	30.9	5.2	2.79**
	Delinquent	100	28.93	4.77	
Conscientiousness (C)	Normal	100	34.91	5.18	3.44**
	Delinquent	100	32.26	5.69	

df=198, *0.05=1.97 , **0.01=2.60

Table no.2 shows difference between the groups of delinquent boys and normal boys on the various dimensions of personality. Four dimensions i.e. neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness are showing significant difference between two groups at the 0.05 and 0.01 level on 198 df grade.

The most pervasive domain of personality scales contrasts adjustment or emotional stability with maladjustment or Neuroticism (N). On the dimension of neuroticism delinquent boys are more neurotic than normal boys ($t(198) = 2.04, p < 0.05$). Because delinquent boys mean score is higher than normal boys. It means that delinquent boys are also prone to have irrational ideas, to be less able to control their impulses, and to cope more poorly with stress than normal boys.



As a major dimension of personality, openness to experience is much less than N or E. The elements of O- active imagination, aesthetic sensitivity, attentiveness to inner feelings, and preference for variety, intellectual curiosity and independence of judgment have often played a role. It is concluded that normal boys are more openness to experience than delinquent boys ($t(198) = 3.93, p < 0.01$). Because delinquent boys mean score is lower than normal boys. It means that delinquent boys prefer the familiar to the novel, and their emotional responses are somewhat muted. Although an individual's level of openness may influence the form of psychological defense uses. Normal boys are unconventional, willing to question authority, and prepared to entertain new ethical, social and political ideas. These tendencies, however, do not mean that they are unprincipled. They apply his evolving value system as conscientiously as a traditionalist does.

The agreeableness (A) is fundamentally altruistic. They sympathetic to others and eager to help them, and believes that others will be equally helpful in return. On the dimension of agreeableness (A) normal boy's mean score are higher than delinquent boys. It is concluded that normal boys are more agreeable than delinquent boys ($t(198) = 2.79, p < 0.01$). It means that normal boys are socially preferable and psychologically healthier, and it is certainly the case that agreeable people are more popular than antagonistic individuals.

The conscientious (C) individual is purposeful, strong-willed, determined and probably few people become great musicians or athletes without a reasonably high level of this trait. On the dimension of conscientious (C) normal boy's mean score are higher than delinquent boys. It is concluded that normal boys are more conscientious than delinquent boys ($t(198) = 3.44, p < 0.01$). It means that normal boys are more achiever than delinquents. High C is associated with academic and occupational achievement as well as they is scrupulous, punctual and reliable. On the negative side of (C) it may lead to annoying fastidiousness, compulsive neatness or workaholic behavior. There is some evidence that low scorers are more hedonistic and interested in sex than high scorers (McCrae, Costa and Busch, 1986).

Graph: 2- Showing the graph mean between Normal and Delinquent boys on personality dimension.

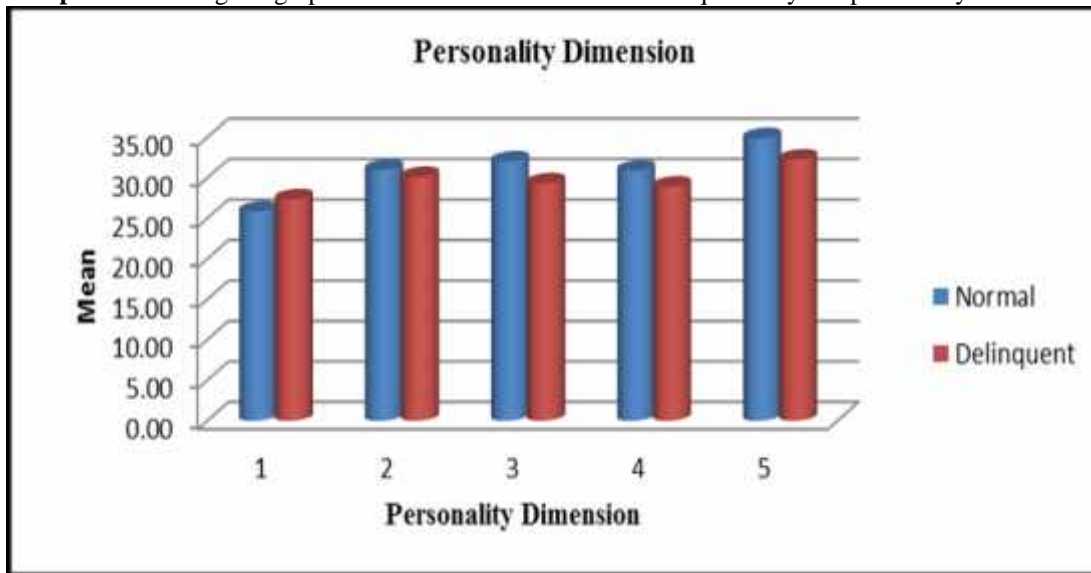


Table-3. The table indicating correlation between family environment and personality.

Correlations		Personality	Family Environment
Personality	Pearson Correlation	1	0.34
	N	200	200

$df=198, 0.05= 0.13, 0.01= 0.18$

Table no. 3 indicates correlation of family environment and Personality. The correlation score is 0.34 and it is significant at both levels on 198 df grade. This indicates that the personality and family environment are positively correlated and at medium level.



DISCUSSION

In view of the findings it is worth to suggest that family counseling will be an effective way to guide the public to the important of healthy family environment, for the personality as well as social development of the child. An important management strategy by counselors for juvenile crimes is the family therapy technique. In this technique, the child is allowed to express his/her feelings about the world. Then the parent and other members of the family are able to see the child's world through the child's own perspective and picture the adolescent as a person striving for acceptance and individuality. As parents and family members begin to understand the adolescent's motivations and needs the adolescent is struggling to meet, they can learn to help meet such needs in a more wholesome and acceptable manner.

Parent's management training centers are established in various communities. In these centers parents may receive training on how to interact differently with their children. Training may include a daily 1-2 hours classroom sessions for children, a weekly home visit to each mother and child that attend the programme and a monthly parents meetings to assess the success of the training. The home visitors may counsel the mothers, model parent and- child interaction and may assist in developing contacts and referral to other agencies where necessary. These training programs may increase positive reinforcement among family members improved communication, negotiation and problem- solving skills. Another aspect of this training programme may include teaching the children how to engage in a step-by-step approach to solve interpersonal problems. These may include teaching how to be less aggressive, impulsive and impatient and engage in fewer temper tantrums including exhibiting more concern for each other.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. It was difficult to deal with delinquents.
2. Some of them were unable to understand the statements of inventory and gave response very late, so it was time consuming process.
3. Sample size was relatively small. Some delinquent's attitude was causal and they did not understand the aim of the research.

CONCLUSION

1. Normal boys are more cohesion, expressive, achievement orientated, intellectual cultural orientated, moral religious emphasis and organizational than delinquent boys. Conflict found more in delinquent boys than the normal boys.
2. Normal boys are more extroversive, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness than delinquent boys. Neuroticism found more in delinquent boys than the normal boys.
3. Personality and family environment is positively correlated at medium level.

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