



## Delinquent behavior among youth: a gender difference

Manjeet\*

\*Research Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, GJU&ST, Hisar.

### Abstract

The purpose of the present study was delinquent behavior among the male and female youths having different economic status. For this purpose youths studying in various schools of haryana, have been selected in the sample. In total 120 youths were selected randomly. Achenbach's Child Behaviors Check List And Personal Data Sheet were used to collect needed data 't' test was used to analysis of the data. Results revealed significant difference in the delinquent behavior of boys and girls belonging to higher and medium economic class. However no such difference was observed between girls and boys having low economic status.

**Keywords:** *Delinquent behaviors, Youths, Economic, Gender*

ISSN : 2348-5612 © URR



A mother is highly responsible in the growth and development of the child's character, but there exists many factors which also affects in the personality development of a child, in which wholesome atmosphere of the family, several economical categories, school, friends, social atmosphere, number of births etc. As per the Indian Psychology, character of a child starts developing when the baby is in the fetus of the mother. To much extent, the thoughts and decisions of the parents make an impression on the shape-less baby. As per the opinion of ancient sage 'MANU', a family itself is the most important factor among the social group that helps in growth and development of a human man. The family base that is farmed by the mother, father and the child is the first school of a child for the development of it's social culture. Knowingly or unknowingly, by their own thoughts and conducts, the parents are responsible for their growth and development of their own child. In its beginning stage, a child always learns and grabs from the good and bad action of their parents, and during its initial stage, a child does not have the strength to think, decide and react towards their actions. The way a child develops its character and personality while growing, is mostly base on its family.

Many problems and restrictions created and started in the childhood always up to youth stage. Even though at the initial stage, the attention of psychologists was never drawn towards this direction. During last years, the psychologists are prepared to work in the direction of youth and several studies and research work are also being started to find out, mainly several problems taking places during youth stage, and reasons for their existing anti-social attitude. The tremendous changes take place on their physical and mental during this youth stage always bring storm in their life creating many problems and complications. It becomes very difficult for them to understand the internal and external physical changes and accordingly the family and social standard, rules and regulations, traditions, and such complicated situations adversely affects the personal growth and development of a youth. As a result of which, delinquent behaviour is seen among many youths. Today, the crime is expanding its wing and boundaries to unbelievable limits, and mainly, such criminal attitude and delinquent behaviour is observed among the youths. Thus, to find out which factors are



responsible for affecting such delinquent behaviour among their reasons and also to know their results, various psychological studies and research works are necessary to be carried out. Accordingly to a survey conducted, 30% boys and 10% girls are found to be doing delinquent. This young generation commits three mistake in year when they have not completed 18 years of age. As compared to female youths, the delinquent behaviour is found in male youths to a greater extent, and such delinquent is very much serious in itself. ( M C Cord, 1990; Elliott et al. 1989) 19% criminals arrested in United States in 1994, were among the age limit of 15 to 18 years, and 31% were the big crimes conducted i.e. vehicle theft, murder, consumption of alcohol etc. (US Bureau of the Census, 1996) It can be concluded from the above study that, day-by-day the delinquent behaviour and criminal attitude are growing vastly among the youths. Moreover, these youths are doing all kind of criminal action without any fear or shame in their mind. Today's youth is a citizen of tomorrow, and such growing attitude of guilt behaviour in himself is a most complicated situation for the society for which several studies and research works are necessary to carried out.

### ***Objective***

The main objective or the purpose of present study is, to try to find out various factors that are responsible for the delinquent behaviour among today's male and female youths and how are they differentiated among the youths having various economical categories in the society and reasons lying behind their criminal attitude.

## **METHOD**

### ***Sample***

Keeping the main objective of the present study under consideration, schools of Haryana state has been selected, from which the students of Std. 8th, 9th, and Std. 10th were chosen. youths having various economical class are studying in schools had been selected. Samples of 120 students had been selected on the basis of random sampling.

### ***Tools***

#### **(1) Personal Data Sheet :-**

Taking the study into consideration, individual information like name, caste, number of birth, number of brothers and sisters, education of parents, type of family, family's monthly income, interpersonal relationship among the fellow student of a class etc. had been collected by preparing a personal data sheet.

**(2) Child Behavior Check List :-** Child Behavior Check List prepared by H.N. Back (1981) generally the behavioral problems of children between 4 to 16 years. In the present study, the inventor had used the “self-presented check list”, technique for the children (youths) with the age of 12 to 16 years. The translation done by Dr. Milan Sood had also been used by Dodia (1999) for the present research work. This presentation was prepared with a view to measure the delinquent behavior of the youths, and hence only 11 techniques for the measurement of the guilt behavior had been used. In this test, a youth can score maximum 22 points or minimum 0 points, in which higher



the points scored, higher is the level of the delinquent behavior. And its wide usage itself proves the usefulness and the correctness of the present technique.

**Statistical Analysis**

In the study presented here “t” test used for the purpose of analysing the data(Table-1) .

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION** The main purpose of present study is to find out whether several economical categories affect the delinquent behavior among today’s male and female youths. **Table -1, The factors an ‘t’ values showing the guilt behavior of the male and female youth with various economical category**

**Higher class**

Group	N	mean	S.D.	‘t’
Male youth	20	6.80	2.27	2.09*
Female youth	20	5.25	2.21	

**Medium class**

Group	N	mean	S.D.	‘t’
Male youth	20	7.20	2.66	3.39**
Female youth	20	4.35	2.21	

**Lower class**

Group	N	mean	S.D.	‘t’
Male youth	20	6.30	3.86	1.47ns
Female youth	20	4.70	2.69	

ns = Not significant \* = P < 0.05 \*\* = P < 0.01

Whether several economical categories affect the delinquent behavior among today’s male and female? To find out these details, three groups were formed as per their monthly income, in which the student family having income more than 11,000/month is in higher class, the student of a family incommode than 6,000 to 10,000/month is in the medium class, the student of family having income up to 5,000/month is in lower class. Here, to observe the trueness of the differentiating factors of delinquent behavior, while calculating with the help of “t” values, with reference to the guilt behavior among the higher class youth, the trueness of 0.05 standards of “t” values, and among the lower class youth, the trueness of 0.01 standards of “t” value, where among the medium class youth, there was no difference between them. Here, several economical categories affect the delinquent behavior among today’s male and female youths.

Yet in another study Bhati (2008) indicated that parents have significantly low aspiration, lesser need for achievement and lesser expectation in education for girl’s education than boys. A study on the issues of negligence vs. indulgence and utopian expectation vs. realism in children of single parents indicated that the parents where both are surviving inculcate indulgence experience more in their wards than single parent, also, it is depicted that experience of indulgence in the children is associated with low economic status families where as neglect experience is associated with high



economic status families. However, over indulgence can develop inconsistency in adjustment in the social environment. Results also indicated that parents where both are surviving inculcate realism experience more in their wards than single parents and also realism experience in the children in associated with low economic status families where as utopian expectation experience is associated with high economic status families (Singh and Khokhar, 2006). The most possible reasons for the result observed, can be said that, whatever class is i.e. higher, middle or lower, the delinquent behavior and the criminal attitude among the male youth is found more than the female youth. A reason for this, could be possible that, females are now-a-days considered to be equivalent to the males in the society, and today's social group may believe in women's equality, even though the boys are given more facilities than girls i.e. more flexibilities, more pocket money and more freedom and independence, whereas till today, girls are kept in more control, and as such delinquent behavior is found to be more in males as compared to females.

### CONCLUSION

- (1) Delinquent behavior is found to be more in males as compared to females of HIGHER class.
- (2) Delinquent behavior is also found to be more in males as compared to females of MEDIUM class.
- (3) NO such difference is observed in lower class.

**Acknowledgments** The author appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

### References:

- Harlock E.B. (1979), *Cild Growth and Development, fifth edition*. Tata Mcgrow Hill Publishing Company Ltd., New Delhi. P 127
- M C Cord (1990). Elliottetral (1989), *Problem Behaviors in S.S. Feldman & G.R. Elliot (eds) AT the threshold the developing adolescent*, Cambridge Hobart P. 414-430.
- Mental health of adolescent school students were studied by Anand. S.P in 1989; by Manjuvani.E in 1990; by Pathak.R.P and Rai. V.K. in 1993 and by Saritha, Sanwal Shudha Dube and Bharathi Bhatnagar in 2005 *in relation to socio-economic status, school environment and integration of personality*
- Olorunthimehin, - Olyfunmilayo (1973). A study of juvenile delinquency in a negerium city, *British Journal of Criminology; as an abstract of journal article* 157-169.
- Patterson, Debaryshe & Ramsey (1989). *Social and Personality development in adolescence*, Chapter Fifteen page 495-496.
- Paz, Bilge; Reiners (1997). Early risk factors for serious antisocial behavior at age 21 : A longitudinal community study. *American journal of Ortho Psychiatry* Vol. 67(i) 92-101.
- Poor home environment has been reported to have long term effects on adolescents' life style* (Albersetal. 1986; Olsson et al., 1999; Lai and McBride-Chang, 2001; Madu and Malta, 2004; Powell, 2006; and Lee et al. 2006)
- U.S. Bureau of the Census (1996). *Statistical abstract of the United States, 116thed*, Washington DC US. *Government Printing Office*.