

**Delinquency Proneness among Adolescents in Relation to
Emotional Maturity and Demographic Variables**

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Abstract

Delinquency undoubtedly is a social problem. It is a socially unacceptable behavior committed by adolescent boys and girls. The present study examined delinquency proneness among adolescents in relation to emotional maturity and demographic variables on a sample of 150 students of Ferozepur district. Data was collected by using scale of delinquency proneness prepared by investigator and Emotional Maturity by Singh & Bhargava. Results revealed the negative relationship between delinquency proneness and emotional maturity of adolescents. Significant difference was found in delinquency proneness of boys and girls. Significant difference was found in delinquency proneness among students from Government and Private schools. But no significant difference was found in students of urban and rural areas.

Adolescence is the unique period of life in which stress and storm can manifest in the form of conflict with parents, mood disruptions and dodgy behaviours. But there are different factors responsible for why adolescent experience various storms and stress during this stage and it might be due to rapid changes and transition going on in the environment around them. In the present century due to transcendence of human race that we have reached the height of maximum luxury upgrading from the days of ancient stone and cave age. There has been a long list of tremendous success of science and technology. Advancements in science and technology has made us materially rich in socio-economic front, politically stable, scientifically and culturally advanced. But on the other side there have been an increasing number of stories in the media regarding children and their increasing tendencies to crime. According to a report published in a newspaper that in 2014, a total of 33,526 cases were registered against children below 18 years of age as against a total number of 28,51,563 cases registered in the country during that year.

Delinquency has always been considered as a social problem over and above the fact is that it is crime committed by children and adolescents under the age of 18 years, is called delinquency. The word delinquency is derived from 'delinquere' comprising two words 'de' means away and 'linquere' means 'to leave' or 'to abandon'. In general words the term delinquency is meant as 'falling away' from normal behavior or behavior of a person falls away from social norms. In legal terms, delinquency means certain anti-social behavioral offences committed by adolescents when if committed by adults would be considered as crime and shall be punishable accordingly by the court of law.

Burt remarked that, "a child is said to be regarded as a delinquent, when his anti-social tendencies appear so grave that he becomes or ought to become the subject of official action."

Education Dictionary "A delinquent is one who behaves against social norms, breaks laws, creates indiscipline in school or other institutions and disobey the rules. His immoral behavior is considered not so serious that he should be considered a culprit Juvenile courts look into his illegal behavior."

In the words of Telford and Sawrey "Delinquency, like aggressive behavior in general, can be understood as aggressive, hostile behavior or culturally acquired way of life."

Delinquency proneness is the likelihood of an adolescent to perform anti-social act. Delinquency proneness is the probability of becoming delinquent when an adolescent is exposed to fairly common place temptations and opportunities. The inner predisposition towards such an act is child's proneness to delinquency which means that the child is sure to commit such an act whenever confronting with stimulating circumstances. And the repetition of such acts in child's life makes him/her delinquent. Thus delinquency proneness is the likelihood of a child to become delinquent. It all depends on the degree of readiness.

Emotional maturity is not only the effective determinant of personality pattern but also helps to control the growth of adolescents's development. The concept 'mature' emotional behavior at any level is that which reflects the fruits of normal emotional development. It is a stage, which is very essential in human life. An emotionally mature person has full control over expression of his feelings. The emotionally mature person, however, behaves according to the accepted social values and ideals. He remains indifferent towards emotional incitements. There is no instability in expression of emotions. During adolescence one gets excited very soon. Adolescents burst into laughter on flimsy things or lose temper soon but an emotionally mature is free from this defect to such behaviour. An emotionally mature will not act in an irresponsible manner under emotional stream and waste his energy and time over imaginary problems; his success is attributed to finer qualities of self-control, politeness, sympathy, co-operation, tolerance and emotional stability.

In the words of Singh (1990) "Emotional maturity is not only the effective determinant of personality pattern but also helps to control the growth of an adolescent's development. A person who is able to keep his emotions under control, to brook delay and to suffer without self-pity might still be emotionally stunned".

Mohan and Nalwa (1992) found no sex differences on the Jessness indices of delinquency proneness. Lidhoo (1989) conducted a study on adolescents to find out predicting factors of delinquency. Out of all the factors, he found that less emotionally mature the adolescent more was the proneness towards delinquency. Bhatia (2005) "Emotional maturity is having proper emotion at proper time and to express it in proper form and in proper quality." Katyal and Nirwani (2005) conducted a study on randomly selected 200 class 9th students and found that delinquency prone adolescents were less emotionally mature than non delinquency prone adolescents. Nirwani (2006) conducted a study on adolescent boys of 8th and 9th class and found that delinquency proneness is significantly positively correlated with emotional maturity and cognitive distortion but inversely related with mental health. Demographic variables like gender, location and type of school are important component which also affect the delinquency proneness of adolescents.

Statement of the problem

Delinquency Proneness Among Adolescents In Relation To Emotional Maturity And Demographic Variables.

• Objectives of the Study

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives.

1. To study the relationship between the delinquency proneness and emotional maturity of adolescents.
2. To investigate the significance of difference in delinquency proneness of adolescents on the basis of gender.
3. To investigate the significance of difference of delinquency proneness of adolescents on the basis of type of school.
4. To investigate the significance of difference in delinquency proneness of adolescents on the basis of location of school.

• Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between delinquency proneness and emotional maturity of adolescents.
2. There is no significant difference in delinquency proneness of adolescent boys and girls.
3. There is no significant difference in delinquency proneness of adolescents from government and private schools.
4. There is no significant difference in delinquency proneness of adolescents from rural and urban schools.

Method

In the present study descriptive method was employed by the investigator to study the delinquency proneness among adolescents in relation to emotional maturity and demographic variables.

Sample

The simple random sampling technique was used and sample of 150 adolescents studying in 10+1 class of Government and private schools from rural as well as urban areas of Ferozpur district was selected.

Measures

1. Delinquency Proneness Scale was developed by the investigator.
2. Emotional Maturity Scale by Singh and Bhargava.

Statistical Techniques

Correlation and t-test were used.

Results and Discussions

Table 1: Relationship between Delinquency Proneness and Emotional Maturity of adolescents

	N	Mean	S.D.	Correlation
Delinquency Proneness	150	92.70	30.6	-0.53
Emotional Maturity	150	91.01	32.62	

Table 1 represents the value of correlation which shows that there is negative correlation between delinquency proneness and emotional maturity of adolescents. Hence the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between delinquency proneness of adolescents and emotional maturity is rejected.

Table 2: Difference between Delinquency Proneness of adolescents Boys and Girls

Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Boys	67	97.43	29.11	2.07significant
Girls	83	88.89	31.57	

As seen from Table 2 the Mean value of boys is 97.43 and Mean value of girls is 88.89 and standard deviation value of boys is 29.11 and girls is 31.57. The calculated t-value 2.07 is significant at .05 level. It clearly indicates that delinquency proneness is more in boys as compared to girls Hence the hypothesis that there is no significant difference in delinquency proneness of adolescent boys and girls is rejected.

Table 3: Difference between the Delinquency Proneness of adolescents from government and private schools

School	N	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Government	89	81.89	17.85	5.82*
Private	61	108.72	37.78	

As seen from Table 3 the Mean value of students studying in Government schools is 81.89 and Mean value of students studying in Private schools is 108.72 and standard deviation value of students studying in Government schools is 17.85 and students studying in Private schools is 37.78. The calculated t-value 5.82 is significant at .05 level. It clearly indicates that delinquency proneness is more in students studying in private schools as compared to students studying in government schools. Hence the hypothesis that there is no significant difference in delinquency proneness of adolescents studying in government and private schools is rejected.

Table 4: Difference between the Delinquency Proneness of adolescents from schools located in rural and urban areas.

Area	N	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio
Rural	75	91.11	31.54	0.64**
Urban	75	94.31	29.96	

As seen from Table 4 the Mean value of students studying in Rural area schools is 91.11 and Mean value of students studying in Urban area schools is 94.31 and standard deviation value of students studying in Rural area schools is 31.54 and students studying in Urban area schools is 29.96. The calculated t-value 0.64 is not significant at .05 level. It clearly indicates that there is no significant difference in delinquency proneness of students studying in rural area schools and urban area schools. Hence the hypothesis that there is no significant difference in delinquency proneness of adolescents from schools located in rural and urban area is accepted.

Discussions of the Result

The main findings of the study are as under.

1. Delinquency Proneness and Emotional Maturity are negatively correlated which means low level of emotional maturity level leads to raise the level of delinquency proneness among adolescents.
2. There is significant difference between boys and girls and mean value of boys is more as compared to girls i.e. delinquency proneness is high in boys.
3. There is significant difference between students studying in Government and Private schools. High value of mean of Private school students indicate delinquency proneness is high in private school students.
4. No significant difference is found among students from schools located in Urban area and rural area.

Educational Implications

The present study is a step towards measure of delinquency proneness. It may help teachers, parents, school administration and society that proper training of and the positive environment in schools, home and around him/her can help in prevention of delinquency.

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