

AGGRESSION AMONG JUVENILE AND NON-JUVENILE DELINQUENTS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

Background:

The intent of study was to compared aggression among male juvenile & non- juvenile delinquents. Aggression in its broadest sense is behaviour or a disposition towards behaviour that is force full: hostile or attacking. It makes occur either in relation or wit out provocation. Adolescence is the most complex stage of development of the youngster on his way to adulthood. This period seems to raise the greatest difficulties in the educational process because of the frequent physiological and emotional disturbances, deviations of character and behavioral disorders accompanying them often towards maturation. The research aim is to described the differences between juvenile and non- juvenile delinquent adolescents using psychological tools to highlight differences between them in terms of aggression.

Methods:

The study was conducted with fifty (50) males out of which 50 (25 juveniles from observation home Lucknow Uttar Pradesh) and (25 non- juveniles K.D. Singh Babu Stadium Lucknow University, Uttar Pradesh) were normal population between the ages of 14 to 16 years was selected and using stratified systematic (random) sampling technique. aggression scale developed by by Km Roma Pal and Dr. (Smt.) Tasneem Naqvi (1986) were used to collect the data. To compare the juvenile delinquent & Non- Juvenile delinquent, the independent t-test was given between the average scores of both study groups. Further the level of significance was set at level of 0.05. The statistical analysis was performed with the help of SPSS (V-17) software.

Results:

This result showed that delinquents were high mean score (16.70) and showed high aggression than the non-delinquents mean score (9.06). The results indicated that juvenile delinquent group differs significantly from non-delinquent on aggression variable. The higher the aggression severity, the greater the rate of delinquency. It is noticed from the present study that high level of aggression in delinquents and due to the lack of care, supervision and may be not proper treatment facility in the observation home.

Conclusion:

It is suggesting that if proper supervision, care, education and provide better & specific training in home as well as in school to the children then, it will help to overcome aggression.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquents, Non-Juvenile delinquents,

adolescents, aggression.

1. INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is one of the most serious problems that need to be addressed both in developed and developing countries. In the India, the definition of juvenile delinquency embraces a wide range of situations when the law is broken by individuals who are underage, i.e. by those who have not reached 18 years. Juvenile delinquent behaviour is one of the most important issues we face as a nation in this millennium. Juvenile delinquency is an astronomic problem in India by which most of the youth ruin their lives. Because of juvenile crime and relate problem, youth, their families and the entire society suffer multiple consequences. A child is born innocent and if nurtured with affectionate care and attention, then he/she grows in positive way. Mental, physical, moral and spiritual development of the children makes them capable of realizing his/her fullest latent.

A normal healthy development of any individual starts at home. It is the home, the family this constitutes the backbone of any human being. During childhood, the family constitutes the basic ecology in which the child's behaviour is manifested by way of positive or negative reinforcement (Dishion & Patterson, 2006). For many young people today, traditional patterns guiding the relationships and transitions between family, school and work are being challenged. Social relations that ensure a smooth process of socialization are collapsing; lifestyle trajectories are becoming more varied and less predictable. World Health Organization (WHO) identifies adolescence as the period in human growth and development that occurs after childhood and before adulthood, from ages 12 to 18. It represents one of the critical transitions in the life span and is characterized by a tremendous pace in growth and developmental changes. Biological processes drive many aspects of this growth and development, with the onset of puberty marking the passage from childhood to adolescence. The great majority of adolescents are, therefore, included in the age-based definition of "child", adopted by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*,⁴ as a person under the age of 18 years.

The word delinquency is derived from the Latin word "delinquere" meaning de i.e. away and linquere i.e. to leave thus, meaning to leave or to abandon. Originally, the word had an objective meaning as it referred to parents who neglected and abandoned their children. In present day, it is used and applied to those children who indulge in wrongful and harmful activities.

Juvenile can be defined as a child who has not attained a certain age at which he, like an adult person under the law of the land, can be held liable for his criminal acts. The juvenile

is a child who is alleged to have committed /violated some law which declares the act or omission on the part of the child as an offence. Juvenile is a child who unlike an adult person, having not attained prescribed age, cannot be held liable for his criminal act. The age criteria for being a juvenile vary from country to country, state to state.

Juvenile Non delinquent

Juvenile non delinquents are the children or youths (minor in age) who do not deviate themselves from the established social or cultural norms and do not commit such punishable acts, committed by either an adult or juveniles. They may also be kept at an observation home as missing children or as neglected children. Their psycho-social, physical, physiological and other factors are same as that of the general children living under their parent's control.

Aggression: Nature and Definitions

According to Gomez-Jarabo (1999), aggression is a natural form of behaviour based on biology. It is adaptive, intentional, purposeful and common to the entire animal kingdom. Bushman and Anderson (2001) define aggression as follows: "Hostile aggression is impulsive, angry behavior that is motivated by a desire to hurt someone. Instrumental aggression is premeditated, calculated behavior that is motivated by some other goal (e.g. obtain money, restore one's image, and restore justice) (p.273). Aggression can be defined as an act that injures or agitates another individual. Anderson and Bushman (2002) have offered an integrative explanatory framework for aggression. Aggression can vary from problems with emotional regulation and manipulative behaviours. There are various behaviours, indicating aggression, such as stating rumors; excluding others; arguing; bullying, both verbally (name-calling) and physically (pushing); threatening; striking back in anger; use of strong-arm tactics (to get something they want); and engaging in physical fights. Aggression could be described as a force that enables a person to be healthily self-assertive and autonomous and to control the environment and the self. When the use of this force becomes unacceptable and goes beyond the limits then it become maladaptive and pathological. Aggression can be seen as one maladaptive pathway in the developmental processes that may result in antisocial and criminal behaviour. Presence of psychological disorder in certain psychosocial contexts seems to facilitate the expression of maladaptive aggression among adolescents. Psychological problems and behaviors may interfere with an adolescent's social adaptation and personal competence. Further, it can create a set of circumstances that increase the likelihood of certain behaviors and cognitions and put adolescents at risk for persistent delinquent behaviour. Aggression is an interpersonal behaviour. It represents a social nature. It is accompanied by certain emotions and attitudes towards a target person or group. Aggression involves intent to cause harm directly or indirectly to the target person. It is a threat or the violation of social norms. Keeley (1996) showed that aggression is embedded in human

nature. People express their aggression differently. This difference is due to factors such as race, gender, age, culture, moral values and situational factors. In narrower definitions that are commonly used in psychology and other social and behaviour sciences aggression involves an intention to cause harm. Aggression differs from what is commonly called assertiveness. Although the terms are often used interchangeable among lay people e.g. an aggressive sales person. Aggression among human is as old as human race. Beginning with Cain's murder of Abel and extending throughout history, people have fought each other in tribal wars, ethnic and religious wars, and in worldwide conflicts. Aggressive behaviour is quite visible in sports. Aggression is a behaviour that intends to harm others either physically or in any other form. The age of juvenile differs from country to country and state to state. Delinquent means who has been neglected by the parents and is involved in harmful and wrong activities. The aim of the current paper is to examine aggression in juveniles and non-juvenile delinquents on the aggression variable.

Aggression in Delinquents

The most visible public outcome of early violence and coercion in the name of discipline is the active aggression that begins to shape the character and behaviour in childhood and continues in far too many instances, throughout the lives of those who suffered most in their earliest years. Aggressive children often become aggressive adults, who often produce more aggressive children, in a cycle that endures generation after generation. Corporal punishments always figure prominently in the roots of adolescent and adult aggressiveness, especially in those manifestations that take antisocial form, such as delinquency and criminality. Assaults upon children by adults in the name of discipline are the primary familial models for aggression, assaults, and other forms of antisocial behaviour, delinquency and crime that emerge when children grow up (New York: Pergamon Press, 1977).

2. Material and Methods

This study is a descriptive research. The present study was undertaken to assess the levels of aggression among Juvenile & non- Juvenile delinquents who staying at Government Observation Home of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and non-juvenile delinquents staying at K.D. Singh Babu Stadium hostel, Lucknow Uttar Pradesh. The data has been collected from two groups of adolescents living in the city of Lucknow. The first group of adolescents consisted of 25 delinquent boys, residing in an Observation Home located in the city of Lucknow. The age range was from 14 to 16. The second group of samples consisted of 25 sportspersons ranging in age from 14 to 16. The participants were selected from K.D. Singh Babu Stadium Lucknow Uttar Pradesh of various sportspersons located in Lucknow.

Limitations

As with most research, the present study has limitations. This study was conducted on delinquent boys only as due to

unavailability of delinquent girls. Therefore, the findings of the study cannot be generalized to the female population.

Variables Tools: -

AGGRESSION:

The investigator used aggression scale by Km Roma Pal and Dr. (Smt.) Tasneem Naqvi (1986) to collect the data related to Aggression (Appendix-I) for the present study. The test consists of 30 statements related to the personality of an individual which they answered by marking a Tick (✓) mark corresponding to very much; much; ordinary; 'Less' very less', 'not at all', Thus, each item had five alternative answers graded on five point scale on the positive dimension and a zero point on the negative dimension. All the statements of this scale were related to behaviour of adolescents.

RELIABILITY:

The reliability of aggression scale has been calculated by test – retest method on a sample of 200 subjects. The reliability coefficient was .78.

METHOD OF SCORING:

The range of score of aggression scale varies in between 0 to 150. High scores are indicating the higher level of aggression.

PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION: -

In the present study, necessary permission was taken from the concerned authority. They were informed about the nature of the study prior to its commencement and also informed that their data will be used for research purpose only and hence confidentiality will be maintained. After this an informed consent was taken from each of the participants. Study subjects filled-out the questionnaires in groups of two. Such a procedure allowed for a closer relationship between the subjects and the investigator. Anonymity of the questionnaires was emphasized, and the subjects were asked to answer them frankly. On filling-out the questionnaires, the subjects were free to ask for additional explanation of any particular question. The subjects were previously informed on why they had been called to answer the questionnaires, and the examiner was properly introduced to them.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 01 Representation of mean, SD & t-value of aggression among Juvenile & Non- Juvenile delinquents

Variables	Juvenile Delinquents N=25		Non-juvenile Delinquents N=25		t-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Aggression	16.70	8.39	10.16	6.92	2.52*

*Significant at $p < 0.05$ Tabulated $t_{0.05}(58) = 2.01$.

The present study is based on the sample of adolescents belonging to two different groups i.e. Delinquents and non-Delinquents. Both the groups are compared on the basis of their scores on aggression variable. The results as shown in

table 1 indicate that juvenile delinquent group differs significantly from non-delinquent on aggression variable. These results could be discussed in the light of the general aggression model by Anderson and Bushman (2002).

Furthermore table 1 reveals that the mean score of juveniles is 16.70, and non- juvenile mean score is 10.16. Standard deviation of juvenile is 8.39 and non-juvenile Standard deviation is 6.92.

From the reading of the table 1 it is found that the non-juvenile has shown low level aggression than juvenile delinquents.

Above Finding also supported by Mohammad,. T. & Nitin., K. (2020), compared between juvenile & non- juvenile delinquents on stress and results showed that juvenile had high level of stress than non-juvenile delinquents. As per the scoring manual of the aggression higher scores indicates high level of aggression. Therefore, it can be said on the basis of the mean score value that the juvenile delinquents of observation home in Lucknow showed high level of aggression. This model suggested that the frustrations arise due to provocation, the situational variables, and give rise to aggressive behaviour in the presence of an immediate factor. In most of the cases on the present study, frustration might have been a trigger for the aggressive behaviour in the presence of a situational cue. The aggression of the delinquents could be related to the frustration aggression hypothesis which says that aggression is an angry and hostile reaction to a perceived threat.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In the view point of aggression, there are significant differences between delinquent and non-delinquent adolescents, in the sense that it manifests itself more substantially in delinquent adolescents. The results indicated that juvenile delinquents were found to be high level aggression than non-juvenile delinquents. The present investigations may be concluded that juvenile delinquent group was suffering more depressive disorder than the non-delinquent group. It has been accepted that due to some situations and environment children become delinquent by not on their own will, thus this is not impossible to change the unfriendly attitude in them by reforming the unhealthy and poor surroundings, and by providing adequate suitable means. As we know that teachers and parents play a significant role in the development a child's character. Furthermore, suggesting that if proper care, supervision, education and provide specific training in home as well as in school to the children then, it will help to overcome the aggression.

IMPLICATIONS

There is a strong need that juvenile delinquents need to be trained in frustration tolerance skills by mental health professionals to learn handle aggression more effectively. The current study has significant implications for providing anger counseling by trained counselors to juvenile delinquents' group.

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