

DELINQUENCY PRONENESS IN RELATION TO DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF PERSONALITY

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Abstract

The juvenile delinquency as a serious problem today is a readily accepted fact. Before the last half of the nineteenth century, little scientific research was done to investigate many factors that contribute to delinquency and crime. Even at the present time the major discipline concerned with criminality and delinquency is the field of sociology, although subsequent to the later part of the nineteenth century, psychology, psychiatry, and to a lesser degree, other related disciplines became more aware of the problem and interested in its causation, control, prevention, and treatment. Parents, teachers, educators, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists are vitally concerned with the influences which lead to a career of delinquency. The present study examined delinquency proneness in relation to different dimensions of personality on the sample of 94 male adolescents at the sub stage of mid adolescent. For the collection of data, Eysenck Personality Questionnaire, Sensation Seeking Scale, Delinquency Proneness Scale was employed. For analysis of data (2x2) Analysis of Variance was used for analysis of data. The results of the study revealed that male adolescents high on psychoticism reported high self-reported delinquency. Male adolescents high on sensation seeking reported high self-reported delinquency. The present study revealed that the influence of the interaction of psychoticism and sensation seeking behaviour on self-reported delinquency was non-significant.

Keywords: Delinquency, Personality, Psychoticism, Sensation seeking.

The juvenile delinquency as a serious problem today is a readily accepted fact. Before the last half of the nineteenth century, little scientific research was done to investigate many factors that contribute to delinquency and crime. Most attempts at criminological explanations took the form of more elastic pronouncements or unscientific personal generalizations. Not until the end of nineteenth century did scientific criminological inquiry begin to emerge in this area. With the onset of the discipline of sociology, academic courses that dealt with crime and criminality began to appear. Even at the present time the major discipline concerned with criminality and delinquency is the field of sociology, although subsequent to the later part of the nineteenth century, psychology, psychiatry, and to a lesser degree, other related disciplines became more aware of the problem and interested

in its causation, control, prevention, and treatment. Parents, teachers, educators, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists are vitally concerned with the influences which lead to a career of delinquency. Investigators such as Kulik, Stein, and Sarbin (1968), Palmer, Nato, Johns, Turner, and Pearson (1968) and Quay (1965) have developed personality and behavioural classification systems for delinquency in an attempt to reduce its heterogeneity. The latter behavioural approach delineates four major dimensions of deviant behavior related to delinquency: (a) the moral predatory, "psychopathic" ; (b) the anxious, conflicted, "neurotic" ; (c) the deviant value-oriented, but not maladjusted "subcultural" ; and (d) the inadequate immature." Differences have been demonstrated between these delinquent subgroups in basic psychological process (Borkovec,

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1970; Skrzypek, 1970; Orris, 1969), family background factors (Hetherington, Stouwie & Ridberg, 1971) and in response to treatment (Ingram, Gerard, Quay & Livinson, 1970).

DELINQUENCY AND PERSONALITY

Personality is considered to be a major factor in the causation of criminality. This perspective posits that delinquency is the result of fixed and biologically determined personality factors. Most of the studies relating delinquency to personality have aimed at testing hypotheses derived from Eysenck's (1964) and then Gray's (1972, 1981) theories of personality. These theories emphasized delinquent's difficulty in inhibiting their behavior and relate it to dimensions of personality. According to Eysenck's theory, Extraversion (E), Neuroticism (N), and Psychoticism (P) are very important factors in predicting delinquency and criminality. Those high on E are considered to be cortically under aroused and are therefore more likely to engage in thrill and sensation seeking behaviour. While it is suggested that N is linked to anxiety which acts as a drive ensuring that delinquent behaviours are amplified, high P scorers have been described as antisocial, cold, aggressive and unempathic (Claridge, 1981; Eysenck and Eysenck, 1976). Results from studies testing these hypotheses have been inconsistent with regard to extraversion and neuroticism. However, support has been found for the hypotheses of a relationship between psychoticism and juvenile delinquency (Gudjonsson, 1997; Heaven, 1996). Similarly, Heaven & Virgen (2001) studied that neither N nor E were found to have significant direct effect on delinquency whereas the analysis of data confirmed the importance of P as a predictor of male's self-reported delinquency. Furnham and Thompson (1991) study on how personality correlates with crime indicated that there is a relationship between delinquency and psychoticism. They found a lack of consistency with respect to extraversion and neuroticism. A high level of delinquency was also related to high level of sensation seeking facet of extraversion, while neuroticism and delinquency were not related. Van Dam et al (2007) believe that there is a relationship between personality and delinquency and perpetration of crime. Mukherjee & Mukherjee (2014) investigate the relationship

between personality traits of juvenile delinquency among delinquents and non-delinquent juveniles and observed that juvenile delinquents were more extroverts, possess high self-concept, more dependent in nature, short tempered, have poor adjustment capacity and are less anxious than those of their normal counterparts. Three major factors associated with delinquent behavior are: extraversion, neuroticism, and psychoticism. Some researches (Eysenck and Gudjonsson, 1989; Furnham and Thompson, 1991) have attested the importance of Eysenckian psychoticism in understanding self-reported delinquency. Based on their exhaustive review of research in this area, Eysenck and Gudjonsson (1989) concluded that criminality is related to certain dimensions of personality, in particular that labeled psychoticism.

OBJECTIVES

METHOD

Disruptive method of research was used.

The main objectives of present study were:

1. To examine the effect of psychoticism on delinquency proneness.
2. To examine the effect of sensation seeking on delinquency proneness.

SAMPLE

100 male adolescents at the sub stage of mid adolescent were initially selected for the study. The 6 students did not fill all the questionnaires so they were not included in the final sample which comprised of 94 male adolescents.

MEASURES

1. Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1975)
2. Sensation Seeking Scale (Zuckerman, 1979)
3. Delinquency Proneness Scale (Rigby et al., 1989)

ANALYSIS

In order to test the hypotheses the data was analyzed by using mean, median, mode and standard deviation and 2x2 (Psychoticism x Sensation seeking) analysis of variance was used to analyze the influence of Psychoticism and Sensation seeking on delinquency proneness.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study can be presented as under:

Table-1: Frequency distribution of scores on psychoticism as derived from Eysenck Personality Questionnaire

C.I.	f	Percentage	cpf
12-16	2	2.12	100
8-12	7	7.45	97.88
4-8	40	42.55	90.43
0-4	45	47.88	47.88

N	Mean	Median	Mode	S.D	Sk
94	4.5	4.20	3.6	2.82	0.319

Table 1 shows that the values of mean, median and mode for psychoticism are almost same and it is reflected with the help of numerical determinant of skewness ($Sk = 0.319$). The skewness is slightly in the positive direction and the distribution of scores on psychoticism may be regarded as normal.

Table-2: Frequency distribution of scores on sensation seeking as derived from Zuckerman Sensation Seeking Scale

C.I.	f	Percentage	cpf
25-30	11	11.70	100
20-25	42	44.69	88.3
15-20	36	38.29	43.61
10-15	5	5.32	5.32

N	Mean	Median	Mode	S.D	Sk
94	20.6	20.71	20.93	3.75	-0.088

The table 2 depicts the values of mean, median and mode for sensation seeking that are almost same and it is reflected with the help of numerical determinant of skewness ($Sk = -0.088$). The skewness is in the slightly negative direction and the distribution of scores on sensation seeking may be regarded as normal.

Table-3: Frequency distribution of scores on Delinquency Proneness as derived from Rigby's Delinquency Proneness Scale

C.I.	f	Percentage	cpf
30-40	1	1.07	100
20-30	31	32.98	98.93
10-20	59	62.76	65.95
0-10	3	3.19	3.19

N	Mean	Median	Mode	S.D	Sk
94	18.2	17.42	16.66	5.47	0.37

The values of mean, median and mode for delinquency proneness are almost same and it is reflected with the help of numerical determinant of skewness ($Sk = 0.37$). The skewness is in the positive direction and the distribution of scores on delinquency proneness may be regarded as normal. In other words, it can be said that 3.19% adolescents have below average delinquency proneness and 34.05% adolescents possess an above average level of delinquency proneness and 62.76 % possess an average score on delinquency proneness.

Table-4: Analysis of variance results for Delinquency Proneness in relation to psychoticism and sensation seeking

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F
A	527.09	1	527.09	39.45*
B	31.57	1	31.57	2.36**
AxB	18.11	1	18.11	1.36
Within	1203.23	90	13.36	

A: Psychoticism, B: Sensation seeking

* $p < .001$, ** $p < .05$

In the present study the influence of psychoticism and sensation seeking behavior on self-reported delinquency was examined. The results are shown in table- 4. The results of 2x2 analysis of variance revealed a significant main effect of psychoticism [$F(1,90) = 39.45$, $p < .001$] and sensation seeking behavior [$F(1,90) = 2.36$, $p < .05$]. It is equally informative to note that the interaction effect of psychoticism and sensation seeking behavior emerged to be non-significant. In the light of significant main effect of psychoticism, the mean scores of subjects on self-reported delinquency was computed for participants high and low on psychoticism. It was found that the mean scores of subjectshigh and low on psychoticism were 20.76 and 15.18 respectively. It implies that subjects scoring high on psychoticism also scored high on self-reported delinquency. The present results are in accordance with the results reported in the literature. In other words this link between psychoticism and self-reported delinquency

support a wide array of earlier studies on the nature of psychoticism dimensions. Eysenck and Gudjonsson (1989) concluded that "Criminality is related to certain dimensions of personality, in particular that labeled psychoticism." The perusal of table-4 also revealed that the effect of sensation seeking has emerged to be significant at 0.05 level of significance. Further analysis of data revealed that the mean self-reported delinquency scores of participants were higher for the males who scored high on stimulation seeking (M: 18.24 vs. 17.00). It implies support for hypotheses 2 which states that male adolescents high on sensation seeking behavior would be high on self-reported delinquency. This finding support the earlier view of (Quay, 1965; Hare, 1968; Fenz, 1971; Zuckerman et al., 1978; Malatesta, Sutkar, & Treiber, 1981) that anti-social behavior is, in essence, an extreme form of sensation seeking behavior.

CONCLUSION

The study revealed following findings regarding psychoticism and sensation seeking:

1. Male adolescents high on psychoticism reported high self-reported delinquency.
2. Male adolescents high on sensation seeking reported high self-reported delinquency.
3. The present study revealed that the influence of the interaction of psychoticism and sensation seeking behaviour on self-reported delinquency was non-significant.

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