

CHAPTER IX
SUMMARY AND
CONCLUDING REMARKS

Summary

Suggestions

SUMMARY

The investigation was undertaken with a view to studying some factors of juvenile delinquency, as it existed in some districts of Gujarat. Two groups of 150 subjects each, viz. (1) the experimental group of delinquents and a control group of non-delinquents, both matched completely on age, intelligence and economic status supplied the necessary data. The subjects of the experimental group were the confined delinquents from certified schools, remand homes, etc. in the districts of Baroda, Broach and Surat; the subjects of the non-delinquent group were the normal school-going children from the same area. All necessary information regarding the subjects was collected from subjects on the information sheet ~~separately~~ *specially* prepared, as well as from school records, office documents, etc. Moreover, as needed the subjects, their parents, teachers ^{or} other authorities were

also interviewed to supplement the information. All such information was surveyed, summarized in different tables, graphically illustrated where necessary and subjected to statistical analysis when needed. Such analysis warranted the following observations, inferences and conclusions, as far as the specific sample and the particular approach were concerned :

A - Pertaining to Child :

- (1) Illegitimacy served to handicap the child in his normal development; a significantly higher number of delinquents were observed to be illegitimate products.
- (2) There were significant differences in the healthful conditions of both the groups. The general health of the delinquent children was very poor. A few were suffering from diseases like T.B., tonsils, skins, rickets; some of them were having either physical defect of vision hearing, speech or physical deformity of hand, leg, ear, nose and disfigurement due to small-pox.

- (3) Almost all children liked to visit cinema; cinema had a greater influence over the behaviour of the youths. Both the groups significantly differed in their cinema preferences. Delinquents showed more inclination for defective and fighting pictures, while most of non-delinquents liked to visit social and religious shows. The bizarre fashion found in youths was the direct copy of the screen to some extent. Some delinquents were also once black-marketing cinema tickets.
- (4) In addictions and vices both the groups differed significantly. Delinquents were more persistent in their addictions. Most of them were addicted to smoking, gambling, drinking. For meeting the daily expenses for cinema visits and addictions, some times, some of them were found to ^{resort} ~~assist~~ to foul means for getting money.

- (5) With regard ^{to} their character traits, delinquents were significantly rated lower by the superintendents of the certified schools in comparison to the evaluation of non-delinquent children, by their teachers.
- (6) As non-delinquent children were selected from the normal school-going population and delinquents were in the certified schools, the question of comparison of the two in respect of level of education was a little out of place. In spite of this the level of education upto which each has reached was inquired into and it was observed that most of the delinquents were illiterate.
- (7) Delinquent children who could read and write preferred to read detective and crime stories and those who were illiterate showed in an interview an active interest in listening to such stories. Non-delinquent children preferred to read autobiographies, short stories and novels pertaining to social topics.

- (8) The subjects of both the groups differed significantly with regard to their attitude towards the fathers and mothers. A higher number of delinquent children had attitude of rejection and indifference towards their fathers and mothers, in contrast to warmer attitudes of non-delinquent children. Yet, a great number of children in both the groups had warm and indifferent attitude towards mothers and lesser number had attitude of rejection towards mothers than the number towards fathers.
- (9) Delinquent children significantly scored lower on their smooth family relationship and general adjustment, the lack of which in turn produced conflicts every now and then.
- (10) While considering the status of the child and numerical rank in the family, it was found that higher rate of delinquency was prevalent among the only, the youngest, and the eldest children than among children

born intermediately; the first born in the family rather than born otherwise were more susceptible to delinquent behaviour. It was also observed that the lesser the number of children in the family the higher was the tendency. Their status, numerical rank and total siblings in the family were upto some extent factors determining their treatment in the family, which in turn influenced the development of the personality of the growing child.

- (11) While studying the dreams of both the groups, it was seen that most of the dreams of the delinquent children were pertaining to their cravings for their parents and home; this might reflect that they were devoid of parental love at home, for which they craved constantly.
- (12) With regard to their ambitions narrated, a higher number of delinquent children were observed preferring services of tailoring and showed an inclination for

factory work, carpentry and agriculture and less for business; most delinquents expressed or had no ambitions. The nature of ambitions was influenced by the environment and especially by the nature of the parental work in both the groups.

- (13) In studying their any three present wishes in order of preference, it was seen that the nature of wishes in case of non-delinquent children was concerning the education while wishes of the delinquent children pertained mostly to finance.
- (14) As regards their occupations and employments, generally most of the members of the delinquent group were working as show-maker, hotel boys, casual labourers, vendors, domestic servants and there too they were irregular in their work. Very few members of the non-delinquent group had to work and those working were sincere in their work. The relationship between the necessity for and nature of employment and delinquency is disputable,

but there are certain employments which provide higher temptations for antisocial behaviour in children. The nature of work in case of the delinquent group was such that it was likely to offer greater temptations and larger opportunities to come in contact with evil elements of the society.

- (15) With respect to amount of pocket money, its nature of disposition and sources, it was observed that more delinquents were spending extravagantly and haphazardly in hotel and cinema and gambling and less for their necessities; mostly ^{of them} they were keeping with themselves a larger share of their earnings as a pocket money. Most of the non-delinquent children were not having pocket money, as their necessities were regularly looked after by their parents; and those who were getting it were spending for their necessities and hardly few in any other way.

- (16) In case of delinquent children, there was not ^{any} sort of well directed plan for the use of leisure time, which had far reaching influences over the development of personality and character of the child. Most of them were passing their leisure time out of the home, at undesirable places - bazaar, railway station, near cinema theatres and other odd unidentified places, aimlessly wandering, gambling, begging or quarrelling for most part of the day and even in some cases very late at night. Those who were passing their leisure time at home were forced to stay at home. In case of non-delinquent children, their leisure time was well directed in constructive activities.

It seems clear, therefore, that the delinquents, far more than the non-delinquents, were having illegitimate birth or doubt about their legality of birth, physically weak and in diseased conditions, were having mostly rejective and indifferent attitude towards the parents, were poorly educated, were persisting unwholesome addictions, were visiting

cinemas on and of, interested in low type of literature were either only or youngest or eldest and mostly first born in the family, were engaged in undesirable employments, were passing their leisure time out of the home at odd places carrying on unwholesome activities.

B. Pertaining to the Parents and Siblings :

- (17) The analysis of the data referring to the parents of both the groups revealed that most of both parents were illiterate in case of the delinquent group. However, a greater number of fathers of the non-delinquent children had education upto primary and secondary level and in some cases even upto higher level. Higher number of mothers of the delinquent group were illiterate and few had education upto primary level; while more mothers of the non-delinquent group had primary education and in few cases it was upto secondary level and less were illiterate. Lack of education on the part of parents means lack of ability to

understand the basic needs of the child; it also means ~~in~~ poor income. Both these have a greater influence on the behaviour of the children.

- (18) Next, in contrast to the parents of the non-delinquent group, the physical conditions of the parents of the delinquent group were also unsatisfactory. a few of them were suffering from one or other diseases like T.B., Cancer, madness and hysteria. Even, among parents, the physical conditions of the mothers was poorer than that of fathers in case of both the groups.

- (19) With regard to affectional relationship between either parents and also between parents and the child, it was found that mutual relationship between the parents of the delinquent group was highly repugnant. Further, more delinquents were either rejected by the parents or parents were indifferent towards them. Next, parents of the

non-delinquent children did not show much differential treatment with respect to one child and other children in the family. However, though fathers of the delinquent group were more or less impartial in treatment of one child and other children in the family, mothers significantly differed in their treatment, i.e. favoured other children and rejected the delinquent child.

- (20) Fathers and mothers of both the groups showed significant differences in respect to addictions and vices which had a far reaching effect upon the family atmosphere. The fathers of the delinquent group had unwholesome addictions like gambling, drinking, and in case of mothers smoking, gambling and drinking were highly persistent in their addictions. Gambling and drinking taxed family heavily not only economically but also psychologically.

(21) With regard to the nature of employment it was observed that a greater number of fathers of the delinquent group were irregular in their work and were employed in unhealthy work in comparison to fathers of the non-delinquent group. So also, more mothers were employed in case of delinquent children and were occupied in unwholesome employments offering more opportunities for evil temptations and moral degradations. Very few mothers of the non-delinquent were working and most of these working mothers were working at home. Thus, delinquent children were far more deprived of parental supervision in the earlier period of their life, when badly needed.

(22) With respect to criminality and immorality practices, bearing worst effect upon the behaviour of the growing child, it was recorded that parents of both the groups differed significantly. Higher number of parents of the

delinquent children had criminality or immorality or both records in contrast to such practices with parents of the non-delinquents.

- (23) With regard to sibling relationship, the delinquent children were hostile and indifferent, showing constant conflicts and undue rivalry; this had detrimental effect upon the development of the child. The situation was reverse in case of non-delinquent children. Further, criminality in siblings was found in some cases of delinquent children; this had the same effect upon the growing child as was had by criminality of fathers and mothers

In brief, the parents of the delinquent group were either illiterate or poorly educated, were suffering from unhealthy conditions, were having undesirable addictions and vices, were mostly employed in the work offering more opportunities for evil temptations and moral degradations, were following a policy of partiality in treating one child and other children in the family, were having poor mutual relationship and had criminality

and immorality record to their account. The siblings were having hostile relationships between them, were suffering from diseases, and in some cases had criminality records.

C. Pertaining to the Family :

(24) Broken homes have far more influence over the development of the personality and character of the child. Both groups differed significantly in this respect. More children of the delinquent group in comparison to non-delinquent group came from broken families due to death, desertion, divorce and long separation.

(25) Further in comparison to the delinquent children, more non-delinquent children were found living with their own fathers and mothers in a joint family. More delinquent children belonged to a separated family.

- (26) There was a lack of cohesiveness and common interests or unity of purpose among the members of the families of delinquents group.
- (27) The delinquents were also more deprived of atmosphere of social and group living in the family which is so essential for the oneness and closeness of the family and in turn for the healthy development of the personality and character of the child.
- (28) In comparison to families of the non-delinquent children, families of the delinquent group showed very little regard for the child's friends who used to visit their homes.
- (29) Referring to the nature of the disciplinary practices in the family, it was noted that more number of families of the delinquent children reported that there was either very strict discipline or no discipline at all; while higher number of families of the non-delinquent group showed a trend of

normal discipline. Either parent among the delinquent group reported more to corporal punishment and less to deprivation of privileges and reasoning for controlling the child, while in case of non-delinquent group either parent resorted more to methods like scolding and threatening, deprivation of privileges and reasoning and less to corporal punishment for controlling the child.

- (30) Besides the family influences environmental influences of neighbourhood had also their due share in producing deviant behaviour. More families of the delinquent group were inhabiting in areas of poor neighbourhood, thickly populated with people of menial, hand-to-mouth workers of low rank; these were the centres of vices, and conflicts having no opportunities for facilities for wholesome recreation. Reverse was the case with non-delinquent children.

(31) With regard to the size of the family and the provision for recreation in the home, somehow no significant differences were observed between the two groups.

(32) While considering overcrowding in the family it was found that delinquency was not associated with overcrowding in the sense of greater number of individuals per room. However, overcrowdedness in the sense of lesser number of rooms per family or higher number of families co-staying was significantly related to delinquency. More number of families among the delinquent group were staying in only one room and two rooms while less had three, four, five or more rooms; majority of families of non-delinquent enjoyed more spacing. Similarly, higher number of families of the non-delinquent group were staying with only one or two other families; while delinquents stayed in more crowded areas with more families staying together.

(33) More number of families of non-delinquent group were residing in rented houses as circumstances demanded; while higher number of delinquent families were residing in their own houses, no doubt very poor ones. With respect to the amount of rent paid by families of both the groups, it was seen that higher number of families of the non-delinquent group were paying more rent while the reverse was observed with the delinquent group. Both the groups did not differ much in respect to continual change of residence.

In brief, delinquents mostly come from broken families, were not living with their own fathers or mothers or when lived with them, their family was a separated one; lack of cohesiveness among the members of the family; they were deprived of social and group living in the family; their own friends were not respected, their family discipline was either too strict or nil, corporal punishment was adopted by either parent in controlling the child

in the family and they were from poor neighbourhood, and crowded areas.

Obviously, the conditions in which the delinquent children are growing are neither congenial nor wholesome for adequate growth, neither conducive to sound rearing nor productive of healthy, happy and law-abiding children. Their mental equipment is not sufficient or efficient to defy the evil influence; there is no guidance or direction from parents and family atmosphere is very discouraging.

The resulting delinquency is an outcome of a dynamic process not a simple working of one or the other factor, but an interaction of multiple factors whose simple effects are difficult to detect, some of which may be causative factors, others contributing or aggravating or concomitant factors. The present study has aimed at showing the relations of some.

Suggestions for further Research :

New India is today facing a number of problems on her way towards progress in different areas. Education of the backward, the handicapped and the

fallen is getting much attention today. For all this, much spade-work has to be done by way of research surveys to obtain facts and figures. In comparison to work in other countries, India lags far behind in such research work. Very few researches have been undertaken on a small scale. Extensive and intensive well-planned researches are yet to be directed. The present work on juvenile delinquency aims to fill in one small gap in this direction. Yet the author feels that the information on this is not sufficient and it has its own limitations. In view of ^{this,} the present investigator suggests some of the following problems and procedures for research in this area:

What type of delinquency is associated with what type of family disorder or disruption? Is there any sex differences with regard to family disorder or disruption?

How do different social classes, community and religious groups in India differ with regard to their concept of delinquent behaviour in youths? What are those different factors accountable for the same?

How does delinquency in school and general population differ in their origin and nature ?
What are the factors which are responsible for one type of delinquency at different levels of society ?

Even similar types of research can be planned by controlling some variables of delinquency for determining the role and importance of others. A slightly different approach to the same problem is suggested by comparing particularly two areas - one with high rate of delinquency and other with low rate of delinquency in order to find out what factors are related to differences in the delinquency rate. Is difference artificial or factual ?

What are the differential characteristics of emotionally maladjusted children who turn out as delinquent, as compared with those who are emotionally maladjusted but do not turn out as delinquent ?

All the above suggested problems are concerned with more or less to causative aspect of delinquency. However, for the purpose of preparing an effective prevention programme for delinquency, researches in that shpere also can be undertaken.

What are the different techniques for controlling delinquency ? Among them, which is the most effective in changing the different types of specific behaviour deviants ?

Even studies with regard to different trends of deviant behaviour and its rate at different social stratum can be planned.

When we face a number of problems and feel the dearth of techniques to study the problems we can boldly borrow from others to suit to our needs and seek solution. Even on line of Burt William Healy, Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, researches can be planned and carried out to study similar problems in our country.