

A F O R E W O R D

A psychological study of some factors of juvenile delinquency has been the main theme or investigation discussed in the pages that follow the problem of juvenile delinquency is at present one of the most important issues, which the society and the state have to solve. It is the problem of perennial concern of all organized social life. Recently several authorities associated with the children have made alarming statements to the effect that juvenile delinquency is steadily increasing in this country. Varried views have been read and heard regarding the sources from which delinquency takes its start. A number of investigators search for causes in the

child himself, in his mental make-up; some maintain that home and parents are at fault; a few tend to pass the blame on school administrators; while still others hold that social conditions are mainly responsible for children to turn out delinquents and later on criminals. Obviously all these authors attempt to determine the factors that cause a delinquent career. Most of the discussion on this problem has been survey type of work, enumerating simply the observations made without any experimental control necessary in a scientific method.

The emphasis in the present research has been on understanding psychologically some of the basic factors of juvenile delinquency, using an experimental design that controls some common factors, and studies others. There is no agreement as to the specific factors of delinquency, because the etiological factors are complex and difficult to determine. It is the product of a dynamic process. The variables which are studied here are not necessarily the causes of delinquency, but factors associated with it. The author does not claim that these are the only factors involved, but has made an humble

(11)

attempt to study some of the basic factors associated with juvenile delinquency and he has discussed their psychological significance or bearing. With this consideration, an effort has been made to present the problem, as it exists to day in one part of our country, viz Gujarat, especiaaly with reference to Baroda, Broach and Surat Districts.

The data used in this investigation were collected in case of delinquent group from the Government certified schools, and also by interviewing the children and superintendents of the said schools, while in case of the non-delinquent, control group data were obtained from their school records and also by interviewing the children, teachers' as well as parents wherever possible. The investigation contains wholly endowous original factors and figures. For purpose of comparison various works have been referred to as shwon in the bibliography.

This investigation, it is aimed, will be one of the most important works in this field. It will be useful on the eve of creation of a new state of Gujarat, when she has to solve her many problems of the growing youth. This will assist also all

those persons concerned with understanding the children and their behaviour.

The author is highly indebted to his sincere, guiding Professor Dr. A.S. Patel and expresses his deep feelings of gratitude to him, but for whose research eye and active hand operating at every stage, from its early conception to the present delivery of the finished product, this work would have never seen the light of the day. He also acknowledges his thanks for the quoted passages to the writers and publishers mentioned. He is also thankful to the Director of Social Welfare (Old Bombay State), who granted him permission to work in the Government Certified Schools under his jurisdiction at Baroda, Broach and Surat; in same run thanks are due also to the Superintendants and Probation officers of these certified schools as well as to the principals, secondary schools and Headmasters of the Primary schools of the aforesaid area, who gave all sorts of conveniences and spared their office records. The author is especially much thankful to (1) Dr. H.S. Asthana, Department of Psychology, Lucknow and (2) Dr. A.S. Patel, Department of Psychology, M.S. University of Baroda,

Baroda, who have given their consent to use their
(1) 'Adjustment Inventory' and (2) 'Family Relationship
Questionnaire' as well as 'Character Evaluation
Form' respectively.

Baroda

August 11, 1961

H.D. BADAMI