

CHAPTER IV

THE PRESENT PROBLEM

In light of the preceding discussion the author in the present investigation has tried to investigate the contribution of certain factors to the growth of delinquency. He has specifically studied the factors hitherto unravelled separately, after controlling most common variables, like age, level of intelligence and economic status of the family whose effects have been studied by many. The factors selected for the present study are pertaining to the areas, such as the individual, his parents and siblings, family and neighbourhood. To understand a child is essentially to see him in relation to factors in his immediate (i.e. family) and remote (i.e. society) social environments which determine in large part his responses to the environment. The present study attempts to understand a delinquent child in this respect.

The present investigator in his attempt to study the likely factors associated with or leading to juvenile delinquency has collected information with respect to a number of delinquent children. For the

purpose of this investigation, delinquency is defined as an act, course of conduct or behaviour which might be brought before a juvenile court and adjudicated, whether in fact it comes to be treated there or by some other resources or indeed remains untreated, it is immaterial. In the purview of the definition an adjudicable conduct may be defined as delinquent in the abstract, but it cannot be considered as delinquency until the court has found its fact to exist.

By the by, it should be clarified that the present investigation never claims to study the working of all the factors, whether sociological or economical, cultural or anthropological, psychiatric or psychoanalytic, psychological or emotional. Such task requires a wider plan in details extending over a larger period of study. The present writer has concentrated his attention mainly to answering the question : Can juvenile delinquency be attributed to the ways of reacting to his immediate living of family relations and to other environmental influences of the society, irrespective of his age, intelligence and socio-economic condition ? Whenever an attempt is made to analyse the causes of delinquency, the age,

the level of intelligence and socio-economic status of the delinquent individuals are in the forefront along with a number of many others. However, this seems to be a vague picture to some extent inasmuch as we are not sure whether the result is the main effect of factors studied or it is the necessary interaction effect of these ones interacting with other factors or it is effect of other latter factors or how far it is the effect of the latter if they are significant. To answer such a query, the present investigator has controlled the oft-studied variables of age, intelligence and socio-economic status of the subjects and attempted to study the contribution, if any, of other factors, using a procedure as described in the next chapter.