

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF EMOTIONAL MATURITY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS AND NON JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

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Abstract: The present study was conducted with the aim to compare Juvenile delinquents and non-juvenile delinquents on level of emotional maturity. The dimensions of emotional maturity, emotional instability, emotional regression, social maladjustment, personality disintegration and lack of independence. The sample consisted of 30 juvenile delinquents and 30 non juvenile delinquents. Data of juvenile delinquents were taken from juvenile Reform Home, Jodhpur. Emotional maturity scale was used to measure emotional maturity levels of the sample. Data were treated with mean, SD and T test. The results indicated that juvenile delinquents and non-juvenile delinquents were significantly different on emotional maturity level quantitatively as well as qualitatively. Juvenile delinquents were found more emotionally unstable. It implies that dimensions of emotional maturity are higher in delinquents as compared to non-delinquents and delinquents are more prone to emotional disturbance.

Keywords: emotional instability, emotional maturity, emotional regression, juvenile delinquents, lack of independence

Introduction: In the present circumstances, youth as well as children are facing difficulties in life. These difficulties are giving rise to many psychosomatic problems such as anxiety, tension, frustration and emotional upsets in day to day life. So the study of human life is now emerging as a descriptive science, comparable with anatomy. It deals with interplay of forces with intensities and quantities. Emotional maturity is not only the effective determinant of personality pattern but also helps to control the growth of adolescent's development. The concept of emotionally 'mature' behavior is that which reflects the fruits of normal emotional development.

According to Fred McKinney, "The characteristic of an emotionally mature person are heterosexuality, appreciation of attitude and behavior of others, tendency to adopt the attitudes and habits of others and capacity to delay his own responses. According to Seoul, if the emotional development of the individual is relatively complete, his adaptability is high, his regressive tendencies are low, and his vulnerability is minimal. Cole (1954) says, 'The chief index of emotional maturity is the ability to bear tension'. This view lays stress upon 'self-control' and not on 'self-fulfillment'. Geoghagen et.al. (1963) says that a person is considered emotionally mature when his responses to a situation are-

1. Appropriate to his degree of development.
2. Proportionate to the demands of situation.

In the opinion of Murray (2004), an emotionally mature person has the following characteristics:

1. The ability to give and receive alone.
2. The ability to face reality and deal with it.
3. Just as interested in giving as receiving.
4. The capacity to relate positively to life experiences.
5. The ability to learn more experience.

6. The ability to accept frustration.
7. The ability to handle hostility constructively.
8. Relative freedom from tension symptoms.

Consistent studies have been conducted on the emotional maturity of the adolescents and adults. Like K. Subbarayan & G. Visanathan (2011) concluded that the sex, community and family type did not play any role in emotional maturity of college students. It also revealed that majority of college students are extremely unstable. Manoharan, R. John Louis and I. Christie Doss (2007) concluded that emotional maturity of P.G. students is influenced by sex, class and group. The level of emotional maturity of female students is higher than that of the male students. SheemaAleem (2005) reported that female students are less emotionally stable as compared to male students. Lakshmi, S. and Krishnamurthy, S. (2011) reported that the majority of Higher Secondary Students in Coimbatore District are in Emotionally Unstable condition. Deand, G., & Bruton, B.T. (1989) concluded that Emotional maturity is related to better marital adjustment. Sunil Kumar (2014) discloses that a significant correlation exists between emotional maturity and family relationship. From the review of different sources it was found that no comprehensive study was conducted on the juvenile delinquents with this regard therefore the investigator makes an effort to identify the level of emotional maturity in juvenile delinquents in comparison to normal juveniles.

Objective:

1. To study the level of emotional maturity among adolescents.
2. To study the level of emotional maturity among juvenile delinquents.

3. To find out significant differences in emotional maturity of juvenile delinquents and normal adolescents.

Hypothesis: There will be significant difference in Emotional maturity level of juvenile delinquents and normal juveniles.

Method:

Sample: A sample of 60 adolescents was selected for the study through purposive sampling. Out of these 30 were juvenile delinquents and 30 were normal juveniles. Juvenile delinquents were selected from juvenile reform home Jodhpur and data for normal juveniles was collected from families of different localities in Jodhpur. The age range for the design is 14 to 18 years.

Design: the present study is an ex post facto non experimental research design.

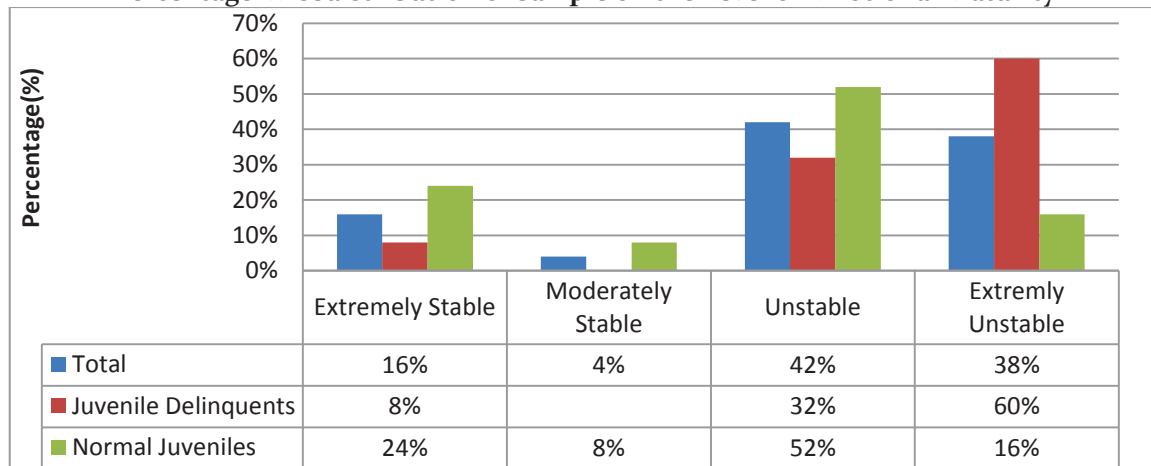
Tools: to measure the emotional maturity level of adolescents, Emotional maturity scale developed by

Result and discussion:

Dr.Yashvir Singh and Dr. Mahesh Bhargava was used. It is a self-reporting five point scale. It consists of 48 items under the five categories of emotional instability, emotional regression, social maladjustment, lack of independence and personality disintegration. The product moment r of the test is 0.75. The time between two tests was six months. The scale was validated against external criteria i.e. the GHA area of adjustment inventory for college students by Singh and Sinha. The product moment correlation obtained between total scores of EMS was 0.64.

Procedure: After taking the consent from Rajasthan government, reform home authorities and participants individually, an unstructured interview was carried out to collect the personal information about the subjects. Only those subjects were selected who met the research diagnostic criteria.

Percentage-Wise distribution of Sample on the Level of Emotional Maturity



Note: Total is calculated as average of Normal Juvenile and Juvenile Delinquents results.

From the perusal of the above graphical representation of the data only 16% of Total adolescents from sample are extremely stable, 4% are moderately stable, 42% are unstable and 38% of the total adolescents are extremely unstable. It shows that a big segment of adolescents is emotionally unstable and also a reasonable section of the adolescents are extremely unstable. The reasons for this unstable emotional maturity may be due to the present competitive environment and the very busy and fast life going ahead in normal juveniles where they don't give any preference to the emotional aspect of their development. But in Juvenile delinquents, 60% are extremely unstable and 32% are unstable respectively. Only 8% of juvenile delinquents are extremely stable. It is a matter of big concern as it may be one of the reasons for their delinquent behavior. In normal juveniles also, a

big segment of 52% of juveniles are emotionally unstable while 16% are extremely unstable, only 8% and 24% are moderately and extremely stable respectively. It indicates that for a happy, successful personal and professional life human beings in general and adolescents in particular have to choose emotional maturity as a conscious choice.

The statistical analysis is shown in following table: For the convenience juvenile delinquents are named Group 1 and normal juveniles are named group 2.

From the perusal of table 1, it is revealed that 't' value between Juvenile delinquents and normal juveniles on emotional maturity level is 4.709 which is statistically significant with 2.009 significance value on 0.5 level and also statistically significant with 2.678 significance value on 0.01 level. Therefore the hypothesis formulated "There is significant difference in emotional maturity level of juvenile delinquents and normal juveniles" is totally accepted."

Table 1: Showing significant difference between juvenile delinquents and non delinquents on the level of emotional maturity

Groups compared	N	Mean	S.D.	Value of 't'	Df	Level of significance
Group1	25	121.48	25.82	4.70	48	Significant
Group 2	25	92.56	16.61			

Findings and Discussion: The findings of the study revealed that only 16% of adolescents are extremely stable, 4% are moderately stable, 42% are unstable and 38% of the adolescents are extremely unstable. The large segment of the juvenile delinquents is extremely unstable and also a reasonable section of the juvenile delinquents is unstable. This is a matter of concern for the adults, who are supposed to take different roles in the society after this higher stage of education. The reasons for this unstable emotional maturity may be many like competition, personality factors, family involvements, increasing stress due to changing environment etc. Due to these circumstances Adolescents find it hard to pay attention to-

wards emotional aspect of their development .that results in delinquent behavior in some of the adolescents.

Conclusion: The present study highlights the level of emotional maturity among the adolescents in general and juvenile delinquents in particular. The finding revealed that most of the juveniles are extremely unstable and most of the normal adolescents are emotionally unstable. Therefore adolescents must try to find out what lies there that make them emotionally mature. Therefore they must decide to have emotionally maturity as a conscious choice and enjoy life in a happy and balanced way.

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