

MENTAL HEALTH BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

Research Paper

ABSTRACT

While there has been a great deal of research concerning the determinants of juvenile delinquency, fewer studies exploring the mental health behaviour of juveniles have been completed. We explore juvenile mental health behaviour. Second, we explore which variables significantly influence juvenile mental health behaviour. We found that urban and sub-urban juvenile delinquents and those living in houses with separate bedrooms have low level of mental health behaviour. 't' test was used to find out the significant difference.

INTRODUCTION

A child is born innocent and if nurtured with tender care and attention, will blossom with physical, mental, moral and spiritual faculties into a person of excellent stature. On the contrary, unhealthy surroundings, negligence in providing basic needs on the part of the parents, wrong company and other abuses may turn a child into a delinquent. Children are always believed to be the most important asset of this planet and every possible effort should be made to provide equal opportunities for their development so that they become robust citizens of tomorrow.

Mental health is "a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community" (World Health Organization, 2010, 3rd para.). An imbalance between one or more of these factors can interfere with the child's ability to successfully develop into a healthy, productive adult. Schools play a vital role in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all students in an inclusive learning environment.

Juvenile delinquency is a gateway to adult crime, since a large percentage of criminal careers have their roots in childhood causing serious problems all over the world. Today, it has become a topic of great concern and needs to be discussed seriously. The complexity grows as we go into the statistical data of developed countries when compared to the still developing ones. It has been noted that theft and robbery add to a major percentage of these

crimes. Murder, rape, dacoity, burglary, kidnapping, a few more that add up to the rest. On the basis of available statistics, an inference can be drawn that the crimes are on the increasing path.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the significant difference in mental health behaviour of juvenile delinquents with reference to certain background variables.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of religion.
2. There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of community.
3. There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of residence.
4. There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of house type.

S.Venkatesan

Research Scholar

Dr.P. Muthupandi

Assistant Professor,

Department of Education, DDE

Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai - 625

5. There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of bedrooms available.

5. There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of ownership.

From the above calculated value, it is inferred that there is no significant difference in the mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of community.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Hypothesis 1

There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of religion.

Table 1

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN TERMS OF RELIGION

Sub-Variables	N	M	SD	't' Value	Significant difference at 0.05 level
Hindu	142	103.901	18.782	0.609	Not Significant
Non-Hindu	8	108.125	24.550		

(at 5% level of significance the table value is 1.96)

From the above calculated value, it is inferred that there is no significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of religion.

Hypothesis 2

There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of community.

Table 2

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN TERMS OF COMMUNITY

Sub-Variables	N	M	SD	't' Value	Significant difference at 0.05 level
BC	139	104.137	19.348	0.023	Not Significant
SC/ST	11	104.000	15.601		

(at 5% level of significance the table value is 1.96)

Hypothesis 3

There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of residence.

Table 3

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN TERMS OF RESIDENCE

Sub-Variables	N	M	SD	't' Value	Significant difference at 0.05 level
Urban	73	100.29	20.032	2.442	Significant

(at 5% level of significance the table value is 1.96)

From the above calculated value, it is inferred that there is a significant difference in the mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of residence. Further it is noted that mental health behaviour of juvenile delinquents living in rural areas have a high level of mental health behaviour than the juvenile delinquents living in urban areas.

Hypothesis 4

There is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of house type.

Table 4

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN TERMS OF HOUSE TYPE

Sub-Variables	N	M	SD	't'	Significant difference at 0.05 level
Concrete	133	103.6	19.274	0.944	Not Significant

(at 5% level of significance the table value is 1.96)

From the above calculated value, it is inferred that there is no significant difference in the mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of house type.

Hypothesis 5

There is a significant difference in the mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of bedrooms.

Table 5

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN TERMS OF BEDROOMS

Sub-Variables	N	M	SD	't' Value	Significant difference at 0.05 level
Separate	6	130.667	5.007	3.621	Significant
Common	144	103.021	18.618		

(at 5% level of significance the table value is 1.96)

From the above calculated value, it is inferred that there is a significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of residence. Further it is noted that mental health behaviour of juvenile delinquents living in houses with separate bedrooms have a high level of mental health behaviour than the juvenile delinquents living in houses without separate bedrooms.

Hypothesis 6

There is a significant difference in the mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of ownership.

Table 6

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN TERMS OF OWNERSHIP

Sub-Variables	N	M	SD	't'	Significant difference at 0.05 level
Own	36	105.778	17.172	0.636	Not Significant
Rental	114	103.451	19.671		

(at 5% level of significance the table value is 1.96)

From the above calculated value, it is inferred that there is no significant difference in mental health behaviour among the juvenile delinquents in terms of ownership.

CONCLUSION

In recent years, children and their mental health behaviour problems have been receiving the attention both the Government and the society. But it has been noted that the problems are enormous and never ending, resulting in lack of everything that has been done till now. If these problems are not curbed soon then the growth of the children will be hampered giving a dark future to the country.

The social, economic and other factors which have been the root causes of juvenile delinquency need to be dealt with at the very initial stage. Every society must therefore, devote full attention to ensure that children are properly cared for and brought up in a proper atmosphere where they can receive adequate training, education and guidance in order that they may be able to have their rightful place in the society when they grow up.

REFERENCE

1. *Wroblecki, M. Henry (2000) An introduction to law enforcement and criminal justice, Thomson Learning, USA, pp-540-541.*
2. *Chinte, C.I. (1949) Fifty years of juvenile correction. In M. Bell (Ed.) Current approaches to juvenile delinquents, New York: National Probation and Parole Association.*
3. *Reckless, Walter. Hand book of practical suggestions for the treatment of adult and juvenile offenders, Government of India, 1956. Caldwell: Criminology, p-357*
4. *Black law dictionary, (1999) Seventh edition, West group.*
5. *Juvenile justice system & rights of child, Paryas institute of juvenile justice, pp. 9-11*
6. *UNICEF (1985): United Nations standard minimum rules for the administration of juvenile justice (Beijing Rules): New Delhi, UNICEF*