



## ASSESSMENT OF TYPES OF BEHAVIORAL CONDUCT AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STATUS AMONG JUVENILE IN CONFLICT WITH LAW IN SELECTED JUVENILE HOMES OF WEST BENGAL

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**ABSTRACT**

The investigator conducted a descriptive study to find out the types of behavioral conduct and psychological status among juvenile in conflict with law in selected juvenile homes of West Bengal, with the objectives to identify the behavioural conduct of juvenile in conflict with law, to identify the psychological status of juvenile in conflict with law, to find out the association between types of behavioural conduct and selected demographic variables, between psychological status and selected factors, and between types of behavioral conduct and psychological status. The research design selected for the present study was descriptive survey research design. Non probability convenient sampling technique was adopted to select 107 participants from different settings of West Bengal. To assess types of behavioural conduct record analysis and a proforma modified rating scale on positive general wellbeing index were used to collect data. The study findings revealed that among types of behavioral conduct crossing border without passport with family (14 F) was found in maximum juveniles (57%). Regarding psychological status, depressed mood found among (66.02 %) participants during staying in juvenile home. No significant association was found between types of behavioral conduct and selected factors, and also between psychological status and selected factors but it reveals Self control was significantly related with the age of participants as chi value was 7.11 [ $X^2$ , df (1)=3.841] at 0.05 level of significance. The study has several implications in nursing education, practice, administration and research. The study can be replicated on larger sample and quality of life during staying at home can be assessed.

**KEYWORDS :** Behavioral conduct, psychological status, juvenile in conflict with law, Juvenile home

**INTRODUCTION**

Juvenile offenders are the most vulnerable section involved. Study reveals in Tamilnadu that the juvenile stayed in the home as per JJA having major psychological problems like separation anxiety, depersonalization and lack of bonding emotional deprivation, low self esteem, and failure to trust, delayed development, physical abuse and trauma. [1]. Conduct disorder symptoms in early adolescence appear to moderately predict substance use in early adulthood. In males, genetic influences seem to be most important in explaining the relationship between conduct disorder symptoms and substance use whereas in females, shared environmental influences seem to be most important. Thus there is a genetic influence for conduct disorder symptoms and substance abuse in male.

The process of mental changes and special attention to be given to the young adolescents, as it affects the overall health risks by that child, especially in their future. Youth with mental disorders make up a significant subgroup of youth who appear in U.S juvenile courts and the juvenile justice systems today are struggling to determine how best to respond to those youths needs, both to safeguard their own welfare and to reduce reoffending and its consequences for the community. [2]

**Problem statement**

Assessment of types of behavioral conduct and psychological status among juvenile in conflict with law in selected juvenile homes of West Bengal.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS****Research variables**

- Types of behavioral conduct.
- Psychological status of juvenile in conflict with law.

**Research design**

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the

present study.

**Study setting**

The present study was conducted at Dhruvashram, Sukanya, Sneha Sanlaap and District Shelter Home of West Bengal.

**Population**

All juvenile in conflict with law and registered under Juvenile Justice Act.

**Sample and Sample size**

The present study was conducted with 107 juvenile in conflict with law and registered under Juvenile Justice Act residing in selected juvenile homes of west Bengal.

**Sample technique**

Non probability convenience sampling technique was used for district selection, home and juvenile selection.

**Data collection tools and techniques**

**Table 1 Data collection tools and techniques.**

Tool No	Name of tools	Variables to be measured	Techniques/Methods
I	Semi Structured Interview schedule	Demographic Variables	Interviewing
II	Record analysis proforma	Types of behavioral conduct	Record analysis
III	Structured modified rating scale on the Psychological General Wellbeing Index	psychological status	Interviewing

**RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION**

**Section I** Findings related to description of demographic profile of participants.

**Table 2 Frequency and percentage distribution of participants in terms of age, gender, educational status and religion.**

n = 107

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (in years)		
12-15	50	46.73
16-18	57	53.27
Gender		
Male	99	92.52
Female	08	7.47
Educational status		
Illiterate	27	25.23
Primary level	12	11.21
Secondary level	59	55.14
Upto H.S	09	08.41
Religion		
Hinduism	37	34.57
Islam	69	64.48
Christian	01	00.93

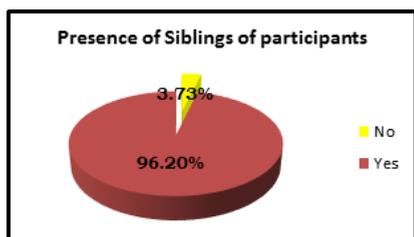
Data presented in table 2 shows that majority that is 53.27% participants belonged to the age group of 16-18 years, 92.52% participants were male child. It also reveals that majority that is 55.14 % of them were educated up to secondary level and 64.48 % of them were Islam.

**Table 3 Frequency and percentage distribution of participants in terms of occupation, types of family, per capita monthly income (in rupees).**

n = 107

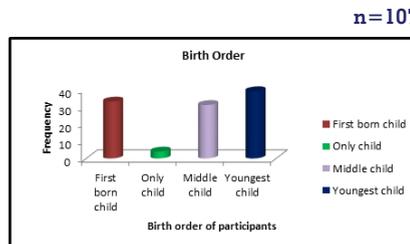
Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Occupation		
Student	28	26.17
Self employed	59	55.14
Unemployed	20	18.69
Types of family		
Nuclear	81	75.70
Joint	11	10.28
Broken	15	14.02
Per capita monthly income(in rupees)		
≤ 500	16	14.95
501-1500	43	40.18
1501-2500	20	18.69
>2500	28	26.16
Residential status		
Rural	67	62.62
Urban	28	26.17
Urban Slum	12	11.21
Nationality		
Foreigner	61	57
Indian	46	42.99

Data presented in table 3 shows that majority that is 14% participants were self employed, 75.70% were from nuclear family and 40.48% participants per capita monthly income ranges from Rs.501-1500, 62.62% of them were rural resident and majority that is 57% were foreigner.



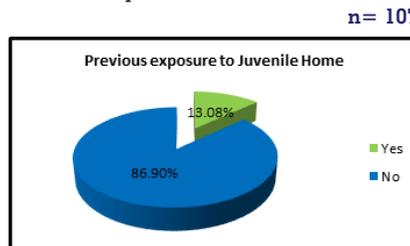
**Fig. 1 Pie Diagram showing the percentage distribution of respondents according to their Presence of Siblings**

Data presented in figure 1 reveals that 103 (96.26%) participants had siblings and rest 4 (3.73%) did not have any siblings.



**Figure 2 Bar diagram showing frequency distribution of participants in terms of birth order.**

Data presented in figure 2 reveals that 33 (30.84%) participants were first born child in their family, 4 (3.73%) of them were the only child, 31 (28.97%) of them were the middle child in their family and 39 (36.45%) of the participants were the youngest child in their family.



**Figure 3 Pie diagram showing percentage distributions of participants in terms of previously came in juvenile home.**

Data presented in figure 3 depict that 14 (13.08%) participants came previously in juvenile home and 93 (86.92%) participants came juvenile home for the first time.

**Table 4 Frequency and percentage distribution of participants in terms of history of substance use (>6 months) and cause of substance use.**

n = 107

Sample characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
History of substance use (>6 months)		
Smoking	41	38.81
Alcohol	16	14.95
Guthkha, pan	13	12.14
Marijuana	13	12.14
Others	10	09.34
No addiction	59	55.14
Cause of substance use		
Friend circle	23	21.49
Curiosity	03	02.80
Tension relief	22	20.56

\*Multiple responses included

Data presented in table 4 reveals that 41 (38.31%) of participants had history of smoking, 16 (14.95%) of them had history of using alcohol, 13 (12.14%) of them had history of taking guthkha, pan, only 13 (12.14%) had history of taking marijuana and 10 (9.34%) had history of taking others that is dendrite, medicine etc and 59 (55.14%) were not addicted by any means. It also reveals that 23 (21.49%) participants started using of substance as influenced by friend circle and 22 (20.56%) used them to release the tension and only 3 (2.80%) started using substance due to their curiosity.

**Section II Findings related to types of behavioral conduct of participants**

**Table 5 Frequency and percentage distribution of participants in terms of types of behavioral conduct (Indian Penalty Code).**

n = 107

Types of behavioural conduct	Under section	Frequency	Percent (%)
Crosses border without passport with family	14F	61	57.00
Punishment for theft	379	15	14.01
Punishment for sexual offences	6 of POSCO	09	8.41
Punishment of murder	302	06	5.61
Aberts narcotic substabces	NDPS	04	3.74
Theft in dwelling house	380	04	3.74
Punish for house trespass	448	03	2.80
Hurt by dangerous weapons	326	03	2.80
Crosses border without passport	14C	03	2.80
Punishment for kidnapping	363	03	2.80
Kidnapping or abducting in order to murder	364	02	1.86
Attempt to murder	307	02	1.86
Wrongful restraint	341	02	1.86
Punishment for dacoity	395	02	1.86
Assault a women	354	02	1.86

\*Multiple response included

Data presented in table 5 reveals that 61(57.00%) participants were under section of 14 F (14 Foreigner s act) that means crosses border without passport with 49 family, 15 (14.01%) participants were under punishment for theft and are under section of 379, 9 (8.41%) participants were under section of punishment of sexual offences and are under section of 6 of POSCO, 6 (5.61%) participants were under section of 302 that means punishment for murder, 4 (3.74%) participants were under section of 380 that means theft in dwelling house, 4 (3.74%) were under section of NDPS that means punishment for having narcotic and psychotropic substances, 3 (2.80%) of them were under section of 448 that means punish for house trespass, 3 (2.80%) were under section of 326 that means hurt by dangerous weapons, 3(2.80%) were under section of 14C that means they crosses border without passport, 3 (2.80%) were under section 363 that means punishment of kidnapping, 2 (1.86%) participants were under section of 364 that means kidnapping in order to murder, 2 (1.86%) participants were under section of 307 that means attempt to murder, 2 (1.86%) were under section of 341 that means for the wrongful restraint, 2 (1.86%) were under section of 395 that means punishment for dacoity, 2( 1.86%) were under section of 354 that means punishment for assault a women.

**Table 6 Frequency and percentage distribution of participants in terms of types of behavioral conduct (Indian Penalty Code)**

n = 107

Types of behavioural conduct	Under section	Frequency	Percent (%)
Kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person	201	01	0.93
Several persons in furtherance of common intention	34	01	0.93
Act with intent to disrobe a women	354B	01	0.93
Kidnapping women to compel her marriage	366	01	0.93
Punishment for robbery	392	01	0.93
Robbery or decoity with attempt to cause death	397	01	0.93
Harassed in terms of dowry	3/4 DP	01	0.93

\*Multiple response included

Data presented in table 6 reveals that 1 (0.93%) participants was there in the juvenile homes for the kidnapping with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine the person and is under section of 201, 1 (0.93%) participants was for the several persons in furtherance of common intension and is under section of 34, 1 (0.93%) participants was for act with intent to disrobe a women and is under section of 354B, 1 (0.93%) participants was for kidnapping women to compel her marriage and is under section of 366, 1 (0.93%) participants was for punishment for robbery and is under section of 392, 1 (0.93%) participants was for punishment for robbery with attempt to cause death and is under section of 397, and 1 (0.93%) was for the harassment in terms of dowry and is under section of 3/4 DP.

**Table 7 Frequency and percentage distribution of participants in terms of types of juvenile according to court production**

n = 107

Types of juvenile	Frequency	Percent (%)
Special	62	57.94
Observation	45	42.05

Data presented in table 7 shows that 62 (57.94%) participants were treated as special child which means their punishment periods were declared by the court and rest 45 (42.05%) treated as observational child which means their punishment did not declared by the court till date.

**Table 8 Frequency and percentage distribution of participants in terms of duration of staying home.**

n = 107

Duration of staying home (in days)	Frequency	Percent (%)
15-90	63	58.87
91-365	38	35.51
≥366	06	05.60

Data presented in table 8 shows that 63 (58.87%) participants were staying in the home for 15-90 days, 38 (35.51%) were staying for 91-365 days and 6 (5.60%) were staying greater than 365 days inside the juvenile home.

**Section III Findings related to psychological status of participants.**

**Table 9 Mean, Median, SD, Mean percentage and rank showing the psychological status of participants.**

n = 107

Psychological status	Score Range	Mean	Median	SD	Mean%	Rank
Depressed Mood	0-20	13.20	14	5.17	66.02	1st
Anxiety	0-32	20.81	22	6.11	65.04	2nd
Positive wellbeing	0-24	14.35	16	7.14	59.81	3rd
Vitality	0-24	13.57	15	6.01	56.54	4th
General health	0-12	6.00	6	3.11	50.07	5th
Self control	0-20	8.13	9	4.58	40.65	6th

Data presented in table 9 shows the psychological status of the participants staying at the juvenile home of which depressed mood score with a mean percentage of 66.02 which is the highest psychological status and ranked as first followed by anxiety ranked as second (Mean% 65.04), positive wellbeing ranked as third (Mean% 59.81), vitality ranked as fourth (Mean% 56.54), general health ranked as fifth (Mean% 50.07) and self control ranked as sixth (Mean% 40.65) respectively.

n = 107

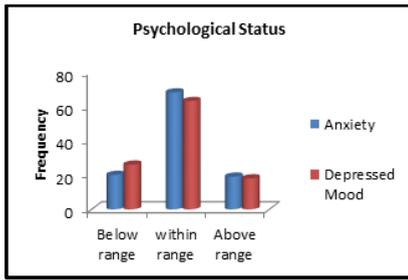


Fig. 4 Bar diagram showing the frequency of psychological status of the respondent

Data presented in fig 4 shows that 20 (18.69%) participants anxiety level were below the range which means that they have significant low anxiety level, 68 (63.55%) participants anxiety level were within the range which means they have significant average anxiety level and 19 (17.75%) participants were having anxiety level above the range which can be interpreted as having significant high anxiety. It also shows that 26 (24.29%) participants were having significant low depressed mood, 63 (58.87%) of them were having significant average depressed mood and 18 (16.82%) of the participants were found to have significant high depressed mood.

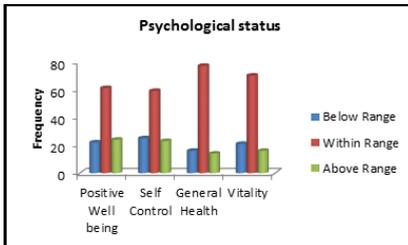


Fig. 5 Bar diagram showing the frequency of psychological status of the respondent

Data presented in Fig. 5 shows that 22 (20.56%) participants positive wellbeing level were below the range which means that they have significant high positive wellbeing, 61 (57.00%) participants positive wellbeing level were within the range which means they have significant average positive wellbeing and 24 (22.42%) participants were having positive wellbeing above the range which can be interpreted as having significant poor positive wellbeing. Data also shows that 25 (23.36%) participants self control were below the range which means that they have significant high self control, 59 (55.14%) participants self control level were within the range which means they have significant average self control and, 23 (21.49%) participants were having self control level above the range which can be interpreted as having significant poor self control. It also shows that 16 (14.95%) participants were having significant high psychological general health, 77 (71.96%) of them were having significant average psychological general health and 14 (13.08%) of the participants were found to have significant poor psychological general health. It also depicts that 21 (19.62%) participants were having significant high vitality, 70 (65.42%) of them were having significant average vitality and 16 (14.95%) of the participants were found to have significant poor vitality.

**Section IV** Findings related to association between psychological status and selected factors.

**Table 10** Correlation coefficients and its significance existing between duration of staying in home and psychological status according to domain (anxiety, depressed mood, positive wellbeing, self control, general

health and vitality).

n=107

Duration of staying home with psychological status	r' value	t' value	p' value
Anxiety	- 0.251	2.67 *	p < 0.05
Depressed mood	-0.320	3.48 *	p < 0.05
Positive wellbeing	-0.340	3.70 *	p < 0.05
Vitality	-0.260	3.50 *	p < 0.05

The data presented in table 10 reveals that anxiety was negatively correlated with duration of staying in home as  $r=0.251$  with the t value of 2.67. Thus increase duration of staying home showed in reducing anxiety among participants. Depressed mood was negatively correlated with duration of stay as  $r=0.320$  with the t value of 3.48. Thus increase duration of staying home showed in reducing depressed mood among participants. The positive wellbeing was negatively correlated with duration of staying in home as  $r=0.34$  with the t value of 3.70. Thus increase duration of staying in home showed in enhance positive wellbeing among participants. Vitality was negatively correlated with duration of stay ( $r=0.26$  with the t value of 3.50). Thus increase duration of staying in home showed in enhancing vitality among participants.

**CONCLUSION**

On the basis of study findings it was concluded that boys done an offence more than the girls, mostly were self employed, and crossing the border followed by theft and showed highest episode of depressed mood while staying at juvenile home. Increasing the staying in home reduces the anxiety and depressed mood of the participants. The study findings revealed no significant relationship between psychological status and total number of crimes but there was significant relationship between the age and total number of crimes done by the participants.

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