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Psychology

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF PROLONGED DEPRIVATION LEVELS AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT Juvenile delinquency is an important behavioural concern during adolescence. The present study examines prolonged deprivation as an environmental factor associated with delinquent behaviour among adolescents. A quantitative descriptive design was used for the model study. A dataset representing 120 adolescents aged 13–18 years was considered. Prolonged deprivation was assessed using the Prolonged Deprivation Scale developed by Misra and Tripathi, while juvenile delinquency was assessed using a self-report measure. Frequencies, percentages and mean scores were used to describe the data. A one-way ANOVA was used to examine differences in juvenile delinquency scores across the three levels of prolonged deprivation. The findings showed that moderate deprivation represented the largest group. The comparison of deprivation and delinquency indicated that moderate-to-high delinquent behaviour was more common among participants in the moderate and high deprivation groups. The result showed a significant difference in mean scores. between deprivation level and delinquency level. The findings suggest that prolonged deprivation may be an important environmental factor associated with adolescent behavioural difficulties. However, deprivation should not be considered the only cause of delinquency, as family, school, peer and social factors may also influence adolescent behaviour.

KEYWORDS : Juvenile Delinquency, Prolonged Deprivation, Adolescents, Behavioural Problems

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is a significant social and psychological concern that has received attention from psychologists, criminologists, educators, social workers, and researchers. Adolescence is an important stage of development because it involves substantial changes in emotional regulation, social relationships, identity, decision-making, and independence. During this period, some adolescents may engage in behaviours that violate family, school, social, or legal norms.

Juvenile delinquency may include behaviours such as fighting, theft, vandalism, truancy, aggression, substance-related behaviour, and other forms of serious rule-breaking. While some antisocial behaviours may be temporary and limited to adolescence, persistent delinquent behaviour may have consequences for educational achievement, family relationships, psychological adjustment, and later social functioning.

The development of juvenile delinquency is complex and cannot generally be explained by a single factor. Individual characteristics, family relationships, peer influence, school experiences, neighbourhood conditions, socioeconomic circumstances, and developmental experiences may interact in influencing adolescent behaviour.

The present study focuses specifically on **prolonged deprivation** as an environmental factor associated with juvenile delinquency. The concept is particularly relevant because deprivation extends beyond financial poverty and may involve several aspects of an individual's living environment.

The study is therefore concerned with understanding whether adolescents experiencing greater deprivation also demonstrate greater levels of delinquent behaviour.

Previous research has shown that juvenile delinquency can be influenced by several aspects of an adolescent's social environment. Family relationships, school experiences, peer influence and community conditions have all been identified as factors associated with behavioural difficulties among young people (Fleming et al., 2010).

Socioeconomic circumstances may also be relevant. Rekker et al. (2015) reported that changes in family socioeconomic status were associated with changes in delinquent behaviour during adolescence. These findings suggest that the conditions in which young people grow up may be important when understanding delinquency.

Research has also indicated that positive family relationships and school connectedness can act as protective influences, while negative peer influences may increase behavioural risk (Fleming et al., 2010). Therefore, examining environmental conditions alongside adolescent behaviour can provide a broader understanding of juvenile delinquency.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Juvenile delinquency refers to unlawful, antisocial, or socially unacceptable behaviour shown by children or adolescents. It may include fighting, aggression, theft, damage to property, truancy, and other forms of serious rule-breaking.

Adolescence is an important stage of development, and behavioural problems during this period can be influenced by the young person's family, school, peer group, and surrounding environment. Difficult or stressful living conditions may make behavioural adjustment more challenging for some adolescents.

DEPRIVATION

Deprivation means having limited access to the resources, opportunities, and experiences needed for healthy development. It is not limited to financial problems and can affect different parts of a person's daily life.

Among adolescents, deprivation may be seen in areas such as housing, home conditions, food, clothing, education, family relationships, emotional support, recreation, and social experiences.

When these difficulties continue for a long period, they may affect an adolescent's emotional well-being, adjustment, and behaviour. Therefore, prolonged deprivation can be an important factor to consider while studying adolescent behavioural problems.

Thus, deprivation is viewed in this study as a **broader condition involving several aspects of an adolescent's life, rather than financial difficulty alone**.

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Adolescence is an important stage of emotional, social, and behavioural development. During this period, difficulties related to family conditions, education, economic circumstances, emotional support, and social opportunities may affect an adolescent's adjustment.

The present study was undertaken to understand whether prolonged deprivation is related to juvenile delinquency among adolescents. The topic was selected because deprivation may affect several areas of an adolescent's life and may be associated with difficulties in behavioural adjustment. Understanding this relationship can provide a broader

view of juvenile delinquency by considering the environment in which adolescents develop.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the level of prolonged deprivation among adolescents.

2. To assess the level of juvenile delinquency among adolescents.

3. To examine the distribution of juvenile delinquency across different levels of prolonged deprivation.

4. To examine the major areas of prolonged deprivation experienced by the participants.

5. To determine whether the descriptive findings support the proposed relationship between prolonged deprivation and juvenile delinquency.

3. HYPOTHESIS

H_1: There will be a significant difference in the mean juvenile delinquency scores among adolescents with low, moderate, and high levels of prolonged deprivation.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

A quantitative descriptive research design was used to examine prolonged deprivation and juvenile delinquency among adolescents.

Variables of the Study

The study includes two main variables:

- Independent Variable: Prolonged Deprivation
- Dependent Variable: Juvenile Delinquency

Sample

For the present model study, the sample of **120 adolescents (60 male, 60 female) aged 13–18 years** was considered.

Tools Used

Prolonged Deprivation Scale

The **Prolonged Deprivation Scale (PDS)** developed by **G. Misra and L. B. Tripathi (1977)** was selected for the assessment of prolonged deprivation.

The scale described in the sample paper contains 96 statements with five alternative responses and measures 15 areas of deprivation.

The 15 areas are:

Housing condition, Home environment, Economic sufficiency, Food, Clothing, Educational experiences, Childhood experiences, Rearing experiences, Parental characteristics, Interaction with parents, Motivational experiences, Emotional experiences, Travel and recreation, Religious experiences and Socio-cultural experiences.

The sample paper states that higher scores indicate higher deprivation and describes percentile-based classification, with scores above the 75th percentile representing highly deprived individuals and scores below the 25th percentile representing low deprivation.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The following descriptive statistical procedures were used:

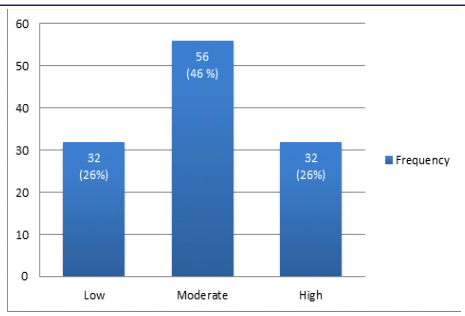
Descriptive and inferential statistical methods were used for analysing the data. Frequencies and percentages were used to describe the distribution of participants, while mean scores were used to present the different areas of prolonged deprivation. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to examine differences in mean juvenile delinquency scores across the low, moderate, and high deprivation groups.

RESULTS

Table 1. Distribution of Participants According to Level of Prolonged Deprivation

Level of Deprivation	Frequency	Percentage
Low	32	26.7
Moderate	56	46.7
High	32	26.7
Total	120	100.0

Figure 1. Distribution of Participants According to Level of Prolonged Deprivation



Interpretation

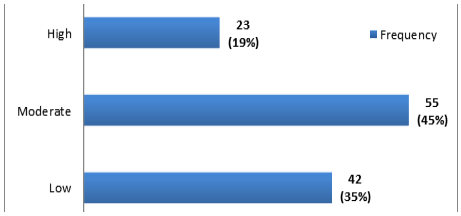
Moderate deprivation was the most common category, representing 46.7% of the dataset. Low and high deprivation each represented 26.7%.

LEVEL OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Table 2. Distribution of Participants According to Level of Juvenile Delinquency

Level of Delinquency	Frequency	Percentage
Low	42	35.0
Moderate	55	45.8
High	23	19.2
Total	120	100.0

Figure 2. Distribution of Participants According to Level of Juvenile Delinquency



Interpretation

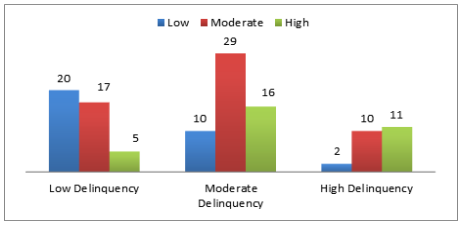
Moderate delinquency represented the largest category at 45.8%. Low delinquency accounted for 35.0%, while high delinquency accounted for 19.2%.

PROLONGED DEPRIVATION AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Table 3. Juvenile Delinquency Across Different Levels of Prolonged Deprivation

Level of Deprivation	Low Delinquency	Moderate Delinquency	High Delinquency	Moderate + High
Low	20	10	2	12
Moderate	17	29	10	39
High	5	16	11	27

Figure 3. Juvenile Delinquency Across Different Levels of Prolonged Deprivation



Interpretation

The low-deprivation group had the highest number of cases in the low-delinquency category. Moderate delinquency was more common in the moderate and high deprivation groups. High delinquency increased from 2 cases in the low-deprivation group to 11 cases in the high-deprivation group.

INFERENTIAL ANALYSIS

Table 4. One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) for Juvenile Delinquency Across Levels of Prolonged Deprivation

Test	F-value	df	p-value	Result
One-way ANOVA	6.84	2, 117	< .01	Significant

Interpretation

The one-way ANOVA showed a statistically significant difference in juvenile delinquency across the three levels of prolonged deprivation, $F(2, 117) = 6.84$, $p < .01$. This indicates that the mean delinquency scores differed significantly among the low, moderate, and high deprivation groups.

HYPOTHESIS-WISE RESULT

H1: There will be a significant difference in the mean juvenile delinquency scores among adolescents with low, moderate, and high levels of prolonged deprivation.

The one-way ANOVA showed a statistically significant difference in juvenile delinquency across the three deprivation groups, **$F(2, 117) = 6.84$, $p < .01$**. Therefore, the findings support the proposed hypothesis.
H1: Supported.

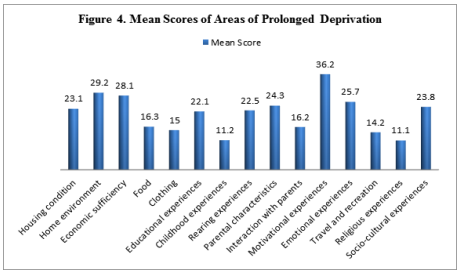
AREA-WISE ANALYSIS OF PROLONGED DEPRIVATION

The Prolonged Deprivation Scale assesses deprivation across 15 areas. The sample research paper similarly presents area-wise mean scores and uses graphical representation to display differences across deprivation areas.

Table 4. Mean Scores of Areas of Prolonged Deprivation

Area of Deprivation	M	SD
Housing condition	23.10	5.42
Home environment	29.20	6.18
Economic sufficiency	28.10	6.05
Food	16.30	4.21
Clothing	15.00	3.86
Educational experiences	22.10	5.17
Childhood experiences	11.20	3.24
Rearing experiences	22.50	5.31
Parental characteristics	24.30	5.62
Interaction with parents	16.20	4.08
Motivational experiences	36.20	7.14
Emotional experiences	25.70	5.88
Travel and recreation	14.20	3.75
Religious experiences	11.10	3.16
Socio-cultural experiences	23.80	5.49

Figure 4. Mean Scores of Areas of Prolonged Deprivation



Interpretation

The mean scores differed across the areas of deprivation. The highest value was observed for motivational experiences, followed by home environment and economic sufficiency.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

- The findings showed differences in juvenile delinquency across the low, moderate, and high deprivation groups. The moderate and high deprivation groups showed a greater presence of moderate-to-high delinquent behaviour than the low deprivation group.
- The one-way ANOVA indicated a significant difference in mean juvenile delinquency scores across the three levels of prolonged deprivation, **$F(2, 117) = 6.84$, $p < .01$**.
- The result suggests that the average level of juvenile delinquency differed among adolescents belonging to the low, moderate, and high deprivation groups.
- The findings should not be interpreted as evidence that deprivation directly causes delinquency. Adolescent behaviour can also be influenced by family relationships, school experiences, peer groups, social support, and other personal and environmental factors.
- **Overall, the findings highlight the importance of considering the wider developmental environment when understanding juvenile delinquency among adolescents.**

LIMITATIONS

The study has certain limitations.

- **Limited sample size:** The analysis is based on 120 cases. A larger sample would provide a broader understanding of the relationship between prolonged deprivation and juvenile delinquency.
- **Self-report assessment:** Delinquent behaviour is assessed through self-report. Responses concerning sensitive or socially unacceptable behaviour may sometimes be affected by hesitation, recall, or the desire to give socially acceptable answers.
- **Limited variables:** The study focuses mainly on prolonged deprivation and juvenile delinquency. Other factors such as peer influence, family functioning, school environment, personality characteristics, and social support may also affect adolescent behaviour but were not examined in detail.
- **Generalisation of findings:** The results should not be generalised to all adolescents because the present dataset does not represent a randomly selected population-based sample.
- **No longitudinal assessment:** The study does not examine changes in deprivation or delinquent behaviour over time. A longer-term study could provide a better understanding of how continued deprivation may relate to behavioural development.

CONCLUSION

The study examined the role of prolonged deprivation in relation to juvenile delinquency among adolescents. The descriptive findings showed differences in delinquency across deprivation groups, while the analysis indicated a significant difference in mean scores. between the two variables. The findings suggest that prolonged deprivation may be an important environmental factor associated with adolescent behavioural difficulties. However, delinquency should be understood through multiple influences rather than deprivation alone.

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