



## Self-Concept of Juvenile Delinquent and Non-Delinquent Children

### Home Science

**K. Guru Lakshmi**

Research scholar, Department of Home Science, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Chittoor (Dt), A.P.

**Dr. K. Anuradha**

Professor, Department of Home Science, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Chittoor (Dt), A.P.

### ABSTRACT

Self-concept is the individual's own perception of his or her personality. The personality pattern is composed of traits or specific qualities of behavior, which characterize the individual's unique adjustment to life as shown in his behavior and thoughts. Self-concept is a global evaluation made about one's own personality. The self-concept may be either positive or negative. Due to several environmental factors some children exhibit anti-social behavior. 'Delinquency' is defined as an act by a juvenile under the age of 18 years that if committed by an adult would constitute a crime, a disorderly person's offense or a violation of any other penal statute, ordinance or regulation. A socially adjusted individual will have appropriate attitude for personal in temporal and social adequacy. To find out whether there is any difference in the self-concept of socially adjusted and delinquent children the present study was conducted. An individual needs for functioning effectively in the society. The present study was conducted to assess self-concept among juvenile delinquent and non-delinquent children. The study sample were 95 delinquent children (66 Girls and 29 Boys) selected from Government observation home for girls and the same home for boys and 105 non-delinquent children (60 Girls and 45 Boys) selected randomly from normal school setting. Self-concept Scale (Prathiba Deo, 2011) was used to collect the data. The results revealed that there was significant difference in the self-concept of Delinquent and Non-Delinquent children.

### KEYWORDS:

Self-Concept, Delinquent children and Non-Delinquent Children

### INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is the span of years between childhood and adulthood. The term adolescence comes from the Latin word *adolescence*, meaning 'to grow' or 'to grow to maturity.' It is customary to regard adolescence as beginning when children become sexually mature and ending when they reach the age of legal maturity. Adolescence is often described as a phase of life that begins in biology and ends in society. However, studies of changes in behavior, attitudes and values throughout adolescence have revealed not only that these changes are more rapid in the early than in the latter part of adolescence but also that the behavior, attitudes and values in the early part of the period are markedly different from those in the later part. During this time a number of physical, cognitive and social emotional changes take place in the body.

"Juvenile delinquency" refers to the involvement by the teenagers in an unlawful behavior who is usually under the age of 18 and commits an act which would be considered as a crime. A child is known as a delinquent when he/she commits a mistake which is against the law and which is not accepted by the society. Thus a "juvenile" or "child" means a person who has not completed eighteenth years of age and violates the law and commits an offence under the legal age of maturity.

Delinquency is socially inadequate adjustment on the part of the individual to difficult situations. The factors which go to make up these difficult situations, together with the mental and physical conditions which influence an individual's capacity to adjust, constitute the causes of delinquency.

In spite of the great complexity and diversity of the causes of delinquency, certain personal factors are found to be responsible for the differences in offenses. Hence, a need was felt to identify the Self-concept of juvenile delinquent children.

Self-concept can be defined as person's perception of himself/herself. Self-concept is a global evaluation made about one's own personality. It is derived from the subjective evaluations, an individual tends to make of one's own behavioral traits. As a consequence, the self-concept will either be positive or negative. These perceptions are formed through his/her experiences with his/her environment and

are influenced especially by environmental reinforcements and significant others. A socially adjusted individual will have appropriate attitude for personal in temporal and social adequacy. To find out whether there is any difference in the self-concept of socially adjusted and delinquent children the present study was conducted. It could be better understood if these children are compared against normal children. Hence the present study was planned to compare Self-concept of delinquent and non-delinquent children.

### OBJECTIVES

The following are the objectives of the study –

1. To measure Self-concept of delinquent and non-delinquent children.
2. To compare the significant difference in Self-concept of delinquent and non-delinquent children.

### Methodology

#### Sample

The sample were 200 students (95 delinquent and 105 non delinquent children) in the age group of 12 to 18 years. The delinquent children were selected from Govt. observation home for boys and Govt. observation home for girls in Tirupati, Chittoor (District). The non-delinquent children (normal children) were selected from Government schools of Tirupati using systematic stratified random sampling technique.

#### Tools

Tools used for the study were

- General Information Schedule for delinquent children (Developed by the investigator)
- General Information Schedule for non-delinquent children (Developed by the investigator)
- Self-Concept Rating Scale (SCRS) (Prathiba Deo, 2011)

#### Data collection

- Among the children available at Govt. observation home for boys a sample of 29 boys and from Govt. observation home for girls a sample of 66 girls belonging to different age groups (12-18 years) were identified and were administered with the general information schedule and Self-Concept Rating Scale (SCRS) (Prathiba Deo, 2011) after establishing necessary rapport. Non –

