

Social Deprivation Lead Positive Criminal Self Concept Among Phanse-Paradhi People

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Abstract: *The Paradhi community is labeled as criminals since the British ruling period in India. Even after sixty five years of Indian independence, this community still bears the stigma of being labeled as criminals, and are forced to live in isolated and economically disadvantaged areas. The Paradhis are divided into several sub cast like Phanse-Paradhi, Gaav-Paradhi, Berad-Paradhi, Gaay-Paradhi, Chita-Paradhi etc. The Phanse-Paradhis have remained socially and economically deprived in comparison with the other sub-castes. The researcher has taken this fact into research consideration and contacted 40 families which are situated at waste land at the bank of River Krishna in Maharashtra state of India. These families were interviewed intimately and were asked to respond the Prolonged Deprivation Scale (PDS) and self-constructed Criminal Self Concept Scale (CSCS). Analyzed data showed the positive correlation between social deprivation and criminal self-concept. Multiple regression analysis revealed significant predictors of criminal self-concept. Hence, a conclusion is drawn that social deprivation leads to positive criminal self-concept among Phanse-Paradhi people.*

Keywords: *Social Deprivation, Criminal Self Concept and Phanse Paradhi People*

I. INTRODUCTION

From ancient period, Indian society has been divided into several Jaati and Upjaati (castes and sub castes) and imposed unjust, oppressive and draconian code of conduct and work by discriminatory cast system on individual especially on specific community in which it is decided that specific work should be done by these people or society. A number of castes and sub castes become victim of these exploitative systems and still today they are living in miserable condition when India is emerging as a super power. PhanseParadhiis such a community in India which doesn't have their own land to build a house for them even though India is the seventh largest country in the world. The Paradhis have many sub-castes like Phanse-Paradhi, Gaav-Paradhi, Berad-Paradhi, Gaay-Paradhi, Chita-Paradhi etc. Among these, the Phanse-Paradhis remain deprived socially and economically compared with other sub-castes.

The term 'Paradhi' means 'hunter' and 'Phanse' means 'trap'. Phanse-Paradhi means those who live by hunting the animals with trap. Even today, the community is not involved in any business, farming or services as a tool of subsistence. They build houses which are made from grass and crushed sugarcane which is not permanent due to migration. Obviously their children do not attend school. The Phanse-Paradhi mostly resides in few districts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh states of India. They are very less in number. The population of Paradhi is not identified truly; however, they may have 0.001 percent population in India. Phanse-Paradhi people were labeled as 'criminal tribes' by Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) in 1871 by the British Government in India. Police and the others feel that Phanse-Paradhi people lived and are still earning their livelihood through small burglaries and thefts. Unfortunately, some evidences have been found at every local police station. Such kind of reality leads to police and public perception that Paradhis are criminals by birth and business. Willingly or unwillingly this assumption is accepted by Phanse-Paradhi people themselves.

Paradhi people still have belief, though not openly but latently or unconsciously that, their livelihood depends only on burglary and the theft. The people in Maharashtra are still afraid of Phanse-Paradhi. It has been observed that this reality leads to a notion among Paradhi tribe that their existence will remain only by maintaining terror in the society. In brief it is observed that the Criminal Self Concept is very high among Phanse-Paradhi people.

Criminal Self Concept is a sub-type of self-concept which has not been studied deeply. The self-concept is a multidimensional issue and various researches have been conducted to identify the self-concept relating to education, health, social life, specific jobs and services and crime. In the present study such an attempt was made to measure the self-concept regarding the criminal events or crimes. The Criminal Self Concept refers to the fact that how a person perceives himself or herself about his or her ability to perform the number of crimes as well as term Criminal Self Concept indicates the beliefs, values, ideas, thoughts, perceptions and attitude towards the homicide, theft and burglary, rape, murder, terror, smugglings and other types of crimes. Though the whole world is facing the problem of criminal events and day by day the numbers of criminal events are increasing, very few studies are carried out to assess the Criminal Self Concept.

Though India is now marching towards a super power country, yet Phanse-Paradhi people are still living in more miserable condition than the slaves. They are deprived in all aspects of life. In Psychology the term 'Deprivation' has been used in different ways. In laboratory setting, deprivation refers to a number of operational procedures in which organisms are subjected to some sort of reduction in either sensory input or motor output or both. In other ways, it has been referred with deficiencies in different aspects of social life, insufficient satisfaction of basic psychological and physical needs. The relation between deprivation and

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crime has been explored by various theories such as subculture theories (Wolfgang and Ferracuti, 1967), opportunity theories (Cantor and Land, 1985), social disorganization theory (Kornhauser, 1978), conflict theory (Bonger, 1916), economic theories of crime (Ehrlich, 1973), relative deprivation theory (Crosby, 1976) and strain theory (Agnew, 1992). As well as various cross-sectional studies such as research conducted by Messner (1982); Allen (1996) and Paul O' Mahaony (1986) (Chiricos 1987) have also confirmed the hypothesis that there is a strong positive relationship between poverty, unemployment and crime. The classical view in all these theories that the relationship between economic deprivation and crime is that economic deprivation motivates individuals to offend. A longitudinal observation of researcher drawn from present study of Paradhi families suggests that exploitation by social system and social contradictions lead to the economic and other types of deprivation, which in turn promotes antisocial attitude towards other people and tendencies to commit crimes.

II. METHOD

2.1. Sample

Two hundred and nine Phanse-Paradhi people approximately from 40 families have been surveyed for the present study. They were residing in different villages at the bank of river Krishna in Sangli and Satara districts of western Maharashtra in India. The sample consisted of head of the families, their wives and adult children from these families. The participants are ranging from 18 to 55 year age group. These people are registered as criminals in every local and other police station. They were jailed several times as offender or suspected offender.

2.2. Tools

For the present survey research, the following psychological tests were used.

2.2.1. Prolonged Deprivation Scale: (PDS)

The Prolonged deprived Scale is developed by Dr. Girishwar Misra and Dr. L. B. Tripathi. It measures degrees of deprivation in 15 areas of life. The PDS have 96 items with four alternatives and subjects have to select one option which describes his condition well. The PDS has .91 reliability and high level of predictive validity.

2.2.2. Criminal Self Concept Scale: (CSCS)

The Criminal Self Concept Scale (CSCS) is an instrument that is designed to measure the belief, attitude, values, thoughts, images and opinion regarding the crime. In other words it is a tool of assessing the criminal self-concept through four dimensions viz. 'Theft and Burglary', 'Terror', 'Rape' and 'Murder'. This is a self-constructed and developed scale. More specifically, each dimensions measure the feelings and thoughts that how easily one can perform the criminal conduct or events. The CSCS has 22 items with five point Likert type responses format ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The CSCS has .93 Cronbach Alpha estimates. The scale has successfully used in various projects conducted by students and scholars in their study.

2.2.3. Procedure:

District collectors of Sangli and Satara districts of Maharashtra states of India were contacted and the purpose of study was discussed with them and permission was sought for conducting the study on Phanse-Paradhi people. Moreover, social workers were also contacted who agitates the government for the social, economic and political justice for Paradhi people to approach the target group or members. Since Paradhis do not remain stable and they live at highlands or moorland away from the village, they were communicated in advance and revisited with research assistants. At every caravan, all family members were gathered at one platform and conducted a small meeting. Introductory speech was given by mediator social worker and purpose of study was explained to them and common instructions were given by researcher. The research assistance team was divided into four to five groups and responses for all psychological scales were collected through face to face interview of all caravan members.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As shown in table 3 that coefficient of correlation of deprivation with theft and burglary, terror, rape and murder components of criminal self-concept are .819, .756, .731, .738 and .753 respectively. All these r values are highly significant on 0.01 level of significance and indicating that there exists a positive relationship between deprivation and various components of criminal self-concept among Phanse-Paradhi people. Moreover, it was seen that all areas of deprivation significantly correlated with criminal self-concept and its all components. These results establish the truth that all criminal acts or phenomenon are committed by Phanse-Paradhi people due to the all kinds of deprivation in basic social needs. The present analysis establishes a strong relationship between housing conditioning, economic sufficiency, food, clothing, formal educational experiences and other types of deprivation and criminal self-concept. In present study it was observed that deprivation has strong correlation with theft and burglary ($r=0.819$), though the relationship was weaker than that between deprivation and murder ($r=0.738$). Hsieh and Pugh (1993) carried out a meta-analysis of the 34 aggregate data studies on the relationships between poverty, income inequality and violent crime and found positive relation among these variables. Despite differences in methodology, the majority of studies such as Sampson and Groves (1980) and Kawachi Ichiro et al (1999) agreed that crime is related to poverty or economic deprivation as well as to social exploitation or deprivation.

To predict the criminal self-concept of Phanse-Paradhi people on the basis of their prolonged deprivation, step wise multiple regression analysis was performed. The fifteen components of deprivation were entered into the model but as noticed in table 5 only 'Total Deprivation', 'Motivational Experiences', 'Clothing', 'Food', 'Travel and Recreation' and 'Religious Experiences' emerged as significant predictors. However, remaining factors didn't contribute to criminal self-concept among this community. When the first variable 'Total Deprivation' was entered into the model the obtained adjusted $R^2 = .907$ shows this model accounts for

90% variance in criminal self-concept as well as for this factor the standardized coefficient Beta value .74 indicating strong influence on criminal self-concept. Moreover, the other factors in table 5 also accounts for significant variance and influence on criminal self-concept. A number of empirical studies such as Hasan Buker (2011) have confirmed that deprivation is in fact one of the strongest predictors of crime, when compared to a range of factors at various levels of analysis. Messner (1982) in his study found negative relationship between poverty and homicide and successfully predicted the rate of homicide on the basis of poverty.

HC= Housing Condition; **HE**= Home Environment; **ES**= Economic Sufficiency; **Fd**= Food; **Cl**= Clothing; **FEE**= Formal Educational Experiences; **CE**= Childhood Experiences; **RE**= Rearing Experiences; **PC**= Parental Characteristics; **IWP**= Interaction With Parents; **ME**= Motivational Experiences; **EE**= Emotional Experiences; **RE**= Religious Experiences; **T & R**= Travel and Recreation; **MQCE**= Miscellaneous Quasi Cultural Experiences; **TD**= Total Deprivation; **T & B**= Theft and Burglary; **Trr**= Terror; **Rp**= Rape; **Mrd**= Murder; **CSE**=Total Criminal Self Concept

Table -5 Showing Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis for Criminal Self Concept

Sr. No.	Predictors	Adjusted R Square	df	F	Standardized Coefficients Beta	Sig.
1	Total Deprivation	.807	1, 207	2035.04	.743	.000
2	Motivational Experiences	.723	1, 206	1252.66	.453	.000
3	Clothing	.727	1, 205	877.296	.386	.000
4	Food	.719	1, 204	685.480	.304	.000
5	Travel and Recreation	.632	1, 203	566.956	.278	.000
6	Religious Experiences	.603	1, 202	480.722	.288	.000

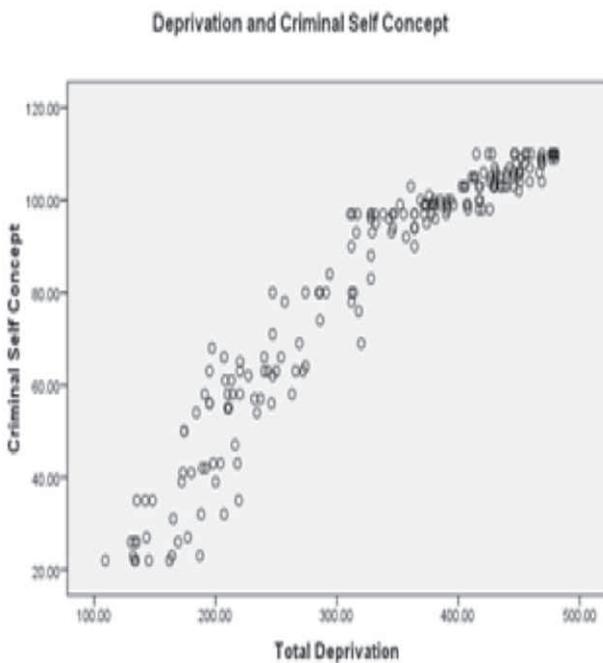


Figure 2 Relationships between Deprivation and Criminal Self Concept

Table -3 Correlation Matrixes of Deprivation and Criminal Self Concept

	HC	HE	ES	Fd	Cl	FEE	CE	RE	PC	IWP	ME	EE	RE	T & R	MQCE	TD	T & B	Trr	Rp	Mrd	CSE	
HC	1																					
HE	.710**	1																				
ES	.699**	.680**	1																			
Fd	.770**	.725**	.686**	1																		
Cl	.741**	.713**	.665**	.738**	1																	
FEE	.719**	.697**	.700**	.743**	.702**	1																
CE	.708**	.659**	.701**	.703**	.691**	.695**	1															
RE	.695**	.732**	.701**	.722**	.681**	.714**	.661**	1														
PC	.746**	.716**	.756**	.768**	.752**	.772**	.730**	.716**	1													
IWP	.792**	.742**	.710**	.793**	.757**	.733**	.719**	.736**	.757**	1												
ME	.633**	.653**	.687**	.581**	.581**	.662**	.582**	.620**	.650**	.633**	1											
EE	.713**	.675**	.671**	.667**	.672**	.675**	.655**	.652**	.749**	.691**	.629**	1										
RE	.794**	.712**	.754**	.807**	.826**	.752**	.742**	.727**	.796**	.810**	.643**	.709**	1									
T & R	.745**	.782**	.745**	.726**	.742**	.748**	.687**	.716**	.765**	.740**	.717**	.725**	.754**	1								
MQCE	.735**	.715**	.705**	.715**	.700**	.759**	.696**	.706**	.778**	.741**	.646**	.727**	.737**	.739**	1							
TD	.866**	.848**	.849**	.852**	.835**	.863**	.826**	.839**	.890**	.879**	.799**	.833**	.887**	.872**	.874**	1						
T & B	.686**	.743**	.726**	.745**	.726**	.747**	.633**	.730**	.763**	.694**	.580**	.668**	.750**	.767**	.680**	.819**	1					
Trr	.734**	.815**	.823**	.828**	.822**	.740**	.775**	.817**	.768**	.834**	.733**	.784**	.766**	.773**	.818**	.756**	.712**	1				
Rp	.749**	.759**	.771**	.756**	.750**	.721**	.792**	.777**	.743**	.757**	.641**	.759**	.778**	.700**	.718**	.731**	.727**	.729**	1			
Mrd	.760**	.773**	.781**	.760**	.740**	.711**	.794**	.789**	.737**	.777**	.664**	.759**	.786**	.720**	.713**	.738**	.797**	.720**	.757**	1		
CSE	.846**	.806**	.810**	.760**	.777**	.741**	.785**	.813**	.765**	.755**	.684**	.777**	.784**	.752**	.819**	.753**	.718**	.781**	.771**	.762**	1	

IV. CONCLUSION

The precise and caustic findings about the Phanse-Paradhi people have been yielded from this research. This study indicates the extreme level of deprivation among Paradhis. Moreover, it was found that people of Paradhi community have been prolonging deprivation in all areas of life. The housing condition, economic sufficiency, food, clothing and rest of all factors show extreme point of deprivation. It can be stated that the word deprivation is only meant for Phanse-Paradhi people. The striking finding of this study is that prolonged deprivation leads to positive criminal self-concept among Phanse-Paradhi people. The present research demonstrates that some psychological intervention programs can change the mentality and way of life of Phanse-Paradhi people. However, the study doesn't claim that other activities and programmes which are run to strengthen the status of Phanse-Paradhi people are not useful. Overall strategy plan is needed for the rehabilitation for adults and youths of Paradhi community. The right way to improve socioeconomic status is to invite the developed people from other sub castes of Paradhi to present before them as a role model. The imitation of such people will be an important factor in successful rehabilitation of Phanse-Paradhi people. Cognitive intervention techniques should be employed to change the thinking style, belief, ideas, images, perceptions and values which build the (criminal) self-concept. Deprivation threatens or undermines both the development and the maintenance of the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social abilities that constitute an attitude towards life. Hence, their level of motivation must be enhanced by organizing various social activities, special counseling sessions, training programmes and workshops must be sponsored by the Government and other NGO's for the leaders from Phanse-Paradhi community itself.

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