

A Study of Social Maturity Among Juvenile Delinquents of Bangalore City

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Abstract:

The main purpose of this study was to find out whether there is a significant difference in the social maturity of Juvenile delinquents from rural and urban background and to find out whether there is a significant difference in social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to different developmental stage. In order to measure the social maturity of Juvenile delinquents 'Social Maturity Scale' developed by Dr Nalini Rao (1984) was used. 45 Juvenile delinquents studying in children Observation Centre, Bangalore was drawn by incidental sampling technique. 't' test was used to find out the significant difference social maturity of juvenile delinquents. It is found that Juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts. Juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better personal adequacy and interpersonal adequacy a component of social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts. It was recommended that democratic approach and atmosphere should be made available in observation home hence that positively influence the social maturity of juvenile delinquents.

I. INTRODUCTION

The future of the country in years to come depends on the children of today. In the development of a country the education of its children plays a very important role. Hence every care should be taken to provide education for the total development of every child.

Juvenile delinquency is an offence committed against the law legally juveniles are described as adolescents under 18 years of age when he or she may be held legally responsible for his /her action. In India the children act 1960 defines Juvenile delinquents as a boy below 16 years and girl below 18 years who has committed a crime. The Juvenile act 1986 implemented as a comprehensive scheme for care, protection, treatment and rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. According to this new act revised in 2000 a juvenile in India is any child (boy or girl) below the age of 18 years.

The fact that Juvenile delinquency is societal in origin and brings to light the most important aspect that children are not born delinquents but made delinquents. Children like any other living organism are both with biological needs and psychological urges. They are egoistic and self-centered at birth. It is for this reason that Sigmund Freud terms them as being "polymorphous perverse". It is education and training which moulds these beings into human beings both by percept and example and in the formation of healthy and useful habits. These healthy and useful habits in children are achieved by placing before them various ideals and goals of life and by socializing them.

It is for this reason sociologists believe that human behavior whether normal or deviant is social in its nature and it can be understood only within its natural setting as acting on and reacting to its environment. It was Partridge that exclaimed "the delinquents are individuals whose accepted pattern of adjustment is at variants with the accepted codes of conduct which society is attempting to enforce".

Social maturity: social maturity is acquiring the social skills that enable the child to deal with people tactfully and with mutual understanding". It is defined as "the possession of appropriate attitude for personal and interpersonal relationships which are essential for effective functioning in the society".

Social maturity has both negative and positive components.

Positive components	Negative components
Social autonomy	Social dependency
Gregariousness	Isolation
Communication	Non communication
Co operation	Non co operation
Enrichment	Inhibition

II. NEED FOR THE STUDY

It is a fact that structured family is undergoing rapid changes in the modern society. In other words the changes in the modern society is mainly due to changes in the family structure from joint to nuclear spouse relationship and working mothers leading to inadequate attention to the children in the family. Inadequate attention from the elders has led the children to get directed and deviated from their traditional social norms, conventions and such other positive influence.

Children are being influenced by the negative impact of media which imbibe negative traits from the wrong side of the social environment. Over and above the temptation of the material world leading to above the temptation of the material world leading to eagerness to accelerate their individual SES. Thus the present societal set up is leading to a decrease in the social skills of children leading to inefficiency in their social functioning.

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The magnitude and dimensions of Juvenile delinquency is increasing day to day. Therefore it is of universe value to study the social maturity of Juvenile delinquents.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study is stated as

“A study of social maturity among Juvenile delinquents of Bangalore district”.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- 1) To assess the social maturity of Juvenile delinquents
- 2) To find out whether there is a significant difference in the social maturity of Juvenile delinquents from rural and urban background.
- 3) To find out whether there is a significant difference in social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to different developmental stage.

V. VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

The variables of the study are

- 1) Dependent Variable: Social Maturity of Juvenile delinquents
- 2) Independent Variable:
 - Area (Rural and urban) and
 - Development stage (child and adolescents group)

Sampling Procedure: 45 Juvenile delinquents studying in children Observation Centre, Bangalore was drawn by incidental sampling technique.

VI. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- 1) There is no significant difference in Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents from rural and urban background.
- 2) There is no significant difference in Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

Tools used for data collection:

In order to measure the social maturity of Juvenile delinquents ‘Social Maturity Scale’ developed by Dr Nalini Rao (1984) was used. This scale measures three dimensions of Social Maturity namely personal adequacy, interpersonal adequacy and social adequacy.

Analysis and Interpretation of data:

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to rural and urban background.

Table 1: Table shows the numbers of the group, mean score, SD, t value, df and level of significance of the rural and urban background Juvenile delinquents

Variable	N	Mean	SD	t	Df	Significance
Rural	13	174.84	27.41	2.017	43	*
Urban	32	193.59	30.09			

* significant at 0.05 level (Table value 2.000)

Table.1 reveals that obtained t value 2.017 is greater than the tabled value 2.000 at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis stating that there is a significant difference in Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to rural and urban background is accepted.

Since, the mean value of urban background (M=193.59) is greater than that of the mean value of juvenile delinquents from rural background (M=174.84). It is concluded that juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

Table 2: Table shows the numbers of the group, mean score, SD, t value, df and level of significance of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	t	Df	Significance
Child group	11	230.63	15.67	0.692	43	NS
Adolescents group	34	240.52	15.02			

NS: Not Significant

Table.2 reveals that the obtained t value 0.692 is lesser than the tabled value 2.000 at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and concluded that there is no significant difference in Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in Personal Adequacy, Interpersonal Adequacy and Social Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to rural and urban background.

Table 3: Table shows the numbers of the group, mean score, SD, t value, df and level of significance of the rural and urban background Juvenile delinquents.

Social Maturity	Variable	N	Mean	SD	t	Df	Significance
Personal Adequacy	Rural	13	57.15	6.76	3.096	43	**
	Urban	32	67.34	15.29			
Interpersonal Adequacy	Rural	13	62.15	12.85	2.773	43	**
	Urban	32	74.50	15.09			
Social Adequacy	Rural	13	76.53	15.17	0.735	43	NS
	Urban	32	72.71	17.25			

* significant at 0.05 level (Table value 2.000)

** significant at 0.01 level (Table value 2.660)

NS: Not Significant

Table.3 reveals that obtained t value 3.096 is greater than the tabled value 2.660 at 0.01 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis stating that there is a significant difference in personal adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to rural and urban background is accepted.

Since, the mean value of urban background (M=67.34) is greater than that of the mean value of juvenile delinquents from rural background (M=57.15). It is concluded that juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better personal adequacy a component of social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts.

Table.3 reveals that obtained t value 2.773 is greater than the tabled value 2.660 at 0.01 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis stating that there is a significant difference in interpersonal adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to rural and urban background is accepted.

Since, the mean value of urban background (M=74.50) is greater than that of the mean value of juvenile delinquents from rural background (M=62.15). It is concluded that juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better interpersonal adequacy a component of social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts.

Table.3 reveals that the obtained t value 0.735 is lesser than the tabled value 2.000 at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and concluded that there is no significant difference in Social Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to rural and urban background.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference in Personal Adequacy, Interpersonal Adequacy and Social Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

Table 4: Table shows the numbers of the group, mean score, SD, t value, df and level of significance of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

Social Maturity	Variable (Developmental Stage)	N	Mean	SD	t	Df	Significance
Personal Adequacy	Child group	11	62.09	7.72	0.860	43	NS
	Adolescents group	34	65.14	15.65			
Interpersonal Adequacy	Child group	11	67.63	13.20	0.901	43	NS
	Adolescents group	34	72.00	16.10			
Social Adequacy	Child group	11	74.63	20.28	0.161	43	NS
	Adolescents group	34	73.55	15.57			

NS: Not Significant

Table.4 reveals that the obtained t value 0.860 is lesser than the tabled value 2.000 at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and concluded that there is no significant difference in Personal Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

Table.4 reveals that the obtained t value 0.860 is lesser than the tabled value 2.000 at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and concluded that there is no significant difference in Interpersonal Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

Table.4 reveals that the obtained t value 0.860 is lesser than the tabled value 2.000 at 0.05 level. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted and concluded that there is no significant difference in Social Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

VII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts.

2. There is no significant difference in Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.
3. Juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better personal adequacy a component of social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts.
4. Juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better interpersonal adequacy a component of social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts.
5. There is no significant difference in Social Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to rural and urban background.
6. There is no significant difference in Personal Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.
7. There is no significant difference in Interpersonal Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.
8. There is no significant difference in Social Adequacy a component of Social maturity of Juvenile delinquents belonging to child and adolescents stage.

VIII. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The social maturity provides an index regarding the growth of the person , socially which gets reflected in his/her interaction with the persons and situations in the society. More over the adolescence period is known as the period of stress & storm group. Hence, extra care must be taken to protect our younger generation and make them future responsible citizens.

It is found that

Juvenile delinquents from urban background possess better social maturity when compared to the rural counterparts. Hence, the rural background delinquents need more care in Observation Centers.

Hence, Co-curricular activities such as Role play, conducting Drama and group participation activities make them more comfort socially, it is recommended that these activities need to be organized in Observation Centers.

The interpersonal adequacy and social adequacy of juvenile delinquents from urban background are better than their rural category.

It may be because of dependent life in urban locality is more in compare to rural places so group activities must be conducted in observation centers.

When a child joins to observation center, the supervisor should take care of the human life. Parents and society should treat juvenile delinquents like their friends in mainstream.

To avoid the barriers among the delinquents in observation centers the group must be made. While conducting any activities extra care must be taken, each group must consist delinquents from different age group.

Democratic approach and atmosphere should be made available in observation home hence that positively influence the juvenile delinquents.

Supervisors of observation centers has to adopt the skills of social development to make the juvenile delinquents socially change and aware along with inculcating social maturity behavior in them. There is a need to bring changes in the curriculum by introducing curricular and co curricular activities that positively enhances the social aspects of the individual.

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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