



# “Comparative Study of Juvenile Delinquency and Non-Delinquency”

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## Abstract

Towards adulthood, one of the most complex developmental stages that young people experience is adolescence. During this stage, challenges are encountered relative to educational progress. These challenges are attributed to behavioral disorders, character deviations, and emotional disturbances. In this article, the main aim is to describe and analyze some of the differences that exist between non-delinquent and delinquent adolescents. Through a comparative analysis, the article focuses in non-delinquency and delinquency among juveniles. Indeed, the aspect of juvenile delinquency has continually received research interest among scholarly investigators aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the delinquency phenomenon. The trend is not only motivated by the affirmation that adult delinquency tends to arise from juvenile delinquency but also due to the rich research information that many scholars have documented to accrue from in-depth analyses of the adolescents. It is also worth indicating that the research context is India and is deemed timely because of frequent changes that are being experienced in the country's penitentiary and judicial systems. Indeed, the research is poised to give crucial insights into some of the mechanisms through which delinquency could be addressed among adolescents, eventually curbing possible adult delinquency with which juvenile delinquency is associated.

## Keywords

## 1. Introduction

Adolescent continues to be associated with extremes; including sensitivity versus cruelty, apathetic versus exuberant, and laziness versus hard work. Some of the phrases that have been used to describe this stage include the age of great ideals, the drama age, the difficult age, originality crisis, and juvenile crisis. From an alternative viewpoint, adolescent is seen to reflect a highly complex developmental stage among youths approaching maturity. In educational settings, the stage has also been affirmed to be the most problematic due to frequent behavioral disturbances, character deviations, emotional imbalances, and physiological disturbances with which it is associated. At the stage, biological development also tends to be individualized and diversified and aspects of imagination and sensitivity also tend to be enriched highly. With unstable conduct dominating the stage, it is also affirmed that nuanced ideals emerge as individuals gain new values; reflected further in the adolescents' visible creativity. Thus, most of the conflicts that adolescents encounter involve their parents and educators. With the individuals overly claiming individuality and autonomy, it becomes imperative to examine the subject of possible delinquency.

## 2. The Rehabilitation Center or After Care Homes / Observation Homes

For delinquent children, the penal justice's most significant changes revolve around the education community. Particularly, the community forms a context or platform from which educational measures and sentences could be enforced. Therefore, rehabilitation centers and child working communities form reeducation institutions from which teaching and professional qualification units, as well as special education units targeting minors could be implemented while abiding by penal law. Thus, the central role of such institutions entails the rehabilitation of otherwise delinquent youths via the correction of their associated undesirable behaviors, as well as the creation and development of the minors' abilities to ensure that they exhibit attitudes that promise reintegration into the rest of the community.

Notably, these units' activities involve two major components. One of the components targets the professionalization and learning process while another component targets specific recreational, practical, sporting, cultural, educational, and therapy programs. In the Indian context, it is imperative to highlight that most of the rehabilitation centers have an opportunity at their disposal to ensure that they achieve transformation relative to the professionalization and schooling conditions of the minors, as well as their quality of life; besides social and moral recovery among target populations. Notably, the presence or absence of a secure environment plays a moderating role in achieving this goal.

To ensure that the rehabilitation centers exhibit positive influence on the minors' social reintegration, it is also important to align their approaches to the specific needs of the juveniles. Imperatively, the adolescents' quest for moral autonomy and independence remains a predictor of aggression, having rejected the adults' authority. Also, aggression accrues from social learning whereby the aggressive



responses tend to be acquired from punishment and rewards or imitation and observation of the behaviors of other people, as well as the consequences of those behaviors. Whether from a behavioral or an emotional perspective, aggression is seen to emerge as a cultural product, as different cultures can develop combinations of hate, fear, and aggression that, in turn, predict deviant behaviors.

### 3. Comparison between Juvenile and Non-Juvenile Delinquents

From a perspective of aggression, an analysis of non-delinquent versus delinquent adolescents reveals that delinquent adolescents tend to be more aggressive; whether verbal or physical. Also, delinquent adolescents are more likely to be angry and hostile. A major contributing factor associated with this trend involves lack of control of aggressive impulses among the minors; a negative aspect that accounts for the adolescents' inability to handle their emotions whenever they are provoked. Additional attributes that have been observed to increase attention among the adolescents include frequent implication in conflict situations, as well as the perception that they tend to resort to physical violence to obtain their rights.

Delinquent adolescents have also been associated with verbal aggression. In situations, where the adolescents exhibit a history of failure, they have been affirmed to express their disapproval openly, should they encounter unfavorable situations. Hence, they have ended up failing to consider the consequences of such behaviors on other people, as well as the others' reproach to their verbal aggression. Imperatively, the majority of delinquent adolescents have been documented to hail from disadvantaged family backgrounds whose disorganization accounts for the failure to gain parental attention.

It is also worth indicating that non-delinquent adolescents tend to benefit from education in their school and family environments and also have responsible parents who are out to care for their lives. Relative to fury, some delinquent adolescents exhibit this feature and are unlikely to hide their irritation whenever they encounter some situations. Thus, delinquent adolescents also tend to argue, have difficulty controlling their emotions, and get angry. Major factors contributing to these trends include lack of stimulating environments and lack of motivation; having functioned in limited socio-cultural spaces.

The implication is that when some non-delinquent adolescents experience imposed restrictions, they could end up being aggressive and also become hostile due to avoidable detention, mistakes in life, and jealousy. Other features accounting for possible hostility include suspicion towards some people, dissatisfaction with life, and envy for others' success. Hence, society's labeling of adolescent delinquency could cause these features. Also, hostility tends to accrue from inferiority complex.

For the case of non-delinquent adolescents, it is further notable that cases of aggression tend to be less substantial. For this group, school attendance tends to reinforce a sense of equality with others and allows for intellectual prosperity, an aspect that is reinforced due to a feeling that their abilities tend to be valued. Hence, delinquent and non-delinquent adolescents exhibit differences in their degree of aggression. Particularly, delinquent adolescents are likely to be more aggressive due to societal and parental labeling in relation to some of the crimes they commit. However, non-delinquent adolescents are unlikely to exhibit these features. Hence, through the application of the established instruments, significant differences between the two groups of children were found in this study, with regards to anxiety, level of depression, and maladaptive personality tendencies.

### 4. Conclusion

Regarding aggression, there are significant differences between delinquent and non-delinquent adolescents, in the sense that it manifests itself more substantially in delinquent adolescents. Delinquents are more anxious, regarding anxiety both as a state, and as a feature. There are significant differences between the two groups of subjects in the level of depression. Regarding maladaptive personality tendencies of delinquents, it was demonstrated that delinquents are significantly different from non-delinquents in psycho-social priors, neurasthenia, depression, schizoidism, paranoia, verbal understanding, frustration endurance, motivation. There are no differences between the two groups regarding honesty, emotional immaturity and instability, hysterical tendencies, psychopathy and emotional balance. One of the limits of the study regarding psychological factors involved in juvenile delinquency is that the samples are too small to allow generalization of the results that were obtained.

### References

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