



Analysis of Behaviour of Juvenile Offenders

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Abstract

This research study has been carried out to focus and analyse the deviant behaviour of Juvenile offenders in the observation homes. Normative survey method is employed to collect the data through questionnaire by adopting stratified random sampling technique. The sample size of the study is 132. The main objectives of the study are, to assess the level of deviant behaviour among juvenile offenders, to compare the deviant behaviour among juvenile offenders based on, family configuration, fathers' occupation, fathers' educational qualification, location of residence. The major finding of the study shows that Juvenile offenders have high deviant behaviour and there is a significant difference of deviant behaviour based on fathers' occupation, fathers' qualification, location of residence and family Configuration.

Introduction:

The deviant behaviour of juveniles causes irreversible damage to both individuals and the society. The juveniles with deviant dispositions become vulnerable to the society. Demographic experts predict that juvenile arrests for deviant behaviour will more than double by the year 2020, based on the trends in the juvenile arrests over the past decade. It is also reflected in the media, where reports of youth crime, particularly violent crime, inevitably receive prominent coverage.

Need and Significance of the study

Deviant behaviour on the part of Juveniles and also adolescents is considered to be one of the major public concerns. Deviant behaviour pertaining among the learners posing a major threat to the society. The victims of delinquency often suffer high physical and psychological pain as well as financial loss. Where crime and delinquency rates are high, fear and distrust may rule roost. Given the diversity and gravity of these problems, there is an urgent need for strategies to combat such a complex social phenomena such as deviant behaviour.

Juvenile

The Dictionary of Criminology defines a Juvenile as one who has attained the age of ten years and is under eighteen. Kaplan (1994) defined Juvenile delinquency are those with behaviours being performed by young people that are violation of laws applicable to young people's behaviour and may be forbidden solely for people who have not reached adult status.

Juvenile offenders

Juvenile Justice Act of 1986 in India defined Juvenile offender as a juvenile who has found to have committed an offence as per the provisions of Juvenile Act of 1986.

Operational Definition

Deviant behaviour

Deviant behaviour is a condition which is more than a disruptive behaviour. The individuals with deviant behaviour shows marked degree of adverse behaviour such as, unable to maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships, unable to feel under normal circumstances, pervasive mood of unhappiness or depressions, tendency to develop physical symptoms of fear which is prevailing among the juveniles in the observation homes.

Objectives of the study

1. To assess the level of deviant behaviour among juvenile offenders.

2. To compare the deviant behaviour among juvenile offenders based on,

- Family configuration
- Fathers' occupation
- Fathers' educational qualification
- Location of residence

Hypotheses of the Study

There is no significant difference of deviant behaviour among juvenile offenders based on,

- Family configuration
- Fathers' occupation
- Fathers' educational qualification
- Location of residence

Methodology

Survey method was employed to collect the data by adopting stratified random sampling technique. After obtaining the prior permission from "The Directorate of Social Defence", Government of Tamil Nadu, the data for the study was collected. A sample of about 132 Juvenile offenders of age group between 15 – 18 years from 3 different districts in Tamil Nadu as scheduled by 'The Directorate of Social Defence' were considered to be the sample for the present study.

Description of tool

To verify the framed hypotheses 'Deviant behaviour Inventory' has been used in the present study.

Deviant behaviour Inventory

Deviant behaviour Inventory was constructed and standardized by the Investigator under the guidance of Research Supervisor. The questionnaire comprising of 68 items under three dimensions namely conduct disorder, personality disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder. Every item in the inventory is being evaluated over three choices that are shown

with the options 'Usually', 'Sometimes' & 'Never'. The maximum score is 204 and minimum score is 68.

Pilot Study

A random sample of 60 Juvenile offenders was selected for the pilot study to establish reliability and validity. The reliability of the Deviant Behaviour Inventory was found to be 0.77 using Karl Pearson product correlation method. Validity of the tool was found to be 0.87.

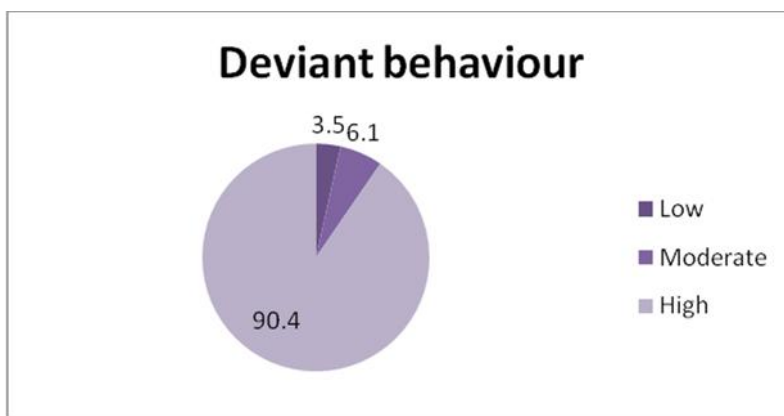
Hypothesis 1

The level of deviant behaviour among juvenile offenders is moderate in nature.

Table 1 Level of deviant behaviour among juvenile offenders

Variable	category	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Deviant behaviour	Low	38	3.5	3.5
	Moderate	40	6.1	9.6
	High	54	90.4	100.0
	Total	132	100.0	

From the above table, it is inferred that 90.4% of Juvenile offenders have high deviant behaviour. 6.1% and 3.5% of Juvenile offenders have average and low level of deviant behaviour. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.



Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference of deviant behaviour based on fathers' occupation

Table 2 Comparison of Deviant behaviour– Fathers' Occupation

Variable	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-value	Level of Significance
Deviant behaviour	Between Groups	94,916.205	20	31,638.735	171.572	0.01
	Within Groups	84,088.743	112	184.405		
	Total	179,004.948	132			

The calculated F-ratio (171.572) which is greater than the table value at 0.01 level of significance, it is concluded that there exist a significant difference of Deviant behaviour based on fathers' occupation. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 2.1 Mean, SD, 't'-values of Deviant behaviour among Juvenile offenders

based on Fathers' occupation

Fathers' Occupation	Samples	Mean	S.D	't'- Value	Level of Significance
Unemployed	16	111.59	20.592	12.97	0.01

Cooly	40	59.74	6.437		
Unemployed	16	111.59	20.592	15.25	0.01
Business	53	173.46	11.635		
Unemployed	16	111.59	20.592	14.47	0.01
Professional	23	172.43	14.000		
Cooly	40	59.74	6.437	112.17	0.01
Business	53	173.46	11.635		
Cooly	40	59.74	6.437	75.51	0.01
Professional	23	172.43	14.000		
Business	53	173.46	11.635	0.62	N.S
Professional	23	172.43	14.000		

Analysis of mean difference between the fathers' occupation was tested which reveals that the Juvenile offenders whose fathers' occupation is Business have comparatively high Deviant behaviour (173.46).

Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference of Deviant behaviour based on Fathers' qualification.

Table 3 Comparison of Deviant behaviour – Fathers' qualification

Variable	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-value	Level of Significance
	Between Groups	7,544.295	3	2,514.765		
	Within Groups	23,833.566	129	52.267		

Deviant behaviour	Total	31,377.861	132		48.114	0.01
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The calculated F-ratio (48.114) which is greater than the table value at 0.01 level of significance, it is concluded that there exist a significant difference in Deviant behaviour based on fathers' qualification. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 3.1 Mean, SD, 't'-values of Deviant behaviour among Juvenile offenders based on fathers' qualification

Fathers Qualification	Samples	Mean	S.D	't'- Value	Level of Significance
Illiterate	18	109.17	22.311	8.72	0.01
Schooling	53	167.13	22.543		
Illiterate	18	109.17	22.311	9.82	0.01
College Studies	27	172.90	11.648		
Illiterate	18	109.17	22.311	10.06	0.01
Professional	34	174.47	5.928		
Schooling	53	167.13	22.543	3.15	0.01
College Studies	27	172.90	11.648		
Schooling	53	167.13	22.543	4.01	0.01
Professional	34	174.47	5.928		
College Studies	27	172.90	11.648	2.15	0.05
Professional	34	174.47	5.928		

Analysis of mean difference between the fathers' qualification was tested which reveals that the Juvenile offenders whose father qualification is Professional have comparatively high Deviant behaviour (174.47).

Hypothesis 4

There is no significant difference of Deviant behaviour based on Location of residence.

Table 4 Comparison of Deviant behaviour – Location of residence

Variable	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-value	Level of Significance
Deviant behaviour	Between Groups	2,319.159	3	1,159.579	2.999	0.05
	Within Groups	176,685.789	129	386.621		
	Total	179,004.948	132			

The calculated F-ratio (2.999) which is greater than the table value at 0.05 level of significance, it is concluded that there exist a significant difference in Deviant behaviour based on Location of residence. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

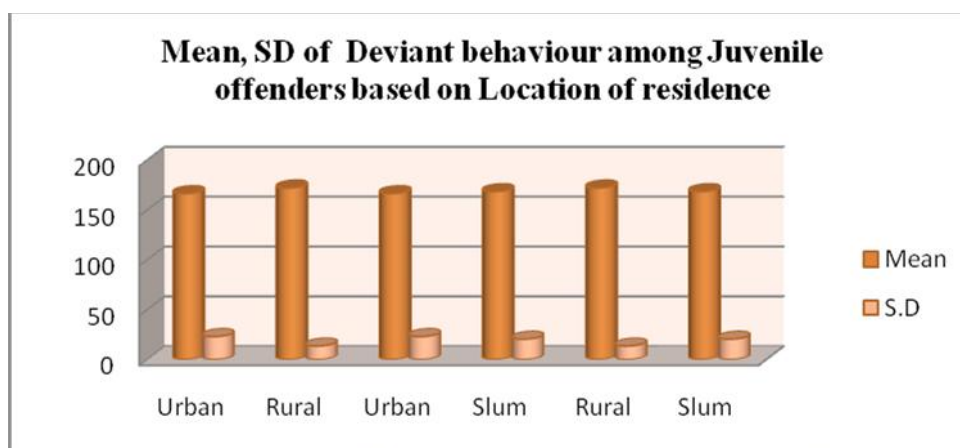
Table 4.1 Mean, SD, 't'-values of Deviant behaviour among Juvenile offenders

based on Location of residence

Location	Samples	Mean	S.D	't'- Value	Level of Significance
Urban	64	172.59	23.141	2.50	0.05
Rural	15	166.26	13.625		
Urban	64	172.59	23.141	0.79	N.S
Slum	53	168.54	20.539		

Rural	15	166.26	13.625	1.98	0.05
Slum	53	168.54	20.539		

Analysis of mean difference between the Location of residence was tested which reveals that the Juvenile offenders belonging to urban have comparatively high Deviant behaviour (172.59). The results are graphically represented in fig.



Hypothesis 5

There is no significant difference of deviant behaviour based on family Configuration

Table 5 Comparison of Deviant behaviour – Family Configuration

Variable	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-value	Level of Significance
Deviant behaviour	Between Groups	105.135	3	35.045	2.768	0.05
	Within Groups	5,773.961	129	12.662		
	Total	5,879.096	132			

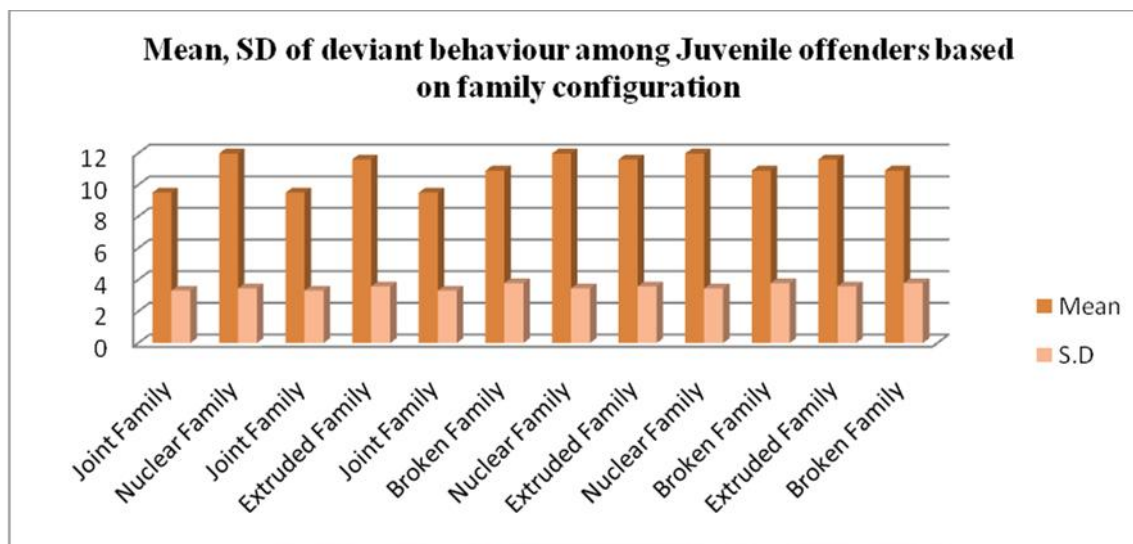
The calculated F-ratio (2.768) which is greater than the table value at 0.05 level of significance, it is concluded that there exist a significant difference in deviant behaviour

based on family Configuration. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. The table has been analyzed further among the groups using ‘t’ test.

Table 5.1 Mean, SD, ‘t’-values of deviant behaviour among Juvenile offenders based on family configuration

Family Configuration	Samples	Mean	S.D	‘t’- Value	Level of Significance
Joint Family	18	9.51	3.317	0.94	N.S
Nuclear Family	37	11.98	3.454		
Joint Family	18	9.51	3.317	1.66	N.S
Extruded Family	46	11.61	3.573		
Joint Family	18	9.51	3.317	2.63	0.01
Broken Family	31	10.90	3.782		
Nuclear Family	37	11.98	3.454	0.92	N.S
Extruded Family	46	11.61	3.573		
Nuclear Family	37	11.98	3.454	2.20	0.05
Broken Family	31	10.90	3.782		
Extruded Family	46	11.61	3.573	1.52	N.S
Broken Family	31	10.90	3.782		

Analysis of mean difference between the family configuration was tested which reveals that the Juvenile offenders belonging to nuclear family have comparatively high deviant behaviour (11.98). The results are graphically represented in fig.



Major findings of the study

- The study shows that Juvenile offenders have high deviant behaviour.
- There is a significant difference of Deviant behaviour based on father Occupation. The Juvenile offenders whose father occupation is Business have comparatively high Deviant behaviour.
- There is a significant difference in Deviant behaviour based on Fathers' Qualification. The Juvenile offenders whose fathers' qualification is Professional have comparatively high Deviant behaviour.
- There is a significant difference in Deviant behaviour based on Location of residence. The Juvenile offenders belonging to urban have comparatively high Deviant behaviour.
- There is a significant difference in deviant behaviour based on family Configuration. The Juvenile offenders belonging to nuclear family have comparatively high deviant behaviour.

Educational qualification

Given the diversity and gravity of these problems, there is an urgent need for strategies to combat such a complex social phenomenon such as deviant behaviour. But formulating effective strategies demands a solid understanding of deviant behaviour its causes and prevention. The educational institutions have to introduce the various coping strategies to overcome the deviant behaviour. Social values and other behavioural

modification techniques have to be introduced with in the schools which help them to meet the challenging needs of the society.

Conclusion

The study expounds the deviant behaviour of Juvenile offenders

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