

ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS OF ADOLESCENT JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

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ABSTRACT: *The present study was conducted on 32 Adolescent Juvenile delinquents , aged 13 to 18 years to assess the level of adjustment in the areas of home, health, Social and emotional. Further it was aimed to identify and understand the adjustment problems of the Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents in the Special Home. The results revealed that most of them belonged to an Unsatisfactory Adjustment Level in different areas of Adjustment under study. The conclusions were drawn based on the findings of the study. The results indicated that 3% of the children possessed an Average Adjustment level, 22% of them have Unsatisfactory Adjustment and 75% of them have Very Unsatisfactory Adjustment level with regard to the Home Area of the Adjustment inventory. 6% of the children showed Good Adjustment level, 22 % of them have an Average Adjustment, 22% of them possessed Unsatisfactory Adjustment whereas another 50 % of the children possessed a Very Unsatisfactory Adjustment level with regard to the health factor of Adjustment. The Social Area of the Adjustment indicated that 6% of the children possessed an Average Adjustment, 25% children have Unsatisfactory Adjustment level, 69% of the children possessed a very Unsatisfactory Adjustment level .The Emotional Area of the Adjustment indicated that 9% of the children possessed Good Adjustment, 34% of the children have Average Adjustment, 19% of them have an Unsatisfactory Adjustment level, whereas 38% of the children possessed a Very Unsatisfactory Adjustment level of the Juvenile Delinquents in the Home. The findings revealed that the Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents had adjustment problems with regard to food, stay, discipline and restricted freedom when they were together in the Special Home*

INTRODUCTION

According to Hadfield Delinquency may be defined as a rebellious behaviour which is unsocial and unacceptable to the society. A child is regarded as a Juvenile Delinquent for an act committed by him/her which would otherwise have been a crime committed by an adult. Every aspect which prevents children from emerging in a healthy manner both in flesh and mind tends to bring about a pattern of emotional turbulence which then takes the shape of antisocial or criminal behaviour. Behaviours of such type when found in youngsters, is termed as juvenile delinquency. In simple terms Juvenile delinquency is any criminal act against persons or property committed by a child. Children who fail to adjust and adapt themselves to the changes that occur within and outside often seem to break the norms of the society. This tendency is mostly visible in the adolescents.

Adolescence is that phase of human life where there is an identity crisis. This is a phase in life where bodily or biological changes take place and the need to adjust and adapt them to the environment arises failing which may lead them to become delinquents.

According to Munn Adjustment is fitting oneself to circumstances, as a student adjusts or gets along well, with the group he is into. Man has to adjust himself to survive in this world. The process of adopting oneself to the changing environment is Adjustment. Adjustment is both individual and social. The individual aspect deals about how an individual fights with his internal conflicts and tensions to adapt to new situations. The social aspect deals with how an individual struggles to adapt to his surroundings and establishes an acceptable relationship between himself and his environment, between his needs and desires and those of other people.

Therefore there arises a need to ensure that the adolescents adjust to the surroundings as well as to their internal inconsistencies and the number of adolescents turning into delinquents needs to be curtailed.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.To assess the Adjustment levels of Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents in the Special Home for boys in the areas pertaining to Home, Health, Social and Emotional.
2. To find out the Adjustment problems faced by them in the Special Home.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the levels of Adjustment of the juveniles in the Special Home?
2. What Adjustment problems do they face during their stay at the Special Home?

METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE

The present study was conducted on 32 Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents. Their age ranged between 13-18 years. The purposive sampling technique is used to select the sample. The juveniles who were at the verge of release or newly admitted were not considered for the study.

TOOL

Bell's Adjustment Inventory prepared by Dr. R.K. Ojha was used to find the Adjustment levels of the Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents in the areas viz. Home, Health, Social and Emotional. The Inventory comprises of 140 questions in all, each area consists of 35 questions.

PROCEDURE

The inventory was administered on 32 Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents of the Special Home selected for the present study. The items in the inventory were scored using the scoring key for all the four different areas .

RESULT & DISCUSSION

The data so collected is analyzed and is given under in a tabular form.

1.0THE LEVELS OF ADJUSTMENT IN DIFFERENT AREAS IN THE ADOLESCENT JUVENILE BOYS IN THE SPECIAL HOME.

AREA	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	UNSATISFACTORY	VERY UNSATISFACTORY
HOME	0	0	1	7	24
HEALTH	0	2	7	7	16
SOCIAL	0	0	2	8	22
EMOTIONAL	0	3	11	6	12
TOTAL	0	5	21	28	74

The above table indicates that 3% of the children possess an Average Adjustment level, 22% of them have Unsatisfactory Adjustment and 75% of them have Very Unsatisfactory Adjustment level with regard to the Home Area of the Adjustment inventory.

6% of the children showed Good Adjustment 22 % of them Average Adjustment, 22% of them possessed Unsatisfactory Adjustment whereas another 50 % of the children possess a Very Unsatisfactory Adjustment level with regard to the health factor of Adjustment.

The Social Area of the Adjustment indicates that 6% of the children possess an Average Adjustment, 25% children have Unsatisfactory Adjustment 69% of the children possess a very Unsatisfactory Adjustment .

The Emotional Area of the Adjustment indicates that 9% of the children possess good Adjustment, 34% of the children have Average Adjustment, 19% of them have an Unsatisfactory Adjustment whereas 38% of the children possess a Very Unsatisfactory Adjustment level of the Juvenile Delinquents in the Home.

From the findings it can be concluded that the Adjustment Level in each area is Very Unsatisfactory. The findings reveal that majority of the Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents have Adjustment problems pertaining to each area included in the questionnaire.

The researcher could build rapport with the inmates and elicited some of the problems they faced in the Special Home.

- All the Delinquents are placed together irrespective of the severity of the crime they have committed.
- Some of the inmates felt that they miss the love and affection the parents showered on them.
- They are made to wash the dishes and clean the washrooms.
- They felt like they are not been given enough freedom to do what they like.
- There is a lot of discipline that they need to adhere to throughout.
- They complained that they have a time table to follow.
- As far as the food is concerned the same food is provided for lunch is served in dinner. Special food is prepared only on special occasions like Home Annual Day or Independence Day etc.

IMPLICATIONS

It is an unspoken truth that the Adolescent youth of our country tend to become westernized and in doing so they tend to involve themselves in heinous crimes to get what they want. One must learn to stretch ones legs according to ones coverlet.

Home environment and social surroundings are very important factors which have immense impact on the behavior of the adolescents. Adjustment problem is a common thing noticed in the adolescents but it becomes a matter of great concern only when they build up maladjusted behavior leading to delinquency.

The Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents need to be counseled to help them overgrow their distress. Separate rooms can be provided in line with the crime they commit so that petty thieves should not be mingled with the hardcore ones. Along with the NGOs and the voluntary organizations the common public should join hands in getting them back into the mainstream.

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