

SELF-CONCEPT AMONG JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

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ABSTRACT

The present study is conducted to know the Self-concept of the Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents in the Special Home for boys in Hyderabad and also to find if there is any difference in the Self- concept among them. Purposive sampling technique is used for selecting the sample size. The sample consists of 32 Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents aged between 13-18 years. The Self-concept questionnaire prepared by Dr. Raj Kumar Saraswat is administered on the sample selected for the study. The Self-concept Inventory contains six dimensions namely Physical, Social, Intellectual, Moral, Educational and Temperamental. The individual scores of these dimensions are added to get the total Self-concept score of the Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents. The variables selected to know if there exists any difference in the Self-concept among them are Parental occupation, area of living (Rural/ Urban) and educational qualification. The findings of the study reveal that most of the children in the Special Home possess an Above Average to High Self-concept. The results showed that there is no significant difference in the Self-concept among the Adolescent juvenile Delinquents in the Special Home.

Key Terms: Adolescents, Juvenile Delinquency and Self-concept

INTRODUCTION

The most vital phase in a child's life is the adolescent stage wherein not only biological but also psychological changes taking place. The period of human growth that occurs between childhood and adulthood is known as Adolescence. The adolescents face a lot of turmoil within themselves as they are neither considered children nor do they fall into the category of grownups. At this stage they imitate the grownups. It is a known and undeniable fact that bad habits are inculcated faster than the good habits. Adolescents who long for love and affection and happen to belong from broken families, low as socio-economic status whose desires mostly remain unfulfilled have a tendency to get their desires fulfilled by hook or crook. As a result they do not even bother to involve themselves in illegal activities thereby giving birth to Adolescent juvenile Delinquency.

Socially undesirable act or conduct of a juvenile is termed as Delinquency. Juvenile Delinquents are those children who are in conflict with law and are below 18 years of age. Adolescent Juvenile Delinquent is one who is in conflict with law and falls in the age group 13-18 years old.

Self-concept has been defined as the most personal meaning, a person attributes to self. Irving Sarnoff defines it as "the idea one has of himself", and Snygg and Comb consider it as "the individual's view of himself".

The present paper aims at finding out the Self-concept of the Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents and also to find if there exists any difference in Self-concept among them.

METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.To study the Self- concept of adolescent Juvenile Delinquents in the Special Home for boys.

2 To assess if there exists any difference in the Self-concept among the Adolescent Juveniles in the Special Home.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the Self-Concept of the juveniles in the Special Home?
2. What are the levels of Self-concept among the juveniles in the Special Home?

SAMPLE

The purposive sampling technique is used in selecting the sample. The sample consisted of 32 Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents between the age group 13-18 year old from the Special Home for Boys in Hyderabad.

TOOL USED

Self-concept questionnaire prepared by Rajkumar Saraswat was used to assess the Self-concept of the children.

The Self-concept questionnaire contains six dimensions namely Physical, Social, Intellectual, Moral, Educational and Temperamental. The individual scores of these dimensions are added to get the total self-concept score.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The following tables show the Self-concept pertaining to each area of the children belonging to different age-groups in the Home.

1.0 PHYSICAL AREA OF THE SELF-CONCEPT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE HOME

AGE -GROUPS	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
13 – 14	1	2	0	0	0
15 – 16	1	2	0	0	0
17 – 18	3	18	1	0	0
19 – 20	2	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	7	24	1	0	0

From the above table it can be observed that 22% of the Special Home children are having High self-concept and 75% of them are having Above Average Self-concept while 3% of the children residing in the Special Home are having an Average Self-concept. Hence, it can be concluded that majority 75% of the Adolescent Juveniles in the Special Home are having above average self-concept with regard to Physical area of the Self-concept.

1.1 SOCIAL AREA OF THE SELF-CONCEPT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SPECIAL HOME

AGE -GROUPS	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
13 - 14	0	2	1	0	0
15 - 16	2	0	1	0	0
17 - 18	2	17	3	0	0
19 - 20	0	4	0	0	0
TOTAL	4	23	5	0	0

The table given above indicates that 12% of the Special Home children are having High Self-concept with regard to the social area of the self-concept. Whereas 72% of the children residing in the Special Home are

having Above average self-concept while 16% of them are showing an Average self-concept. Therefore, it can be concluded that the majority of the children (72 %) residing in the Special Home are having an above Average self-concept with regard to the Social area of the self-concept Questionnaire.

1.2 TEMPERAMENTAL AREA OF THE SELF-CONCEPT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE HOME

AGE -GROUPS	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
13 - 14	0	2	1	0	0
15 - 16	0	3	0	0	0
17 - 18	0	16	6	0	0
19 - 20	0	3	1	0	0
TOTAL	0	24	8	0	0

From the table given above it is observed that 75 % of the children living in the Special Home are having Above average self-concept while 25% of them are having average self-concept with regard to the Temperamental area of the Self-concept. Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the children 75% belong to the above average category of Temperamental Area of the self-concept.

1.3 EDUCATIONAL AREA OF THE SELF-CONCEPT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SPECIAL HOME

AGE -GROUPS	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
13 - 14	1	2	0	0	0
15 - 16	1	2	0	0	0
17 - 18	1	19	2	0	0
19 - 20	0	4	0	0	0
TOTAL	3	27	2	0	0

In the table given above it can be observed that 9% of the children residing in the Special Home are having High self-concept with regard to Education and 77% of the children are having above average self-concept while 6% of them are having Average self-concept. Therefore, it can be concluded that the majority of the children 77% fall into the above average category of the Educational dimension of the self-concept.

1.4 MORAL AREA OF THE SELF-CONCEPT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SPECIAL HOME

AGE -GROUPS	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
13 - 14	0	3	0	0	0
15 - 16	3	0	0	0	0
17 - 18	4	17	1	0	0
19 - 20	1	3	0	0	0
TOTAL	8	23	1	0	0

The above table indicates that 25% of the children staying in the Special Home are having High self-concept with regard to the Moral dimension of the Self-concept. Whereas 72% of them are showing an above average self-concept and 3% of the children are having average self-concept. Hence it can be concluded that majority of the children living in the Special Home are having Above average self-concept with regard to the Moral domain of Self- concept.

1.5 INTELLIGENT AREA OF THE SELF-CONCEPT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SPECIAL HOME

AGE -GROUPS	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
13 - 14	0	2	1	0	0
15 - 16	1	1	1	0	0

17 - 18	1	16	5	0	0
19 - 20	0	4	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	23	7	0	0

From the above table it can be concluded that 6 % of the children residing in the Special Home are having High self-concept and 72% of them are having above average self-concept while 22% of the children residing in the Special Home are having Average self-concept with regard to the Intelligent area of the self-concept. Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the children 72% staying in the Special Home are having above average self-concept.

1.6 THE TOTAL SELF-CONCEPT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SPECIAL HOME

AGE -GROUPS	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
13 - 14	0	3	0	0	0
15 - 16	2	1	0	0	0
17 - 18	0	21	1	0	0
19 - 20	0	4	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	29	1	0	0

From the above table it can be observed that only 6% of the children have Self-concept as High whereas 3% of the adolescent juvenile boys in the Special Home have an Average Self-concept and 91% of the children possess an Above Average Self-concept. Hence, it can be concluded that the majority of the children in the Special Home possess an Above Average Self-concept.

To find out the Self-concept among the Adolescent Juveniles in the Special Home, the researcher used the following variables;

1. Parental Occupation

2. Area of living (Rural / Urban)

3. Education

1.7 THE LEVEL OF SELF-CONCEPT AMONG THE CHILDREN IN RELATION TO PARENTAL OCCUPATION

PARENTAL OCCUPATION	HIGH	ABOVEAVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
DRIVING	1	12	0	0	0
AGRICUTURE	0	4	0	0	0
CONTRACTOR	0	4	0	0	0
MASON	1	5	0	0	0
BUSINESS	0	5	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	30	0	0	0

From the above table it can be observed that 94% of the children whose parents are into various occupations have Above Average Self-concept whereas only 6 % of the children possess High Self-concept. Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the children 94 % in the Special Home possessed Above Average Self-concept when the Parental occupation was taken as a variable to find the Self-concept among the children.

1.8 THE LEVEL OF SELF-CONCEPT AMONG THE CHILDREN OF THE SPECIAL HOME IN RELATION TO THE AREA THEY LIVE IN.

AREA OF LIVING	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
RURAL	1	13	0	0	0
URBAN	1	16	1	0	0
TOTAL	2	29	1	0	0

From the above table it can be noticed that 41% of children living in rural area have Above Average Self-concept whereas 50% of the children living in Urban area possess an Above average Self-concept. 3% of children living in Rural Area and 3% of children living in Urban Area possess High Self-concept. 3% of children living in Urban Area possess an Average Self-concept.

1.9 THE LEVELS OF SELF-CONCEPT AMONG THE CHILDREN OF THE SPECIAL HOME IN RELATION TO THEIR EDUCATIONAL LEVEL.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL	HIGH	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	LOW
III - V	1	7	0	0	0
VI - VIII	0	7	0	0	0
IX - XII	1	12	1	0	0
DIPLOMA	0	3	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	29	1	0	0

From the above table it can be observed that 3% of the children having studied between Standard III-V possess High Self-concept while 22% of the children who belong to the same category possess Above Average Self-concept. 22% of the children who have studied in classes between VI –VIII possess an Above Average Self-concept. 3% of the children possess High Self-concept another 3% of the children possess an Average Self-concept and 38% of the children possess an Above Average self-concept having studied classes between IX – XII. 10% of the children possess an Above Average Self-concept pursuing Diploma courses. Hence, it can be concluded that the Self-concept among the Adolescent Juvenile Delinquents in the Special Home ranges between Above Average to High Self-concept.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The findings of the study with regard to the Self-concept of the children in the Special Home showed that most of the children possess an Above Average to High Self-concept.

The children have tremendous amount of positive self-worth and are capable of doing anything. The researcher opines that the reason for the High Self-concept in them could possibly be the Intervention programs both Educational and Vocational being provided to the children at the Special Home.

The researcher concludes that such children with High Self-concept if guided well and a direction is shown to them will certainly become productive citizens of the society. The researcher recommends that the Government of India should provide special training to such children and recruit them in the Defense of the Nation so that the upsurge of their energy is used constructively.

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