EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Society was created with the homosapiens' realization that all their needs cannot be fulfilled if they stay in isolation. Some sort of collectivity was essential for their safe growth and survival. While forming this collectivity they saw also the need of formulation of some rules and regulations governing individuals in that collectivity. For getting benefits out of sheer membership of a society, the individuals must conform to these regulations as good citizens. So, a law – abiding citizenship is the demand of this larger collectivity known as society from its members, who, in exchange of many things must remain positively productive and contributive to wellbeing of themselves and surrounding others. But it is also a painful truth that every human society, since the ancient times, had some members within it who have been going against these regulations and adopting short – cut, impulsive and sometimes even violent means of getting their needs fulfilled even at the cost of others. The deviance within the human being is not simply a result of man's motives or other internal psychological dynamics; it is also a product of the social situation in which he finds himself (Rubington & Weinberg, 1968).

For behaviour deviation as pointed out above, two sets of causal variables are in action: the predisposing causes and the precipitating causes (Coleman, 1975). The predisposing causes are those which occur early in life and make the ground ready for such aberration to be triggered somehow in future. Precipitating causes are the way the social system distributes wealth and power, and the way the individual perceives himself in relation to this distribution (Hewitt, 1970). Adult criminality as well as juvenile delinquency is the manifestation of these behaviour aberrations within the society. The present study dealt with unravelling and empirically validating some of the causal variables of the predisposing factors affecting Juvenile Delinquency.

The purpose of this study was to identify the predictors of delinquent behavior and also a comparative study was conducted with a matched non – delinquent group, in order to understand the differences among both the groups in terms of parent – adolescent communication, home environment, parental bonding, personality traits and self – concept. The study examined whether the above mentioned variables can give any direction about the development of delinquent behavior and its prevention. Total sixteen family related and five personality related variables that have been found to be strong
predictors of delinquency, after the survey of literature, were included in the study analysis. By including the family related variable, the study was able to examine the independent contributions of family, structurally and functionally, generating and maintaining variables of delinquency. The personality variables, especially the Eysenck posited personality traits were supported by empirical evidence, testing the model on Antisocial Behavior. Furthermore, by including the personality variables as another significant competing explanation for delinquency, the model was able to provide further insights or explanation while analyzing the correlates of delinquency.

In the first place, in order to validate the variables empirically, research hypotheses were formulated, as mentioned below:

**Familial Variables**

**H1A**: The delinquent adolescent would report differential amount of affection manifested through communication, from (i) the mother and (ii) the fathers, than the non-delinquent adolescent.

**H1B**: The delinquent adolescent would report being subjected differentially to (i) maternal and (ii) paternal, care and control than the non-delinquent adolescent.

**H1C**: The home environment of the delinquent adolescent would exert differential influence as compared to the non-delinquent adolescent.

**H1D**: The components of the familial variables would exert differential influence in generation of delinquent behavior as depicted by the Behavior Deviance Scale.

**Personality Variables**

**H2A**: The delinquent adolescent would have different personality traits compared to the non-delinquent adolescent.

**H2B**: Delinquent adolescents would possess a poorer self concept than their counterparts.

**H2C**: The components of the personality variables would exert differential influence in production of delinquent behavior as depicted by the Behavior Deviance Scale.
Appropriate tools were utilized for testing these hypotheses such as, Background Information Schedule, Perception of Communication Satisfaction Questionnaire (PCS; Hecht, 1978), Home Environment Inventory (HEI; Misra, 1989), Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI; Parker et al., 1979), Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ; Basu & Basu, 1996) and Self Concept Questionnaire (SCQ; Saraswat 1984) and Behavior Deviance Scale (BDS; 1989).

Sampling was purposive. State run remand home for delinquent boys located in the city of Kolkata, was duly approached and after the home authority’s kind permission, consent was sought from the inmates as well. Those inmates who agreed to cooperate were included in the study group. A matched control group of non–delinquent boys in regular schools from the city of Kolkata and its adjacent districts were drawn. All of the selected tools were administered to the sample (100 in the study group and 100 in the control group). After scoring, tabulating and properly analysing the data by various descriptive and sampling statistics (Mean, Standard Deviation, $\bar{z}$ – ratio test, Multiple Correlation and Multiple Regression Analysis). The following findings could be arrived at:

- Most of the adolescents in the delinquent group (56%) belonged to the 13 – 15 years age group; while the rest 32% and 12% belonged to 10- 12 years and 16 – 18 years age group. In the non-delinquent group, 58% belonged to the 13 -1 5 years age group; 30% belonged to 10 – 12 years and remaining 12% belonged to 16 – 18 years age group. It was observed that majority of the participants were in their mid-adolescent period, irrespective of their delinquent behavior.

- 32% of the delinquent adolescents had no school education at all, 41% had elementary school education, 25% had middle and only 2% had obtained high school education. In comparison to the non-delinquent group of adolescents, the overall rate of education in the delinquent group was poor, as in the non-delinquent group 29% and 65% of the adolescents had elementary and middle school education and 6% had obtained high school education. Also in the non-delinquent group there was no single case of illiteracy.

- 57% were Hindu and 43% were Muslim in the delinquent group of adolescents, which indicated that the distribution of both the religion were almost equi -
proportional in the delinquent group. On the other hand, 71% of the non-delinquent adolescents were Hindu and remaining 29% belonged to Muslim category, which represented that the percentage of Hindu were high in the non-delinquent adolescents as compared to the Muslims.

- As far as the type of crime committed by the delinquent adolescents, it was found that 55% had committed theft, 23% had committed rape and the remaining 22% had murder cases. The figure represented the incidence rate for the year 2010 in Kolkata, West Bengal, and this was alarming in nature, as because the incidence of crime committed by the delinquents in the year 2009 were not that high (State Crime Record Bureau, 2009).

- With regards to parents’ education 29% of the fathers and 69% of the mothers were illiterate in the delinquent group. 50% of the fathers had elementary school education and the highest levels of education among the mothers were elementary school and only 31% had reached that level. 9% and 12% of the fathers had middle school and high school education. In the non- delinquent sample, 18% of the mothers were illiterate. 24% of the fathers and 42% of the mothers had elementary school education. Middle school education among the fathers and mothers were 45% and 33%. Lastly, 31% of the fathers and 9% of the mothers had obtained high school education. Comparatively the overall percentage of parental education was poor in the delinquent group of adolescents compared to the non- delinquent adolescents.

- 100% of the delinquent adolescent fathers were employed, but in a very low skilled job such as labor, cart puller etc. 73% of the mothers were engaged in a very low profile job, where as only 27% of them were homemakers only. Father’s employment rate was 100% in the non- delinquent group of sample as well and the type of job is also low in profile. Whereas in this group of adolescents only 22% of the mothers were working and remaining 78% were homemakers. The total average monthly family income for delinquent family was 4820 INR and for the non- delinquent family it was 6500 INR. Therefore it can be interpreted from the family income that the per capita income in the delinquent family was lower as compared to the non- delinquent family.
• Parenting pattern in delinquent families did differ significantly across all dimensions of parenting, from that of non-delinquent families. Parenting in the former was characterized by affectionless control, isolation, rejection and withdrawal of privileges, and punishments as opposed to that of the latter, frequented by rewards, nurturance, affectionate control and satisfactory parent-child communication.

• There was strong link between poor care and delinquency in same parent-child pairs. Since children have the tendency to identify with same sex parents, a good relation with this parent serves as a protective factor against delinquency. In the present study all delinquents were males. Poor emotional support, lower rate of verbal and physical interaction resulting from paternal neglect rendered the adolescents unable to have a proper role-model in their lives.

• The family pathology, as manifested through its dimension, indicated that it was greater in the delinquent families as compared to the non-delinquent families.

• The delinquents differed from the non-delinquent groups in terms of the personality dimensions as well.

• The dimensions Psychoticism and Extraversion are argued to be strongly related to offending. Hence, adolescents high on both P and E traits were predisposed to developing antisocial, aggressive behavior.

• The neuroticism score was low in the delinquent group and that was contrary to Eysenck's original work. One of the possible explanations might come from studying the delinquent cases on the basis of type of crime committed. It was observed that majority of the crime committed by the present delinquent group was theft, followed by rape and murder. To commit crime crimes like theft, one must have low level of anxiety; he should be desperate enough to undertake such risk taking behavior, where there should be no fear of getting caught. Therefore, based on the type of sample, the N score has come out to be low.

• The delinquents were moderate on Lie scale. It indicates the extent to which an individual is expected to give socially desirable impression about himself.
According to Eysenck's view they are liable to have low Lie scale indicative of weak socialization. But in the present study such an out of the way findings might be attributed to the adolescents' desire to be socially acceptable, after a turbulent past.

- The self concept of the delinquents was poorer than that of the non-delinquent adolescents.

- The results of multiple regression revealed that the familial variables could be accounted for a sizable segment of the total variance of the outcome variable. Extreme negative parental behavior, implying rejection by the significant others, were significant predictors of delinquency. Thus familial variables could significantly (beyond .01 level of probability) predict delinquency.

- Personality variables cumulatively accounted for a significant proportion of variance in the dependent variable. While higher the psychoticism and extraversion score, more was the probability of delinquent behavior; lower (or poorer) the self – concept score, higher was the delinquency. Thus, overall variance predicted by the personality factors were also high.

Therefore, it was observed that the pattern of upbringing in the delinquent families was not only inadequate but it was harsh in nature as well, compared to the non-delinquent families. Delinquent adolescents were devoid of an affectionate and disciplined home environment this is very essential for the normal healthy upbringing of any child. Along with this disadvantaged condition, it was further noted that these groups of adolescents have certain personality aversion as well. So, a combined effect of both disadvantaged family and personality characteristics of the delinquents were the contributing factors toward the development of delinquent behavior.

The proportions of the overall contributions of the family variables were highly significant in nature. Furthermore, it was observed that out of all the sixteen variables, punishment and rejection were the positive predictors of delinquency; whereas reward and parental care was the negative predictors of delinquent behavior. The rest of the family variables did not appear to be the predictor variables in the present study. Similarly, all the personality variables cumulatively accounted for a significant
proportion of the variance in the dependent variable that is delinquency. Moreover, psychoticism and extraversion were positive predictors of delinquency; whereas self-concept was the negative predictor. That is high psychoticism, high extraversion and a poor self-concept characterized the delinquents in the present study.

Therefore, based on these findings, a short form of Delinquency Questionnaire can be prepared, which will help to identify the potential delinquent adolescent and will support the society, especially the police personnel at large for its prevention.

Limitations of the study:

- If a longitudinal study could have been conducted, it would have thrown more light upon the future of the convicted adolescents.

- Sampling was purposive.

- Only males could be included in the sample, due to unavailability of female samples. The female residents of comparable government-run-homes were mostly victims of various social mishandlings.

- Apart from family and personality factors, other variable such as peer group was not included as a part of the study.

Suggestions of the study:

- Assistance to parents in dealing with Behavior Problems

- Supporting the school authority in identifying the problem adolescent

- Assist the Police department in prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

- Helping the Institution Caring for Delinquent Adolescents.