

## AGE AND SEX DIFFERENCE IN NEUROTICISM AND EXTROVERSION WITH REFERENCE TO DELINQUENTS

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### Abstract

*The aim of present research was to study the effect of gender and age on neuroticism and extroversion of delinquents. For this purpose, a sample of 50 delinquents (25 males and 25 females) was selected. The tools used was Eysenck's MPI (adapted by S.D. Kapoor and S. Jalota). Results indicated that female delinquents have more neurotic tendency and extrovert traits. No significant difference was found between male and female delinquents in respect of neuroticism and extroversion dimension of personality. Also no significant difference was found between the two groups on the basis of age of delinquents.*

**Keywords: Delinquency, Neuroticism, Extroversion, Personality.**

Juvenile Delinquency is not new field of research. It must have been very long time that researchers started research on juvenile delinquency. While the APA classification has no specific category for such patterns, they may be generally placed in the group of sociopathic disorders. Delinquency refers to behaviour by youths under 18 years of age which is not acceptable to society and is generally regarded as calling for some kind of admonishment, punishment or corrective action. Thus delinquent behaviour may range from truancy “incurability” and the use of illegal drugs to homicide and other serious criminal offenses. According to New Mayer “ A delinquent is a person under age 18 who is guilty of antisocial and whose misconduct is an infraction of law”.

D. Sethana defined the same as “Juvenile delinquency involves wrong doing by a child or a young person who is under image specified by the law (for the time being in force) of the place concerned”.

In both neurotic and psychotic delinquent, the delinquent act is a byproduct of severe personality mal-adjustment rather than a reflection of consistent antisocial orientation. Most of the researches have focused primarily on male delinquents, however, several investigations have also emphasized the high incidence of psychopathic personalities among females in state correctional institutions (Cloninger and Guze 1970, Fine and Fishman, 1968; Knopa 1967). In a study of 115 girls in a state correctional institution in Kentucky, Fine and Fishman (1968) emphasized a personality picture characterized by rebelliousness, impulsiveness, inadequacy, instability and immaturity characteristics commonly found in the psychopathic personality. Ganzar and Sarason (1973) found that females more frequently came from personally and socially disorganized families than did males.

Juvenile Delinquency is then characteristic of distinct form of personality. According to G.W. Allport (1937) “Personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical system that determine his unique adjustment to his environment”. According to Eysenck (1970) “Personality is the relatively stable organization of person's motivational dispositions arising from the interaction between biological drives and social and physical environment”.

Thus we can say that personality is the mixture of emotional, intellectual and character

building characteristics. There are two main determinants of personality – Heredity and Environment Intelligence, nervous system, temperament and the functions of the endocrine glands are included in the hereditary factors. Environmental factors are varied and mainly inter linked with socialization processes like nature of family, size of the family, sibling position, social class, child rearing, neighbourhood, school, social role and so on. Sex is an important sociological variable. Even in traditional literature and Indian philosophy, researchers have made efforts to study sex differences in biological, social and psychological potentialities. Biologically males and females differ. In a systematic study by Krishna (1972), it was found that males and females differ statistically in terms of their level of neuroticism, extroversion and emotional adjustment as well as security-insecurity, home adjustment and responsibility dimensions of personality. Females were found to be having more neurotic predisposition, introversion, more insecurity and adjustment in home and less responsible than males.

De Pascalis, Vilfredo, Moutiroso and Rosario (1988) found that extroverts showed greater neuroticism amplitude in the meaningful speech condition than in the meaningless condition and the reverse trend across conditions were found for introverts. In another study Furnham and Adrian (1989) found that neuroticism and extroversion were the strongest prediction of self monitoring behaviour.

Katiyar M, Gupta S.C. and Singh Harjeet 1989 found group difference in the extroversion scores from the Eysenck Personality inventory were not significant but differences in neuroticism score were highly significant.

The aim of present study in light of studies reviewed, was to study the effect of gender and age on neuroticism and extroversion of delinquents. On the basis of review of literature following hypotheses regarding the above mentioned variables were formulated:

- i. There is no significant difference between the mean neuroticism scores of male and female delinquents.
- ii. There is no significant difference between the mean extroversion scores of male and female delinquents.
- iii. There is no significant difference between the mean neuroticism scores of 15 year old and 18 year old delinquents.
- iv. There is no significant difference between the mean extroversion scores of 15 year old and 18 year old delinquents.

## Method

**Sample:** The present study is conducted on the population of delinquents of Meerut city proper. For this purpose delinquency centre and Nari Niketan, Meerut city were personally contacted. A.D.M. city was kind enough to grant the permission for data collection. The list of delinquents belonging to 15 years age and 18 years age group were taken. Each group of subjects was further divided into equal number of male and female (25 male and 25 female delinquents) subjects.

## Measuring Tool

Eysenck's MPI (Adapted by Kapoor and Jalota) was used. The scale had 48 items. Reliability for Neuroticism is +. 566 and for Extroversion is +. 358.

## Procedure

The data for the present study were collected from sample drawn from the delinquents from delinquency centre (Bachela Jail) and Nari Niketan of Meerut City. A room at the centre was selected to avoid any type of disturbance. The required material for the proper conduct of test were placed on the table. Then a copy of Eysenck's MPI (Adapted by S.D. Kapoor and S. Jalota) alongwith instruction in Hindi were given to subjects. After a careful reading of the instruction by subjects they were asked to mark the responses on the inventory. After completion of the inventory subjects were thanked for co-operation. In this way data was collected from 25 male and 25 female delinquents.

## Results and Discussion

### Neuroticism

In order to test the hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the mean neuroticism scores of male and female delinquents as well as 15 years old and 18 years old delinquents. Two way analysis of variance was used to see the significance of main effects and a two way interaction effect. The obtained data in respect of two variables ie. Sex and age of delinquents were designated as 'A' and 'B' respectively. The two levels of sex were designated as females (A1) and males (A2). Likewise the two levels of age of delinquents are designated as 15 years (B1) and 18 years (B2). To have composite test and overall picture about the significance of difference among the means, the ANOVA technique was employed.

**Table 1 : Two Way Analysis of Variance for the Effect of sex and age on Neuroticism:**

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	d.f.	Mean Squares	F. Ratio
Sex (A)	1393.98	1	1393.98	0.405**
Age (B)	113.24	1	113.24	0.052**
Sex X age	250.96	1	250.96	0.073**
Within Group (error)	3433.82	46	74.64	
Total	5192.00	49		

\*\* Not significant from table 1 that the main effects of sex as well as of age on neuroticism of delinquents were found not significant beyond chance. The respective F-Values for both the variables were found to be 0.405 and 0.052 which were not significant even at .05 level of confidence. The obtained F-value for interactional effect of the variables is not significant even at .05 level of confidence (F=0.073, d.f. 1) . The ANOVA findings indicate that sex as well as age variables are not significant in affecting neuroticism of delinquents.

### Extroversion

In order to test the hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the mean extroversion scores of male and female delinquents as well as 15 years old and 18 years old delinquents. Two way analysis of variance was used to see the significance of main effects and a two way interaction effect. The obtained data in respect of two variables i.e. Sex and age of delinquents were designated as 'A' and 'B' respectively. The two levels of sex were designated as

females (A1) and males (A2). Likewise the two levels of age of delinquents are designated as 15 years (B1) and 18 years (B2). To have composite test and overall picture about the significance of difference among the means, the ANOVA technique was employed.

**Table 2 : Analysis of Variance for the Effect of sex and age on Extroversion:**

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	d.f.	Mean Squares	F. Ratio
Sex (A)	340.48	1	340.48	0.635**
Age (B)	6.24	1	6.24	0.01**
Sex X age	88.03	1	88.03	0.16**
Within Group (error)	536.03	46	11.65	
Total	970.78	49		

\*\* Not significant

It is apparent from table 2 that the main effects of sex as well as age on extroversion of delinquents were found not significant beyond chance. The respective F-values for both the variables were found to be 0.635 and 0.01, which were not significant even at .05 level of the significance. The obtained F-value for interactional effects of the variables is not significant even at .05 level of confidence (F=0.16, d.f. 1/46, P>.05). The ANOVA findings indicate that sex as well as age variables are not significant in affecting extroversion of delinquent.

**Findings :** The findings of the present study were as follows:

1. Age did not differentiate significantly neuroticism of delinquents.
2. Gender did not differentiate significantly neuroticism of delinquents.
3. Age did not differentiate significantly neuroticism of delinquents.
4. Gender did not differentiate significantly extroversion of delinquents.

## **Conclusion**

The following general conclusions may be drawn from the present study:

1. Age does not influence neuroticism of delinquents.
2. Gender is not substantial to neuroticism of delinquents.
3. Age does not influence extroversion of delinquents.
4. Gender is not substantial significantly in affecting extroversion of delinquents.

A larger number of studies have been conducted by several investigators to explore the variables determining neuroticism, extroversion and delinquency. Eysenck H.J. 1975-76 found that psychoticism, extroversion and neuroticism scores decline with age. Another study was made by Kannappan R& Charian 1989. They found a relationship between Eysenck personality scores and age. Heaven Patrick 1989 found that a significant negative correlation between Eysenck personality questionnaire, neuroticism score and satisfaction with life. There are several factors which affect neuroticism and extroversion dimension of personality of delinquents. The present study has

however limited focus. It is based on 50 delinquents. Similar study may be conducted in the area of delinquency covering various sociological as well as psychological variables. Some attempts should be made to highlight the role of birth order, socio-economic status of family, social stress, motivation, frustration, anxiety, emotional maturity, emotional intelligence and creativity as significant factors in neuroticism and extroversion dimension of personality of delinquents.

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