

# Assess the Impact of Strained Interpersonal Relationship with Parents on Juvenile Delinquency among Delinquent Children in Haryana: A Retrospective Case Control Study

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## Abstract

The objectives of the study were to assess and compare IPR score with parents among case (Delinquent children) and control (Non-delinquent children) group and to determine the association of IPR scores with selected variables among case and control group. A Non-Experimental Retrospective (Case and Control) design was used. One twenty participants were enrolled for the study. Out of which 60 delinquent children were enrolled as case group with total enumerative sampling technique and 60 school children were enrolled as control group based on matching and homogeneity with case group on convenient basis (Matching was done for age group and Homogeneity was done by enrolling only male children). Data was collected by using Modified Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment Scale for interpersonal relationship with self report technique. The findings of this study showed that the mean IPR score in case group was significantly lower than control group (70.83 Vs 74.58:  $t=4.74$ ,  $p=0.01$ ) which indicate control group had better IPR with parents. A significant association of IPR scores with selected variables was found i.e youth occupation (0.002) and father education (0.05) in case group and with religion(0.02), place of residence (0.008) and youth was raised by single parents(0.04) in control group. The overall prediction of IPR by the independent variables for case group was with the variability of  $R^2=31\%$  (0.317) and for the control group was with the variability of  $R^2=27\%$  (0.271).

**Keywords:** *Interpersonal relationship, Parents, Juvenile delinquency, Delinquent home, Delinquent children and Non delinquent children.*

## Introduction

A Juvenile or child means a person who has not achieved eighteen years of age. According to JJA(Juvenile Justice Act) 1986, Juvenile means under 16 years of age for a boy and under 18 years of age for a girl. By JJA 2000, age for juvenile boys has been increased up to 18 years.<sup>1</sup>

A delinquent young person is disregard and stubborn, runs away from home and school, cannot be manageable by the parents and teachers, is not compliant to any kind of discipline, is willfulness and repeated acts in a manner injurious to the welfare and happiness of others and himself.<sup>2</sup>

A child is a branch of community in which he lives and gain social protocols which make sure smooth process of socialization. Several young people have been connected different popular pattern of relationship among family, school and working place. Life has become so competitive and tough. To obtain different opportunities young people have become more violent and becoming dependent to drug and using assault opposed to their peers. Juvenile delinquency revealed all crimes which were devoted by young people against society between the age of 12-20 years.<sup>3</sup>

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According to the latest National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) report 2012, crimes involving children have increased from 0.8 % (2001) to 11.8 % (2011).<sup>4</sup>

Total 36,138 cases were registered in 2014. Out of these cases, the highest belonged to riots (1,733 cases) followed by kidnapping at rank two (1,635 cases) and cases of rape stood third (1,488 cases).<sup>5</sup>

Family factors that may have an impact on offending like the level of parental direction, the way parents control a child, especially harsh punishment, parental dispute, offender parents or siblings, parental mistreat or ignorance and the nature of parent child relationship.<sup>6</sup>

Recent research finds that the lack of supervision or support a child needs is a link to delinquency in any race. It occurs more in single parents homes because they have a harder time doing those things. Poverty is also reason in the family that leads to family breakups and delinquency.<sup>7</sup>

Many studies have established a clear correlation between a lacks of control and violate. A lack of control is also combined to poor interrelationship between children and parents. Children who are usually in dispute with their parents may be less favorable to discuss their activities with them.<sup>8</sup>

When the family is unable to provide this much needed guidance and support, child will not develop properly, with juvenile misconduct becoming a potential consequence.<sup>9</sup>

Positive relationship with parents may function as a protective against delinquency because parents provide support for conventional behavior and sanctions against conduct problems.<sup>10</sup>

## Methodology

The study was conducted during the period from March 2016 to July 2017 in the state of Haryana, India. A sample of 120 children participated in this retrospective study with the prior permission from member of juvenile justice board and in-charge of delinquent home (for Delinquent children) and also from the principal of participating school (for Non-delinquent children). The *ethical clearance* was obtained from university research ethics committee (MMU/IEC/788) and the study was carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid by Indian Council of Medical Research ICMR(2006). The assent from children and written consent from their

parents/legal guardians was collected prior to the study. Quantitative research approach with Retrospective case and control design was used in this study. Children aged 13-18 years with alertness, oriented and ability to read, comprehend and speak English/ Hindi and residing in selected delinquent home of Ambala District were included for case group and studying in selected school of Barara District with the same criteria was included for control group. Children who are non- literate, not willing to participate and not having both biological parents were excluded. One twenty participants were enrolled for the study. Out of which 60 delinquent children were enrolled as case group with total enumerative sampling technique and 60 school children were enrolled as control group based on matching and homogeneity with case group on convenient basis (Matching was done for age group and Homogeneity was done by enrolling only male children). Data was collected by using Modified Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment Scale.

## Description of Tool

### 1. Selected Variables:

**Demographic variable:** It consists of items regarding demographic variables. The demographic variables include age, religion, youth occupation, place of residence, number of siblings, type of family, father education, mother education, father occupation, mother occupation, total monthly income and duration of stay in delinquent home, which were collected from participants with self report (Paper and pencil) technique.

**Conduct variable:** It consist of items regarding conduct of the child like number of classes youth failed, number of times youth suspended since first grade, youth argues or fights with others students, history of substance abuse, peer relation with kind of peer group, type of crime and history of committed crime, which were collected from parents with self report (Interview) technique.

**Specific IPR variable:** It consists of single item about specific child rearing includes whether the youth was raised by single parents, which was collected from participants with self report (Paper and pencil) technique.

### 2. Modified Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment Scale for Interpersonal Relationship:

3. It consist of 26 items on 3 (1-3) point rating scale with total score ranging from 26-78 in order to assess the interpersonal relationship of children with

parents, which were collected from participants with self report (Paper and pencil) technique. The calculated Cronbach Alpha Internal consistency was 0.79 (Acceptable range is 0.7-0.9).

**Procedure**

The permission was taken to conduct the study in the Delinquent Home (from member of juvenile Justice Board and in-charge of Delinquent home) of Ambala District for case group and in the Govt. Senior Secondary School (from Principal of School) of Barara District for control group. Introduction was given about research and researcher to participants. The assent was taken from the participants and consent from the parents. Collected baseline data (demographic variable, specific IPR variable) from the participants in both case and control groups with self report (paper and pencil) technique. Collected data about IPR on the basis of Modified Washington State Juvenile Court Assessment Scale from the participants in both case and control groups with self report (paper pencil) technique. Participants were asked to fill out IPR related information of pre delinquent

period for the case group (before detention) and of their past life for the control group. Further, collected the data regarding conduct variables from parents with self report (interview) technique in both case and control groups.

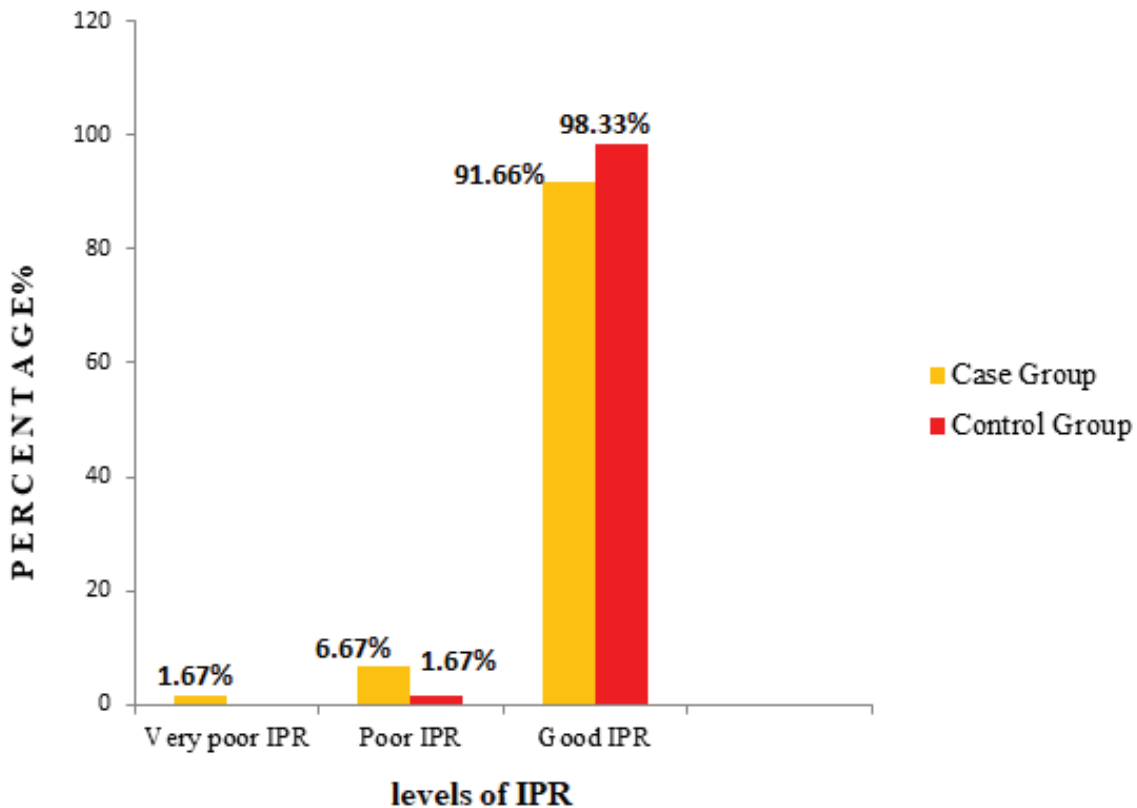
**Data Analysis**

**Kolmogrov-Smirnov** test was applied to check the normality of data distribution. Data was normally distributed in both case and control groups, hence parametric tests were applied.

**Results**

Homogeneity between the case and control group by  $\chi^2$  between case and control group in terms of demographic and specific IPR variable at 0.05 level of significance which infer that both the groups were homogenous in terms of demographic variables except place of residence (0.001), father education (0.04), and total monthly income (0.001).

Percentage distribution of case and control groups in terms of level of IPR is shown in figure 1.



**Figure 1: Level of IPR among Case (Delinquent Children) And Control (Non-Delinquent Children) Group**

Mean, mean difference, standard error of mean difference and t value of IPR between case and control groups is shown in table 1.

**Table 1: Mean, Mean Difference, Standard Error of Mean Difference and ‘t’ Value of Score of IPR Between Case and Control group**

N=120

Group Value	Mean	Mean Difference	S.D <sub>D</sub>	S.E <sub>MD</sub>	“t” value	P Value
Case (n=60)	70.83					
		3.75	1.90	0.79	<b>4.74</b>	<b>0.01*</b>
Control (n=60)	74.58					

t'(118) = 1.984, \*Significant (p<0.05)

Association of IPR scores with selected variables was

tested by using one way ANOVA and Independent t test among case and control group. There was no significant association of IPR scores with selected variables except youth occupation (0.002), father education (0.05) among case group where as in control group, there was significant association between IPR scores with religion (0.02), place of residence (0.008) and youth was raised by single parents (0.04). This inferred that IPR score is dependent on demographic variables and specific IPR variable.

Further Post Hoc test was applied to reveal the mean difference of significant association in case group (father education and youth occupation) which is shown in table 2.

**Table 2: Post Hoc Showing significant mean difference in Association of IPR score with Father Education and youth occupation in case group**

N= 60

S. No.	Selected variables	Categories	Mean Difference	Standard Error	Significant
1.	Father education	No formal vs Primary	-5.722	2.024	<b>0.032*</b>
2.	Youth occupation	Student vs Child labor	8.204	2.223	<b>0.001*</b>

\*Significant (p<0.05)

<sup>NS</sup>= Not significant (p>0.05)

Further multiple regression analysis was performed for prediction of IPR with parents by multiple independent variables as shown in Table 3. The data entered were continuous variables for raw data, dichotomous variables for categorical data and dichotomous dummy variables for more than 2 groups of categorical data. Based on simultaneous regression, the overall prediction of IPR by the above independent variables for case group was 31.7% (R=0.563 with the variability of R<sup>2</sup>=0.317) and for the control group was 27.1% (R=0.521 with the variability of R<sup>2</sup>=0.271).

By stepwise regression analysis, the non-statistically significant independent variables were excluded and regression analysis was performed by including the significant independent variables i.e occupation

of mother among case group (p<0.05) and place of residence and religion among control group (p<0.05).

The predictability of IPR by Occupation of mother- House wife (reference group- Laborer) in case group was 10.5% (R=0.324, R<sup>2</sup>=0.105) [in model 1, the predictability of IPR by place of residence- Rural (reference group- Urban) was 11.6% (R=0.341, R<sup>2</sup>=0.116) whereas in model 2 when place of residence was combined with religion the predictability of IPR by place of residence and religion-Hindu (reference group- Sikh) together was 18.4% (R=0.430, R<sup>2</sup>=0.184) in the control group. It concludes among control group (non delinquent children) place of residence alone had higher prediction in comparison to model 2 as shown in table 3 (multiple correlation coefficient)

**Table 3: Stepwise Regression showing the predictability of IPR by independent variables in Case and Control Group (Multiple correlation coefficient)**

N= 120

Group	Independent variables	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F value	df	Significance
Control (n=60)	Place of residence	0.341	0.116	7.622	1/58	0.008*
	Place of residence and Religion	0.430	0.184	6.448	2/57	0.003*
Case (n=60)	Occupation of mother	0.324	0.105	6.807	1/58	0.012*

\*Significant (p<0.05) <sup>NS</sup>= Not significant (p>0.05)

The regression coefficient revealed that in case group occupation of mother- House wife (reference group- Laborer) had negative direction of prediction on IPR with parents which inferred that if the chance of mother's occupation as house wife or home maker among delinquent children increases by 1 point then

IPR decreases by 1.6 points ( $B = -1.652$ ). Similarly in the control group place of residence- Rural (reference group- Urban) residence combined with religion- Hindu (reference group- Sikh) had negative direction of prediction as shown in table 4.

**Table 4: Coefficients of stepwise regression showing the direction and magnitude of predictability of IPR by independent variables in Case and Control Group (Regression coefficient).**

N= 120

Group	Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Significance
		B	SE	B		
Control (n=60)	(Constant)	77.778	1.225		63.515	0.000
	Place of residence	-2.556	0.926	-0.341	2.761	<b>0.008*</b>
	(Constant)	80.866	1.845		43.828	0.000
	Place of residence	-2.350	0.902	-0.313	2.605	<b>0.012*</b>
Case (n=60)	Religion	-3.088	1.413	-0.263	2.186	<b>0.033*</b>
	(Constant)	73.228	1.118		65.524	0.000
	Occupation of mother	-1.652	0.633	-0.324	2.609	<b>0.012*</b>

\*Significant ( $p < 0.05$ )

NS= Not significant ( $p > 0.05$ )

## Discussion

The present study aimed to assess the impact of Strained Interpersonal Relationship (IPR) with parents on juvenile delinquency among children residing in selected delinquent home Ambala, Haryana.

In the present study nearly half (41.7%) of the delinquent children those who have committed crime and stayed in delinquent home belonged to the age groups of 15-16 years and 16-17 years. These findings were similar to the study conducted by Jennifer L. White, Terrie E. Moffitt, Felton Earls and Lee Robins (2010) where they found that four-fifth of children destined to be criminal will be antisocial by the age of 11 years of age and two-third of antisocial by the age of 15 years.<sup>11</sup>

In the present study the mean IPR score in case group (70.83) was lower than control group (74.58) and 't' value was 4.74 that is significant at the level of 0.05. The similar study was conducted by Bandura and Walters (2013) to compare delinquent boys with non-delinquent boys where they found that parents of delinquents' boys show rejection and lack of affection. The fathers of delinquent boys used harsh physical punishment and ridicule to discipline their off spring, which concluded delinquent boys had poor IPR with parents than non-delinquent boys.<sup>12</sup>

In the present study there was an association of parent child relationship with father education and youth occupation in case group where as in control group with youth was raised by single parents. The similar study was conducted by Bor Williams, McGee Tara Renne and Fagen Abigail (2009) to assess early risk factor for adolescent delinquent behavior among adolescent in Australia and New Zealand, where they found that adolescents living with single-parent household are more likely to engage in deviant activity than youngsters living with both natural parents because the presence of an additional adult providers greater control on youngster's behaviors. Youngsters living with both natural parents were less susceptible to pressure from their friends to engage in delinquency than youngster living in other family structure.<sup>13</sup>

## Conclusion

There was a significant difference in the mean score of IPR between case and control group that indicate control group had better IPR than case group. Hence there is significant impact of strained IPR on delinquency among children residing in delinquent home.

**Conflict of Interest:** None

**Source of Funding:** None

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