

A b s t r a c t:

A STUDY OF FAMILY COHESIVENESS AND DELINQUENCY

by

Emmett Stephen Bradley

This study investigates the relationship between family cohesiveness and the incidence of delinquency. It is an individual thesis written as one part of a group study, of active files, of the delinquents at the Halifax Regional Office of the Department of Public Welfare, undertaken by ten members of the 1966 class of the Maritime School of Social Work.

The records of 49 delinquents at the Halifax Regional Office of the Department of Public Welfare, active as of November 1965, were the source of data. A common schedule was used to collect pertinent information. Data relevant to this individual thesis were then extracted and statistical test of significance (chi-square) carried out.

It was found that the family background of recidivists revealed a significantly less degree of reciprocal parental-filial affection and a higher rate of broken homes and family disruption than the family background of non-recidivists. It was concluded that, in order to be of any service in dealing with delinquent behaviour, the social worker must know and understand the delinquent in relation to his family.

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FAMILY COHESIVENESS AND DELINQUENCY

**A Study of Forty-Nine Juvenile Delinquents from
the Halifax Regional Office, Department of
Public Welfare, active as of November 1965**

A Thesis

Submitted to the

MARITIME SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

and

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by

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INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is an age old problem, a problem that has been gaining considerable attention within recent decades. The problem is very perplexing, one with varied aspects and often hidden causes and far-reaching consequences. Before the turn of the century, there was little distinction between an offense committed by an adolescent and one committed by an adult. Each person, regardless of age, was held morally and legally responsible for the offense he had committed. ^{1/}

The concept of the juvenile delinquent distinct from the adult delinquent appeared with the establishing of juvenile courts. The first court was established in the city of Chicago in 1899, and by the middle of the twentieth century, every state in the United States had passed some type of juvenile court statute. ^{2/} In 1908

^{1/} Leo Kanner, M.D., CHILD PSYCHIATRY; Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1935, pp. 676-677.

^{2/} Clyde B. Vedder, THE JUVENILE OFFENDER; Doubleday and Company, Inc., Garden City, N. Y., 1949, p. 229.

Canada drafted legislation that became the Juvenile Delinquent Act. ^{1/}

Delinquency is a term of convenience. It includes or leaves out just as much as the person who defines it wishes to include or omit. Children whose behaviour brings them to juvenile courts are included in the delinquency statistics. Children whose similar behaviour is treated in child guidance and psychiatry are usually not recorded in such statistics. Technically, juvenile delinquency is the violation of laws and ordinances by people under a certain age. ^{2/}

In a legal sense, it is defined as follows:

. . . any child who while apparently or actually under the age of sixteen has violated any provision of the criminal code or any Dominion or Provincial statute, or who is liable by reason of any other act to be committed to an industrial school or juvenile reformatory under the provisions of any Dominion or Provincial statute. ^{3/}

Prior to the turn of the twentieth century, emphasis had been placed upon the legal implications of

^{1/} JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN CANADA, the report of the Department of Justice on Juvenile Delinquency, Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1965, p. 30.

^{2/} Kanner, *op. cit.*, p. 677.

^{3/} Dominion of Canada, 1929; THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT ACT.

delinquent acts and little or no attention was given to the treatment of the delinquent. But during the last twenty years, there has been much progress made in the treatment of delinquents. Interest is now centered around the delinquent and the reason why delinquency occurs, not just the isolated delinquent act and its legal implications. ^{1/}

The steady development of this trend has been largely brought about by modern child psychiatry. In place of strict and thorough evaluations of right and wrong and the use of the law as a rigid measuring rod, a more reasonable approach has evolved which encourages that the act be viewed in the light of the child's dynamic and environmental constitution. Environmental influences which act upon the delinquent, such as: the stratum from which he has emerged, the standards prevalent in his home and among his associates, and the particular circumstances in which the act has been conceived and carried out are all taken into consideration in evaluating the delinquent's act. ^{2/} The individual delinquent is now seen in the light of the implications of

^{1/} THE DELINQUENT CHILD, Committee on Socially Handicapped Delinquent, White House Conference on Child Health and Protection; The Century Co., New York, 1932, p. 3.

^{2/} Kanner, op. cit., p. 677.

all his social relationships, his needs and the compelling needs of those about him.

There tends to be confusion in the minds of the public as to the cause of delinquency. Numerous studies by authorities in different professions indicate the diversity of the etiological factors contributing to delinquent behaviour. It is generally agreed that there is no single causal factor which causes delinquent behaviour. ^{1/} This study recognizes the existence of many causative factors. Since the multi-causal approach is beyond the scope and limitations of this study, its focus will be on a particular correlation which seems to exist between intra-familial communication and juvenile delinquency. In other words, the specific area of concern is the problem of family incohesiveness and its apparent relationship to delinquency.

There appears to be a relationship between incohesiveness in the family and anti-social behaviour. The lack of structural integrity and bond of affection seems to be more prevalent in the families of delinquents than in families of non-delinquents. The emotional climate of the home and the quality of family inter-

^{1/} Sheldon & Eleanor Glueck, UNRAVELING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, The Commonwealth Fund, New York, 1950, p. 5.

action appears to have a bearing on delinquent behaviour.

In view of its role and function, social work has essentially two objectives: treatment and prevention. Both treatment and prevention are related to an understanding of the processes by which the individual becomes delinquent. If such an understanding is basic to both treatment and prevention, then a study of the etiology is justified in terms of the objectives of social work. That is, if incohesiveness of the family unit is a significant factor in the causation of delinquency, then the hope of treating and preventing delinquency rests to a major extent on the application of social work to the problem of increasing the quality of cohesiveness in the family.

The theory of family cohesiveness emphasizes the importance of the bonds of affection between members of the family and their pride and interest in the family.

In order to test the theory advanced, four hypotheses were offered. They were:

1. There is a significant relationship between broken homes and delinquency.
2. There is a significant relationship between

the quality of mother and father relationship and the incidence of delinquency.

3. There is a significant relationship between the quality of relationship between father and son and the incidence of delinquency.

4. There is a significant relationship between the quality of relationship between mother and son and the incidence of delinquency. ^{1/}

It was necessary to impose some limits upon this study. These may be understood as restrictions on the accuracy and thoroughness of the methodological procedure. Limits, of course, should be kept to a minimum but the following conditions necessitate their introduction. Also there were limitations which are inherent in any study. The limits and limitations of this study are discussed in Chapter III.

The data used to test the hypotheses were gathered as part of a joint project of seven second-year students of the Maritime School of Social Work, who were interested in studying delinquency. The data were collected from the active delinquent files of the Halifax Regional Office of the Department of Public Welfare. A schedule consisting

^{1/} With regard to hypotheses 2, 3 and 4, "incidence of delinquency" refers to recidivism, see pages 53-54, Chapter III.

of forty-five questions was used for the purpose of collecting data from the case records. The group was responsible for composing the schedule and collecting the data. It was the responsibility of each member to interpret his specific questions to each member of the group.

A random sample of forty-nine cases was chosen from two hundred and twenty-three active files. Since many cases involved value judgements, it was decided to select randomly from the sample of forty-nine, fifteen cases as a cross-reference to check for validity. In doing so, it was found that ninety percent of the cases were considered valid judgements. The differences encountered were very slight, and therefore they were felt to be insignificant in relation to the limitations imposed by the research study.

After completing a statistical test of significance (Chi-square) on the data collected, an attempt was made to relate the results of the test to the theory developed earlier. Finally, the findings were assessed in the light of the values and goals of the profession of social work.

It was found that the family background of recidivists revealed a significantly less degree of reciprocal

parental-filial affection and a higher rate of broken homes and family disruption than the background of non-recidivists. It was concluded that, in order to be of any service in dealing with delinquent behaviour, the social worker must know and understand the delinquent in relation to his family. This conclusion will be dealt with in greater detail in the final Chapter.

This study was undertaken for several reasons. The first relates to a closer understanding of juvenile delinquency. It is believed that the more insight social workers gain in relation to the delinquent and his family, the more effective they may be in the area of prevention and treatment of the problem. Secondly, this study has been undertaken to increase the writer's knowledge of research, methods and procedure. Finally, this study has been carried out in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a Master's Degree in Social Work.

CHAPTER II

FAMILY COHESIVENESS

The problem of delinquency arrests us peculiarly today. The mere fact that probably one per cent of our children of juvenile court age actually appear each year in a juvenile court represents in itself an unhealthy condition. Our conviction that this represents but a fraction of the total amount of maladjustment, together with the evidence of a spirit of lawlessness running through-out our entire population, carries the problem even deeper. 1/

The problem of juvenile delinquency is a very complicated one, with varied aspects, often hidden causes, and far-reaching consequences. Delinquency is not an isolated problem. It is closely related to the problem of personality maladjustment, broken homes, gang life, and innumerable aspects of community disorganization. 2/

For the purpose of clarity in presentation, this present chapter will be divided into three parts. Part one is concerned with a historical review of some of the

1/ White House Conference; op. cit., p. 3.

2/ Martin N. Neumeier, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN MODERN SOCIETY; D. Von Nestron Company, Inc., New York, 1949; p. 3.

major theories which were advanced in an attempt to explain juvenile delinquency. Part two deals with the personality development of the child, whereas part three is concerned with an explanation of family cohesiveness.

PART I

HISTORICAL REVIEW

Clyde B. Vedder, ^{1/} has stated that delinquency is a form of social behaviour acquired through the learning process, and it is generally agreed that no child is born a delinquent. He believes that the alleged delinquency of youth is the sum total of the transmitted patterns from his adult surroundings, and the influence of response tendencies that help shape his personality.

This concept of socially-transmitted behaviour is only one of the many approaches taken by researchers in attempting to explain the causation of delinquent behaviour. By way of illustration of the many diversified theories, a review of the major contributors to the evolving theory of crime and delinquency will follow.

^{1/} Clyde B. Vedder; op. cit., pp. 2-3.

In his book, "Juvenile Delinquency in American Society", Harry Shulman states that delinquency had its origin in an eclecticism that drew its facts and theories from such fields as anthropology, biochemistry, biology, economics, history, law, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, and sociology. ^{1/}

Scholars have sought to explain crime for many years. Prior to the eighteenth century, the explanations tended to be demonic. These explanations centered around the belief that the offender was possessed of the devil, sinful and depraved. This belief played an important role in the retributive and moralistic foundations of criminal law.

Edwin H. Sutherland, ^{2/} in his book, "The Principles of Criminology", describes some of the major schools of criminology which have developed during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The first school which Sutherland mentions is the so-called Classical School of Criminology. This school was quite prevalent in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Cesare Beccaria, who has been acknowledged as the founder of the school, focused on the Criminal Act of the offender. He and his contem-

^{1/} Harry Shulman, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN AMERICAN SOCIETY; Harper and Brothers, New York, 1961; p. 93.

^{2/} Edwin H. Sutherland, PRINCIPLES OF CRIMINOLOGY; J.B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1947; Chapter 2.

poraries had embraced the doctrine of free will and its corollary that each individual is morally responsible for his own act.

This school of thought was primarily theoretically based in hedonistic psychology; which, briefly, holds that man governs his behaviour by considering the pleasures anticipated from a certain act and balances them against the pain anticipated from the same act. Choice in behaviour was limited to this type of calculation.

Such a theory was once thought to hold the answer to the cause of crime. The main criticism to be levelled at this theory is that the interpretation of the freedom of the will does not allow for investigation of further influences which appear to be associated with the origin of crime. ^{1/}

Following the gradual decline of hedonistic psychology, the focus shifted to an investigation of crime in terms of certain areas both geographical and social. Followers of this theory were interested in crime as a necessary expression of social conditions. Although this theoretical basis is given some degree of acceptance, it does not explain crime in individual cases,

^{1/} Sutherland, *op. cit.*, p. 53.

rather only in broad statistical terms.

In 1850 the Socialist School, based on writings of Marx and Engles, opened. This school emphasized economic determinism. The scholars were concerned with crime only as a by-product. By the use of statistical methods, they conducted many factual studies, and provided much information regarding the variation of crime rates in association with variations in economic conditions. This theory could be criticized for failing to predict delinquency in any individual case.

In 1875 the Typological Schools emerged. Proponents of the school of thought postulated that criminals differ from non-criminals in certain traits of personality.

Cesare Lombroso, the leader of this school, held that criminals are by birth a distinct type recognized by certain physiological anomalies. He proposed that because of their constitutional nature, such people are not able to refrain from crime.

With the decline of Lombrosian popularity, behaviour disorders were linked causally to feeble-mindedness, to psychosis, to epilepsy, and to "moral insanity". These theories led to emphasis on the effect of emotional

disturbances and other psychopathologies which are commonly thought today to bear a significant relationship to delinquency.

A marked departure from these interpretations was developed by the French social psychologist, Gabriel Tarde. ^{1/} In his sociological approach, he stressed the social nature of crime. His theory stressed the importance of imitation in criminal behaviour. The central proposition was that an individual behaves to a great degree in accord with the customs of his segment of society.

Sociological theories have since then had a great deal of attention. During the latter part of the nineteenth century, American criminologists and sociologists began to formulate hypotheses about crime based on social theory. ^{2/} Quite revolutionary in their thinking, they believed that criminal behaviour resulted from the same processes as other social behaviour. Early attempts to substitute this belief were made by relating variations in crime rates to variations in social organization. This included the correlation of delinquency to such

^{1/} Gabriel Tarde, *PENAL PHILOSOPHY*; trans. by R. Howell, Little, Brown and Co., Boston, 1912; p. 58.

^{2/} Sutherland, *op. cit.*, pp. 56-62.

factors as: population, density and composition, socioeconomics status of the neighbourhood, and other aspects of social organization. In early sociological studies, notably in the city of Chicago, Clifford R. Shaw ^{1/} and his associates observed a close relationship between high rates of delinquent behaviour and social deterioration in the inner-city slum areas of large urban centers.

Another prominent sociological theory was derived by Albert K. Cohen. ^{2/} He focused on the so-called "delinquent sub-culture", a concept which interpreted represents an attempt to explain the existence in inner-city areas of powerful traditions in which delinquent and criminal behaviour is the approved way of life.

While the emphasis of individual writers differs, generally speaking, the sociologists take the view that most delinquent behaviour can be accounted for through the ordinary processes of social learning. In a broader sense, they view delinquent behaviour as a reflection of certain structural features of contemporary society that are conducive to the development of delinquency.

^{1/} Clifford R. Shaw & Henry D. McKay; JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND URBAN AREAS: University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1942.

^{2/} Albert K. Cohen, DELINQUENT BOYS; The Free Press, Glencoe, Illinois, 1955.

Theories which have been developed around social explanations of delinquency have achieved varying degrees of acceptance. Social theories on the causation of delinquency have been beneficial in providing a basis for social policy with regard to preventive programs. However, one major criticism is in relation to a shortcoming which seems to be characteristically present in most sociologically-based theories. While they do explain some of the broader social or cultural processes by which behaviour originates they ignore, to a large degree, the psychological mechanisms which may predispose an individual towards delinquency.

Sheldon and Eleanor Gleuck ^{1/} criticize the social-cultural approach to crime causation in the following manner:

1. It is of relatively little help in exploring the mechanisms which are operative in the mental life of the individual.
2. The area-studies establish that a region of economic and cultural disorganization tend to have a criminogenic effect on the people residing therein; but the studies

^{1/} Sheldon & Eleanor Gleuck, op. cit., p. 5.

fail to emphasize that this influence affects only a selected group comprising a relatively small proportion of all residents.

3. They do not show why the harmful influences of even the most extreme delinquent areas fail to produce a greater number of delinquent boys.
4. They also fail to reveal whether the children who do not become victims of neighbourhood influence differ from those who become delinquent and if so, in what respect.

Another approach to the explanation of delinquency is to be found in the work of personality developmentalists (chief of whom are members of the psychiatric and psychological disciplines). Generally, they regard delinquent behaviour as indicative of some failure in the personal development of the individual offenders. Delinquent behaviour is thought of generally as reflecting one or another form of personality disorder or social maladjustment. They believe that delinquency to some extent can be attributed to faulty personal relationships between individuals, particularly to faulty inter-familial relationships. There are various interpretations of the way in which malfunctions in the personality

development of the individual occur.

Delinquent behaviour, for example, is explained by Aichhorn ^{1/} (a disciple of Freud) as a defect or an arrest of the ego development of the child's personality which renders the child susceptible to anti-social influences in his environment.

A number of authors (Bowlby ^{2/}, Anna Freud ^{3/}, Aichhorn ^{4/}) have placed special emphasis upon the harmful consequences for personality development of emotional disturbance experienced by a child during infancy, and in particular, upon the effects of maternal deprivation in early childhood.

The understanding of the delinquent through psychological and psychiatric assessment is of considerable importance in overall development of programs for the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency. However, theories based on conception of personality disturbance are commonly criticized on the ground that they do not

^{1/} Alfred J. Kahn, "Social Work and the Control of Delinquency Theory and Strategy", in SOCIAL WORK, Vol. 10 No. 2, April, 1965.

^{2/} John Bowlby, MATERNAL CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH; World Health Organization, Geneva, 1952.

^{3/} Anna Freud & O. T. Burlingham, WAR AND CHILDREN; Medical War Books, New York, 1944.

^{4/} A. Aichhorn, WAYWARD YOUTH; Viking Press, 1935.

seem to explain why there are a large number of delinquents who do not show marked indications of emotional disturbance.

It appears from viewing a number of major theories of several disciplines, that there is no one theory which has the complete answer to the causes of deviant behaviour.

The most recent tendency is to view delinquency in relation to a multiplicity of factors, all of which may or may not act in a significant manner on each individual delinquent. ^{1/}

Martin H. Neumeyer ^{2/} states that due to the complexity of the human organism and of the social world in which behaviour takes place, it is difficult to attach etiological attitude to specific acts of delinquency. In any given case, one factor may stand out above others, but usually a number of conditions contribute in one way or another to misconduct. The real causes are often hidden beneath apparent external conditions. These conditions may have their genesis in deeper causes.

^{1/} Gleuck & Gleuck, op. cit., pp. 4-5.

^{2/} Neumeyer, op. cit., p. 60.

Therefore, it seems that the answer to the cause of delinquent behaviour could be found by an eclectic approach. The study recognizes the existence of many causative factors. Since the multi-causal approach is beyond the scope and limitations of this study, its focus will be on a particular relationship which seems to exist between intra-familial communication patterns and juvenile delinquency. As a preliminary step to elaborating this particular relationship, it might be beneficial to outline the normal developmental processes existent in most children.

PART II

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Personality becomes oriented to and is molded by the natural setting, by the process of social interaction in the group, and by the nature of society. It is the product of the reciprocal relationship between the individual and the environment. To function efficiently, the many segmented personality must be adjusted to the changing conditions of the environment. 1/

As the above statement implies, the development of personality is very complex. The child is subjected

1/ Neumeier, op. cit., p. 64.

to a number of stresses which he encounters in his environment from day to day. The satisfactory resolving of conflicts stemming from biological, cultural, physical, and psychological environment should result in a healthily developed personality.

In examining the various stresses which the individual encounters during the developmental years, it would seem that certain of those stresses arise in, and are, most significant at a particular stage of development.

Therefore, when examining the development of personality, most authors find it convenient to approach development in a chronological manner - by dividing the life span into stages and periods. In keeping with this approach and for the purpose of this study, the four-fold division of infancy, early childhood, late childhood, and adolescence ^{1/}, will be used. These arbitrary divisions are not intended to suggest breaks in the continuity of the developmental history, for the changes which take place in any given period are interwoven with the interpersonal history up to that time.

^{1/} Walter Coville, Timothy Costello & Fabien Rouke, ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY; Barnes and Noble, Inc., 1960, p. 65. This book, along with Stone & Church CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE, provide a general frame for this section.

To present a theory of personality development in a manner which would describe the development of the individual adequately is beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, in discussing the development of personality, attention will be devoted to what appears to be the most vital area of personality development, (the psychological and emotional stresses which the child encounters within his environment, and especially within the interpersonal relationship he forms).

Also, since this study is limited to a study of delinquent boys, the theory will be limited to the personality development of boys only.

In the following chronological course, the individual's introduction to the outside world (his social life) begins at birth. The period of infancy is one of complete helplessness and dependency during which the infant's functioning is primarily directed towards the satisfaction of his biological needs. Infancy is usually considered to extend from birth to the latter half of the second year. Basically, social interaction originates for the infant in his relationship with his mother. Coville^{1/} states that the major problems of this

^{1/}"Coville, et. al"; op. cit., p. 65.

period resolve about the "mothering" and feeding of the infant. The extent and manner in which his dependency needs are met through mothering will have an effect on how the child will later perceive both himself and his environment.

For example, if the infant receives love and care (which may be manifested in tender handling, fondling, and attention of his biological needs) from his mother, he will most likely view the world as a warm secure place in which to live. This security can be further increased if other members of the family assist in meeting his needs. On the other hand, if the infant receives inconsistent "mothering", he may be predisposed to the hazard of anxiety and insecurity.

The principle need the infant feels is engendered by his hunger, consequently, the feeding situation is of critical importance in early personality development. His primary contact with the world is by way of mouth. Feeding does not only nourish the child, but also provides him with opportunity to satisfy his oral drives. His mouth can be thought of as a sense region through which the infant receives information about objects and their emotional meaning.

The main problems in the area of feeding arose

from improper feeding techniques, from parental attitudes unsatisfying to the child, and from too early or abrupt weaning. Problems which grow out of the feeding situation may be carried forward to later stages of development, and may serve as a focus for more extensive problem behaviour. Pleasant feeding experiences nourish both the baby's body and sense of emotional well-being and security. ^{1/}

Between the ages of fifteen and sixteen months and two years, the child enters early childhood. This period of development ends sometime in the sixth or seventh year. At this age, the child begins to develop to be more independent. This is known as striving for a sense of autonomy. In this period, the child's socialization is still confined almost entirely within the family constellation. Coville ^{2/} and his associates feel that parent-child relationship, authority and discipline, toilet training, sexual development, aggression and hostility, relationship with siblings, and extreme frustrations and traumatic experiences, are some of the causative factors of later abnormal behaviour which may

^{1/} Joseph Stone & Joseph Church, CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE; Random House, New York, 1959; p. 59.

^{2/} "Coville et al.", *op. cit.*, p. 65.

be attributed to the early childhood period.

As a child is compelled to relate to those within his immediate environment, it is not surprising that conflicts may arise in the child's relationship with his parents. Deviations within the relationship may lead to defective personality development.

Some of the deviations from sound parent-child relationships are: rejection, over-protection, marital discord, or broken homes. ^{1/}

First let us look at rejection as a deviation from normal parent-child relationships. Through parental acceptance, the child begins to perceive his own image. If an attitude of acceptance is not demonstrated on the part of the parent, and one of rejection prevails, the self-image the child develops will most likely be distorted.

Overprotection is another expression of rejection. The parents consciously or unconsciously prevent the child from developing normal independence in his interactions with his environment. When parents are over-protective, the child's natural strivings for independence

^{1/} Coville, et. al.", op. cit., p. 69.

and his search for new experiences are retarded. He is then deprived of the essential opportunity to test his environment. If a child is exposed to the excessive indulgent type of overprotection, he may react with selfish, demanding, egocentric behaviour. Or he may react by demonstrating need for attention and a lack of responsibility.

Fundamental to healthy development of the child's personality is the need to be provided with the environment of parental affection, an opportunity to experience authority and discipline in a positive manner, a value system and a healthy masculine identification. Studies consistently show that the wholesome development of the child takes place more smoothly when both parents are present in the home. ^{1/}

Through satisfactory relationships with both parents, the boy is able to achieve a sense of his own personal worth and dignity.

If marital discord is characteristic of the home with divorce and separation always an imminent threat, the normal personality growth may be retarded. The hostility and negative emotional climate of the home make

^{1/}"Coville, et al.", op. cit., p. 68.

it difficult for the child to use the home environment to his benefit in developing interpersonal relations.

Marital discord often leads to divorce and separation, in which case the broken home may further challenge healthy personality growth. Marital discord however, is not the only factor which can upset the structure of the home. Circumstances beyond the control of the parents may impede wholesome development. Death of one or both parents or extended absence from the home of either or both parents may also block the normal development of the child. The extent of damage to the development of the child will depend upon his previous adjustments and other relationships which may be available to him in or outside the home.

Another important area of concern in this period is the necessity on the part of the child to learn to accept authority and discipline. If the child is to learn to obey the standards of society, he must accept the demands imposed by his parents. The degree to which the child will accept the limits imposed upon him depends, to a great extent, upon his past relationships with his parents and how the limits were imposed.

During this period, the family is the primary setting in which the child develops his social skills

and learns to control his behaviour within the limits set for him. Parental discipline is the principle guide and the manner in which the parents apply it is one of the strongest determinants of personality development.

If the parents set standards appropriate to the child's maturity and enforce these standards in a consistent and positive fashion, the child usually can cope with the reality demands made upon him. Whereas if parents' demands are beyond the child's reach, or if the standards are imposed in too rigid a fashion or too dogmatically, the child may respond with either rebellion or oversubmissiveness. Where no authority is experienced or where standards are provided inconsistently, the child may fail to learn the social values to which he is expected to conform, and in later life it may be impossible for him to adjust to the demands of maturity.

Healthy parental attitudes build the groundwork for important areas of adult personality functioning, such as relationships with the opposite sex, the capacity to exchange love and affection, and the ability to assume proper sexual rules in life.

Although the child's most significant relationship is with his parents, interaction with his brothers

and sisters may create stress and conflict. Adjustment in the immediate family may be affected by the child's position in the family, age and sex of the children, and marked emotional, physical or intellectual differences among the family members. If the parents handle the child's conflicts in a manner in which they show no favouritism, the child should not suffer any damage in personality development from this source.

Toilet training, which generally occurs in this stage, is a primary example of the imposition of standards of conformity. Attempts to impose standards of control and cleanliness upon the child before he is physically or emotionally ready for such training may result in early feelings of inadequacy and fear.

Constant threats on this aspect of the child's training can be the cause of later personality problems. Psychoanalysts particularly focus on this feature of child-parent relationships and attribute such personality traits as mischievousness, stubbornness, and compulsive cleanliness and neatness to unsatisfactory toilet training.

The foundation of the child's attitude toward sex develops around this time. Although during infancy

the child is aware of his sex organs, it is usually during this stage of development that he becomes curious about sex differences. Parental response to this learning experience of the child conditions his basic attitudes towards sex. The attitude developed towards sex in this period of early childhood lays the foundation for important areas of adult personality such as relationship with the opposite sex, capacity to exchange love and affection, and the ability to assume an adequate masculine role in life.

The next period, that of late childhood, usually extends from the age of seven until puberty, which normally takes place somewhere between the ages of twelve and fourteen. The beginning of this period is marked by the child's entrance into school, which generally is the child's initial experience in socializing outside the home. Here he is faced with the need for adjustment outside the family constellation. He has to make adjustments to the standards of his peer group, the school and the community. He is searching for acceptance and a feeling of self-worth in his group.

It seems that one of the critical areas of adjustment in the late childhood period centers around physical development. Physical handicaps, deformities,

growth discrepancies, may cause severe adjustment problems for the child. During this age, the child is moving out into the community to socialize. Any physical limitation may place the child at a disadvantage in his normal socialization process. The child's capacity to adjust to problems of this kind will depend on the feeling of acceptance and understanding he receives in the family setting.

The socialization process is natural and necessary for the child's development. Through this process, he begins to differentiate the male and female roles. He also learns to test his abilities in relation to his associates, and develops certain elementary social skills.

Interference with this socialization process can be stressful to the child. For example, extra demands and restrictions on the child's time by the parents can interfere with his social development and could create in him long-lasting resentment.

The next stage of development is that referred to as adolescence, a critical phase in the growth of the child, for during this time, the personality undergoes a deep transformation. It is a period of stress in many ways. There are marked psychological changes

such as growing independence from family trees, heightened heterosexual interest, self-consciousness, feeling of frustration at the beginnings of maturity, and the development of vocational interest.

Biological changes during adolescence are natural changes which occur in all children. The significance of the stress and conflict to the individual lies not with the changes themselves, but with other factors. For example, the specific time and order in which they occur may have an effect on the child. Parents' reaction to changes may similarly have a developmental effect. To illustrate further, the early maturer sometimes is embarrassed and frightened because these changes render him different from his peers. Further complications may arise if, added to this, he has not been prepared by his family to understand the meaning of the changes.

Parental understanding and willingness to discuss the children's problems objectively around this area would greatly help lessen difficulties at this time. Adequacy of physique and physical appearance are usually of concern to the adolescent. As a result, it serves an important factor in his development and maintenance of self-esteem and good social relations. Improper handling of the problems of physical change at this stage

in life may lead to patterns of over-compensation or inadequate social and sexual adjustment.

The adjustment of the individual to the psychological changes common to adolescence is very important to the development of a healthy personality. This is the period when the boy must test his capacity to function in the role of a man and to develop skills in this role. The individual's problems become complicated due to the fact that he expects to be independent and assertive, but, at the same time, he is subject to adult controls. Often conflicts over authority relationships arise and the adolescent rebels. Rebellion is one of the important characteristics of the adolescent period. It is a matter of degree as to whether this trait of the adolescent reaches the point where it is manifested in delinquency.

The adolescent's concern with the testing of his capacities tends to lead to preoccupation with self. As a result he may appear selfish, isolated, and introverted. If the home atmosphere is warm and understanding, and satisfactory group activities are experienced, the adolescent resolves his egocentricity. However, if such a favourable environment is lacking, the egocentric adjustment may prove to be lasting and may carry over into adulthood.

Another possible area of conflict in adolescence is the boy's attempt to make satisfactory heterosocial, sexual, and vocational adjustments. The boy is bound to have disappointments and setbacks in his attempt to achieve control over these areas. By gradually reaching out for experiences appropriate to his level of maturity, he will usually gain confidence and will assume satisfactory responsibility in each. Factors which may interfere with adequate heterosocial and sexual development are: delayed physical development, over-restrictive parents, and feeling of inferiority and inadequacy. Likewise, conflicts around vocational adjustments may arise as the result of improper guidance, indifference of parents, and individuals, and lack of proper facilities.

In discussing the development of personality throughout the various stages (from infancy to adolescence) attention was given to certain types of damage that could result if stresses and conflicts are not resolved in a satisfactory manner by the individual concerned at the appropriate time. However, it was not pointed out how a delinquent personality may result from improper handling of these stressful situations. This was omitted to avoid repetition in the presentation. In general, delinquent behaviour may be only one of the

many symptoms of personality damage. For example, rejecting parents may produce a state of anxiety in a child. This anxiety may in turn be manifested in neurotic symptoms, such as enuresis. ^{1/} The anxiety may also be a manifestation of frustration and hostility combined, which could be expressed in an outward direct manner such as in stealing or truancy, which are considered delinquent behaviour. It may be further generalized if the child suffers major deprivations (especially in the areas described as critical to the normal adjustments of the child), he may react with an aggressive response. ^{2/} It is the reaction which usually leads to delinquent behaviour. Laretta Bender defines aggression as:

A symptom complex resulting from deprivations which are caused by developmental discrepancies in the total personality structure such that the constructive patterned drives for action in the child find inadequate means of satisfaction and as a result in amplification or disorganization of the drives into hostile or destructive aggression. ^{3/}

^{1/} "Coville, et. al.", op. cit., p. 149.

^{2/} Laretta Bender, "Genesis of Hostility in Children" in AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY; Vol. CV, No. 4, 1948, p. 242.

^{3/} Laretta Bender, op. cit., p. 242.

PART III

From the previous section on personality development, it can be recognized that the human personality grows largely through relationships with others. Since family relationships are of importance in the individual's growth, it is necessary that the home atmosphere contain sufficient warm, intra-familial relationships if normal personality is to occur.

Supporting this belief, Aichhorn, Friedlander and Eisner share the view that behaviour is largely determined by early childhood experiences. If parents have shown real affection accompanied by reasonable methods of control in early childhood, the chances of persistently hostile aggressive behaviour in the youth are minimized. ^{1/} Conversely, studies have been conducted which demonstrate the relationship between developmental defects and delinquency. For example, Harris B. Peck and Virginia Bellsmith ^{2/} analyzed major deprivation

^{1/} Sophia M. Robison, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, ITS NATURE AND CONTROL; Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1960, p. 75.

^{2/} Harris B. Peck & Virginia Bellsmith; TREATMENT OF THE DELINQUENT ADOLESCENT; Family Service Association of America, New York, 1954, pp. 8-9.

experienced by more than one thousand delinquents treated in their clinic. For the purpose of analyzing the deprivation experienced by these children, they were placed in categories that corresponded to the various childhood developmental phases.

First, as infants, they experienced the deprivation of such love manifestations as handling, fondling, kissing, parental attention, as well as lack of food, warmth and opportunity for motor activity. The absence of any of these essentials constitutes a defect in the foundation of the child's growth and security.

Second, during the period from three to six years of age, the child's deprivations stem from inadequate interpersonal relationships within the family constellation. During this period, disturbances in the parental relationships such as separation or infidelity of the parents may warp the emotional development of the child. Parental attitudes toward the child and his activities during this phase of development may critically affect his entire mode of operation.

Third, from the age of six, the most significant deprivations seem to relate to interference with his need for social expression. The delinquents studied

seemed to have been deprived of the opportunity to develop physical, intellectual, artistic, and social skills.

There seems to be a possibility of pathology being produced in the individual if there is a distortion in the way the inherent stresses and needs of the various developmental stages are met.

Since normal family life appears to minimize distortions in the way in which the child's needs are met, it is not surprising to see that these distortions are more significant in incohesive families. ^{1/}

Nathan Ackerman defines the quality of a family cohesiveness as follows: "Family cohesion is expressed in warm close cooperative family relations. This may lead to strengthening of its members and promote free and creative personal development". ^{2/}

The Gleucks describe cohesiveness of the family unit in the following manner: Marked, Some, None.

^{1/} Sheldon & Eleanor Gleuck, op. cit., p. 115.

^{2/} Nathan W. Ackerman, THE PSYCHODYNAMICS OF FAMILY LIFE; Basic Books Inc., New York, 1945, p. 34.

Cohesiveness is characterized by an atmosphere of affection and wholesome interdependence and interaction involving parents and children alike. In general, the fabric of family relationships should be firm and supportive as far as the child is concerned.

- (a) Marked Cohesion: A strong "we" feeling among members of the family, evidenced by co-operation, group interest, including social and recreational pursuits, pride in the home, mutual affection and concern. There is an accepting and protective attitude between parents and children offering a sense of security. The family enjoys being together, planning together and having fun together. A feeling of unity prevails. A markedly cohesive family can exist even though a father or a father-substitute is not a part of the family group. If the mother is a warm, accepting person, concerned for her children, fosters group interest, has pride in her home and a relaxed atmosphere prevails, the home can be noted as cohesive.

(b) Some Elements of Cohesion: This category implies that although the home may not be markedly cohesive, there are nevertheless some strengths, ties and security in the family's interpersonal relationship.

(c) No Element of Cohesion: Self interest prevails. There is no feeling of unity within the family. Each member more or less shifts for himself. The atmosphere is tense and cold. This category is diametrically opposed to the markedly cohesive home. ^{1/}

The Gleucks observed in their study ^{2/} that the quality of cohesiveness was more prevalent in the home of the non-delinquent than in the home of the delinquent. This seems to indicate that the majority of delinquent boys were deprived of a warm, wholesome, stable home atmosphere which appears to be so necessary in promoting healthy personality development.

Carl Rogers, ^{3/} in his study of 1,927 case records from the Institute of Child Guidance in New York

^{1/} A Manual of Procedures for the Application of the Gleuck Prediction Table; Youth Board Research Institute of New York, 1965, pp. 24-26.

^{2/} Sheldon & Eleanor Gleuck, op. cit., p. 115.

^{3/} Harry Shulman, "Family Life and Delinquency", in PROBLEM OF DELINQUENCY, 1951, Sheldon Gleuck, (ed.), New York, p. 34.

has pointed out the importance of cohesiveness in the home in relation to the prognosis of the child's delinquent behaviour. He observed that the clinic's success in dealing with the children depended on the marital adjustment of the parents, the emotional tone of the home, and the behaviour and attitudes of the parents toward the child.

Authorities from various disciplines have made reference to the relationship which exists between delinquency and family incohesion. For example, the Committee on Socially Handicapped Delinquent reports the following:

In a family where the interplay of relationship is based on healthy acceptance and on an integrated harmonious esprit de corps, conflict and compromise may never become so crystallized that an individual in the group feels that he is undergoing hardship. Often, however, in less satisfying family life, this conflict of needs expresses itself in behaviour which is socially unacceptable, and out of just such a situation we find delinquency arising. ^{1/}

It is the purpose of this study to show that the presence of cohesiveness within the family serves as a major deterrent to delinquency among children. The

^{1/} White House Conference, op. cit., p. 87.

Gleuck's stress two basic elements which comprise a cohesive home. These are: the emotional climate of the home, and the structural integrity of the home. These elements serve as general indicators of the absence or presence of cohesiveness in the home.

While the specific indicators of cohesiveness will be discussed in the following chapter, these two general indicators (emotional climate of the home and structural integrity) will be discussed now in view of their relationship to deviant behaviour. It seems that the disruption of either or both of these qualities may prohibit the fulfilment of the family's social functions. The aborted social functions may in turn produce a wide variety of social disfunctioning and maladaptation among the children. 1/

Studies have consistently found that many criminals come from inconsistent, conflicting homes. Perhaps the best known work illustrating this point has been done by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. 2/

1/ Sheldon & Eleanor Glueck, A DELINQUENT IN THE MAKING, Harper and Brothers, New York, 1952, pp. 59-64.

2/ Sheldon & Eleanor Glueck, UNRAVELING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, op. cit., 177

They report several important differences between the homes of delinquents and non-delinquents. They presented supporting data on physical adequacy of the home, family income, size of household, marital status of parents, and quality of family life. Under the general heading of family life, the Gleuck's examined the two groups in respect to some of the less dynamic aspects of family life: orderliness of the home, family pride, self-respect, ambitiousness, conduct standards in the home, conjugal relations of the parents, supervision of children and cohesiveness of family.

The poorer quality of family life was clearly reflected in the delinquent group. There was less planning of household routine and a less refined cultural atmosphere. Their families were less self-respecting than the families of the non-delinquents. Positive relationship between the parents and supervision of the children was present to a lesser degree, in the delinquent home.

Healy and Bronner ^{1/} using control groups, studied families of delinquents and non-delinquents, with

^{1/} Bennet Ivy, DELINQUENT AND NEUROTIC CHILDREN; Basic Books Inc., New York, 1960, p. 156.

regard to the nature of the interpersonal relationships with these families. Their project had considerable significance. Results emphasized that emotional factors such as frustration, insecurity, feelings of inferiority and rejection, denial, jealousy, guilt, and manifold reactions of family disharmony were much more prevalent in the families of the delinquent groups studied.

Aichhorn ^{1/} stressed the danger of unhealthy family relationships which failed to permit normal adjustment to social life. Some of the elements which he considered as manifestations of unhealthy family relationships were: inappropriate emotional responses, such as over and under-responding to stimuli, insufficient demonstration of love for the children from one or other parent, parental quarrels, difficulty in adopting acceptable and satisfactory sexual behaviour and inconsistency in administering discipline.

In the Cambridge Somerville Youth Study, the factor of marital compatibility was also tested. Results revealed that many more delinquent homes were

^{1/} Bennet Ivy, *ibid.*, p. 156.

incompatible and that few were cohesive. ^{1/}

Studies by the Gleuck's and others, mentioned above, were focused toward the analysis of environmental factors and forces acting on the delinquent in his home. As it was expected, a differential pattern of feelings, attitudes and behaviour appeared which made it possible to ascribe characteristics of a causative nature to the delinquent's family relationships.

As was stated previously, because relationships between family members are considered among the factors crucial to the production of delinquency, these relationships will be the central focus of attention in this study. Social work has moreover emphasized its recognition of the relationship between the quality of the individual's family atmosphere and later pathological processes, and in this way, a study relating behaviour patterns to primary socialization patterns is warranted. It is thought that if the quality of family interaction has a bearing on delinquency, then unhealthy relationships will be more prevalent in families of delinquents than in families of non-delinquents.

^{1/} McCord, McCord & Zolo, ORIGINS OF CRIME; Columbia University Press, New York, 1959, pp. 78-85.

In conclusion, it can be recognized that the human personality grows largely through relationships with others. Since family relationships are of primary importance in the individual's growth, it is necessary that the home atmosphere contain sufficient cohesiveness, if normal personality development is to occur. It is felt that the emotional environment within the family has a direct effect on the child's behaviour in this way.

For those interested in delinquency or any form of behaviour, the challenge in social research lies in trying to determine the drives and interest, ambitions and thwarting in the child and the network of life from which he comes. Out of such a study, more tangible proof may ultimately be obtained that the direction of the child's later behaviour is determined largely in the reaction of his constitutional make-up to his family group. 1/

In this Chapter, a historical review of some of the major theories has been presented. Also, an attempt has been made to outline the broad theoretical background which illustrates that relationships exist between familial interaction and normal personality development. Particular emphasis was placed on the concept of family cohesiveness.

1/ White House Conference, op. cit., p. 79.

The following chapter will develop the specific theoretical basis relating to family cohesiveness and an attempt will be made to submit four psychological and sociological hypotheses to test this theory.

A methodological design for the testing of this theory will be included in Chapter III.

CHAPTER III

STUDY DESIGN

The importance of the family as a defense against, or a causal factor in, anti-social behaviour has long been recognized in the field of social work. According to the theoretical base of this study, no large social institution can have a more wholesome and positive effect upon the growth and behaviour of the child than the home. It is axiomatic that a home, which is broken or inadequate and thus fails to demonstrate affection and understanding, may have a devastating effect on a child's growth and behaviour.

According to Neumeier,^{1/} the family is potentially the most effective agency of social control. A normal family has long been regarded as the best insurance against delinquency, whereas a family that is structurally incomplete or that functions inadequately is handicapped in carrying out its responsibilities toward the children.

Harry M. Shulman says that: "Juvenile delinquency is more than a formal breach of the conventions;

^{1/} Martin W. Neumeier, op. cit., p. 111.

it is indicative of an acute breakdown in the normal functions of family life." 1/

This study will attempt to show the existence of a relationship between the incidence of delinquency and the lack of cohesiveness in the home.

A home is generally considered to be cohesive if the parents have affection for each other and share a mutual reciprocal affection with the children; if the members take some pride in the family unit; and if they co-operate and participate together in family activities.

A cohesive home should create a wholesome atmosphere of love, understanding and acceptance. Such a home demonstrates genuine devotion of members toward one another and solidarity of family group. Functionally, family cohesiveness encourages psychological development, confidence, frankness, respect for the individual and for social norms, and provides an atmosphere conducive to healthy emotional expression.

If this theoretical base is accepted, then it will follow that family cohesiveness is an important

1/ Harry H. Shulman, "The Family and Juvenile Delinquency", *op. cit.*, p. 128.

factor in insulating the child of such a family against delinquency. This is thought to take place in the following manner: 1/

1. It permits positive identification. There is little role conflict within the cohesive family. The father and mother portray a strong "ego ideal" for the children. They are respected and admired. In a stable home environment, the individual has a good chance for a healthy identification with parents. The child takes pride in belonging to the family group. The home, moreover, allows for free communication, and this facilitates the child's acceptance of his parents as models for identification. From the kind of relations he has with his parents, the child derives in large measure the quality of being able to relate intimately to other persons. 2/

2. It disallows disruptive, aggressive expression. The home atmosphere encourages co-operation and understanding among family members. There is a minimum of anxiety-provoking situations. Arguments do not dominate family gatherings or involve lasting bitterness. Child-

1/ The following four points derive from three main sources. Aekerman, op. cit., Stone and Church, op. cit., White House Conference, op. cit.

2/ Ernest W. Burgess & Harvey J. Loche; THE FAMILY, American Book Co., New York, 1945, pp. 251-253.

pan of such homes learn to relate to others in a benign, unaggressive manner and appropriate social conduct tends to be characteristic of them.

Healy and Bronner found that no less than 91 percent of the delinquents examined in their study gave clear evidence of being or having been very unhappy and discontented or otherwise extremely disturbed because of emotional-provoking situations or experiences. Similar inner stresses were found, at most, in only 13 percent of the control group. The authors classified the emotional disturbance within delinquents into such divisions as: a keen feeling of being rejected, deprived, insecure, unloved and not understood; deep feelings of being thwarted other than affectionately; feeling of inadequacies or inferiorities in home, school, or in relation to companionship or to sports; intense feelings of discomfort about family disharmonies, parental misconduct, parental errors of discipline or management, or other conditions of family life. ^{1/}

3. It provides stability and security. The cohesive home provides a feeling of unity and togetherness. Its overall stability does not allow for marked fluctuation in the assignment and carrying out of individual and collective roles in day-to-day living. There are strong indications that such functional stability and consistency have a direct bearing on the

^{1/} Martin H. Neumeier, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN MODERN SOCIETY; D. Van Nostrand Co. Inc., Toronto, 1949, p. 79.

child's deep-lying feeling of "basic trust" and security. Psychological assessment of juvenile delinquents has shown that there is an impressive and overwhelming lack of such feeling of self-worth and security. ^{1/}

In considering the child in his family environment, it is essential to think of the developmental need of basic security which must be satisfied if delinquent behaviour is to be prevented. The way in which his needs are met is important in the development of the child; satisfaction of his needs represents security to the child. If the family environment is unstable and the individual needs are met inconsistently, the child is likely to become frustrated and anxious, and gradually develops a lack of trust and confidence in his environment. ^{2/}

4. It demonstrates acceptable social behaviour.

In the cohesive family, the child gets his first sense of what is right and what is wrong. He learns values which are acceptable to society. He is trained through instruction and example to respect the rights of others. A cohesive home demonstrates human dignity and a respect

^{1/} Neumeyer, op. cit., p. 79.

^{2/} White House Conference, p. 80.

for authority.

If homes, which are not broken either in their role allocations or emotional climate, permit the existence of these four qualities, then one would expect to find the reverse of these qualities in homes which are structurally and emotionally dysfunctional.

It is the contention of this study that if cohesiveness is a factor in preventing delinquency, then one would expect to find a significantly lesser degree of this quality in the home of delinquents who have committed more than one offense as compared to those of delinquents who have committed one offense.

The basis of this contention - that recidivists will be significantly differentiated in regard to the crucial factors from non-recidivists - may seem readily acceptable from an intuitive understanding. However, it is more difficult to justify on a logical level. The rationale is as follows:

It is felt that there is a significant relationship between the degree and strength of this crucial factor of cohesiveness and the degree of the individual's delinquency. That is, it is expected that an examination of the families of non-recidivists should show a signi-

ificantly milder form of incohesiveness than the families of recidivists. If this is so, then it may be expected that judgment as to the absence of family cohesiveness will be less obvious in the backgrounds of juveniles who committed only one delinquent offense (i.e. non-recidivists).

The quality of cohesiveness is a factor that is not readily accessible to empirical investigation. One indication of cohesiveness as defined would be the bonds of affection between family members.

Although affection is not readily demonstrable, it may be implied by certain other phenomena thought to indicate the presence of love.

Another indication of cohesiveness is family solidarity. This refers to the maintenance of normal roles. This quality is easier to assess. One indication of its lack is the "broken home".

The general proposition advanced is that juveniles who have established a pattern of delinquent behaviour should reveal in their family background conjugal disruption and parental-filial emotional separation. For the purpose of this study, the above-

mentioned will be used as indicators of the lack of cohesiveness.

This testable proposition will be broken down into four testable hypotheses: ^{1/}

1. . . . that a sample delinquent population should reveal a significantly greater incidence of divorce, separation, death of either or both parents or desertion within the family than a sample non-delinquent population.

2. . . . that there is a significant relationship between the lack of reciprocal affection between father and son and the incidence of delinquency.

3. . . . that there is a significant relationship between the lack of reciprocal affection between mother and son and the incidence of delinquency.

4. . . . that there is a significant relationship between the lack of reciprocal affection between mother and father and the incidence of delinquency.

Therefore, it is proposed that in the family background of delinquents, there should be an indication of

^{1/} With regard to hypotheses 2, 3 and 4, "incidence of delinquency" refers to recidivism, see Ch. 3, pp. 53-54.

structure-role disintegration as evidenced by "broken homes" and evidence of a lack of intra-familial affection.

A broken home will be defined by this study as a household in which the child has been deprived of one or both natural parents by death, separation, or desertion.

Parental-filial affection or the reciprocal affection of husband, wife and son is the mutual expressing of positive feelings through understanding and concern for the well-being of one another.

Findings from Gleuck's¹ studies indicate that there is a basis for attributing validity to the hypothetical relationship between these factors and delinquency. ^{1/} Where this study will depart from the purely descriptive studies carried out in this area by the Gleucks, is in postulating a theoretical basis to account for delinquency and in applying empirical tests to the derived hypotheses. Although the basic theory does not purport to be in any way comprehensive in regard to its explication of the causative processes in

^{1/} Sheldon & Eleanor Gleuck, UNRAVELING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, op. cit., pp. 108-134.

delinquency, some insight might be gained through such a study. It is, after all, in this "piecemeal" way that an inclusive body of theory is built up, revised and substantiated.

For the purpose of this study, data were obtained from active files of delinquents seen at the Regional Office of the Department of Public Welfare. It is difficult to select any accurate indicator of child-parent affection without conducting individual assessments through personal interviews. However, an exploration of boys' and parents' feelings for one another, conducted in this manner, had to be discarded due to time limitation. Due to this limitation imposed by a lack of time, information with regard to broken homes and child-parent relationships was extracted from case records by means of a schedule drawn up for this purpose. ^{1/} The parental-filial bonds of affection were measured by means of a value judgment from the contents of case records of delinquents. Judges evaluated the records with a view to answering the questions on the schedule. The information regarding parental-filial love in the home was marked either present, absent or uncertain by either an implicit or explicit statement in the case record.

^{1/} Schedule is shown in Appendix A.

The records were again evaluated in the same way by a different judge in order to cross-reference the value judgments. In approximately ten percent of the answers on the schedule, some discrepancy appeared in the value judgments of the two judges.

Another limitation encountered in undertaking the study was the fact that the case material was not prepared for research purposes. However, this did not impose a great restriction on the methodology since the presence or absence of affection seemed to be well documented in almost all case recordings.

In place of control groups, recidivist and non-recidivist groups were used for comparison of factors under study. This was a limitation. It is a more ideal design to compare delinquents with non-delinquent control groups, since this allows not only for the broad acceptance or refutation of the hypotheses, but also gives an indication of the statistical occurrence of the variables among the two groups.

In order to test the first hypothesis, the rate of incidence of broken homes in the delinquent group was compared to the rate of broken homes in Nova Scotia, as determined by census data.

The census statistics do not distinguish legally married parents and common law unions. Therefore, in order to make an accurate comparison, the common law unions in the delinquent population will be included under parents living together, and if a breakdown occurs in this union, it will be referred to in the same manner as a breakdown in married unions.

Due to the number of active files, it was necessary to choose a random sample. As a result, 49 cases were selected from the total population of 223 active delinquent files. In order to prevent any bias in the selection of files, a table of random numbers was used in drawing the random sample.

STATISTICAL PROCEDURE

After selecting a hypothesis as a test of a certain theory, the collected empirical data should yield direct information on the acceptability of the hypothesis. In order to reach an objective decision as to whether the particular hypothesis is confirmed by a set of data, it is necessary to have an objective procedure for either rejecting or accepting that hypothesis. One acceptable method of adding objectively is to state it first in the null form. ^{1/}

^{1/} Sidney Siegel, NONPARAMETRIC STATISTICS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES; McGraw Hill, New York, 1956, pp.6-7.

By following the procedure of statistical inference outlined by Siegel, the hypotheses defined in the preceding pages become: ^{1/}

1. . . .there is no difference greater than could be expected occurring by chance, one out of twenty times, between the incidence of broken homes within the families of non-delinquents as compared with the incidence of broken homes within the family of delinquents.

2. . . . there is no significant relationship between lack of reciprocal affection between father and son and the incidence of delinquency, and thus one would not expect to find any degree of difference of this quality among recidivists than among non-recidivists beyond that occurring by chance, one out of twenty times.

3. . . . there is no significant relationship between lack of reciprocal affection between mother and son and the incidence of delinquency, thus one would not expect to find any degree of difference of this quality among recidivists than among non-recidivists, beyond that occurring by chance, one out of twenty times.

^{1/} With regard to hypotheses 2, 3 and 4, "incidence of delinquency" refers to recidivism. See Ch. 3, pp. 53-54.

4. . . . there is no significant relationship between lack of reciprocal affection between mother and father and the incidence of delinquency, thus one would not expect to find any degree of difference of this quality among families of recidivists and non-recidivists, beyond that occurring by chance, one out of twenty times.

These, then, are the null hypotheses.

The statistical test which seems most suitable for testing these hypotheses is known as the chi-square or X^2 .

There are certain criteria which the tables must meet before an X^2 test can be applied. In three statistical tests consulted, written by Dornbush and Schmid, ^{1/} Underwood ^{2/}, and Siegel ^{3/}, there were discrepancies in the criteria outlined.

It appears the only way one could resolve these discrepancies would be to consult a mathematical statistician. However, this resource was not available, and

^{1/} Dornbush & Schmid, A PRIMER OF SOCIAL STATISTICS, McGraw Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1955, p. 160.

^{2/} Brenton J. Underwood, Carl P. Duncan, Janet A. Taylor, John W. Cotton, ELEMENTARY STATISTICS; Appleton-Century Crafts, Inc., New York, 1954, p. 113.

^{3/} Sidney Siegel, op. cit., p. 110.

therefore this writer decided to use Siegel criteria for using the chi-square. ^{1/}

Siegel recommends:

1. In using the 2 x 2 table, when $N \leq 40$, use formula:

$$X^2 = \frac{N (AD - BC - \frac{N}{2})^2}{(A B) (C D) (A C) (B D)}$$

This formula was used to test hypotheses 2, 3 and 4. (In all tables, N was greater than 40).

2. The theoretical frequency should not be less than five in 20% of the categories, and no expected frequency less than one.

On a few occasions, the theoretical frequency of one of the categories (very good, good, fair, poor, very poor) was less than five. In order to keep validity in the test, it was necessary to group categories to obtain a theoretical frequency of five. This was a legitimate procedure because of the nature of the categories tested.^{2/}

^{1/} Sidney Siegel, *op. cit.*, p. 110.

^{2/} "Underwood *et al.*, *op. cit.*, p. 113.

For example, the categories "very good" and "good", can be combined if necessary. Because of the necessary grouping of these categories, the following chi-square formula was used to test the 2 x 3 table:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where O = observed frequency, E = expected frequency. This formula was used to test hypothesis number 1.

A sample of 49 case records was selected for testing. For the purpose of this study, the level of .05 has been chosen as being required before rejecting the null hypothesis.

An explanation of the methodological approach toward the problem of whether a null hypothesis can be rejected at a specified level of significance will be in order here. Rejection of the null hypothesis indicates, of course, acceptance of the original hypothesis. A typical procedure is the following, recommended by Siegel:

Compute the value of the statistical test using the data obtained from the sample. If that value is in the region of rejection, the decision is to reject

the null hypothesis; if the value is outside the region of rejection, the decision is the null hypothesis cannot be rejected at the chosen level of significance. 1/

The size of the region of rejection is expressed by the level of significance. The level of significance of this study is .05. Therefore, the size of the region of rejection is 5 percent of the entire space under the curve in the sampling distribution.

In testing for significance of chi-square, it is necessary to know how often a chi-square of the value calculated would occur by chance.

The sampling distribution of chi-square is used for this purpose. What is necessary is to know the number of degrees of freedom. 2/ The values for each degree of freedom can be obtained from the tables. A chi-square value equal to or greater than the value in the table at the .05 level, and the specified degree of freedom, would cause the rejection of the null hypothesis. In the following chapter, the hypotheses will be tested and the findings presented.

1/ Sidney Siegel, op. cit., pp. 6-7.

2/ Dornbush & Schmid, op. cit., p. 160.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF GROUP FINDINGS

This study was conducted on 49 male delinquents from the active files of the Halifax Regional Office of the Department of Public Welfare of Nova Scotia. These represented active cases as of November, 1965.

A random sample $\frac{1}{4}$ of 49 cases was selected from a total of 223 delinquent files at the Department. One hundred and eighty-one cases were referred by Juvenile Courts in the Halifax Metropolitan area, and 44 were referrals from outside the boundaries of the Metropolitan area.

Information necessary for the completion of this study was taken from these 49 files and recorded on schedules identical to the schedule contained in Appendix A.

The 49 cases were divided into two groups for the purpose of comparison and statistical testing of hypotheses. The basis on which the cases were placed

I/ Dornbush & Schmid, op. cit., p. 121.

into one group or the other was the number of offenses committed by a particular delinquent. Those cases assigned to the non-recidivist group were the individuals who had committed only one offense as defined by the Juvenile Delinquent Act. Those individuals who committed two or more offenses as defined by this Act were assigned to the recidivist group.

When the 49 cases were divided on this basis, there were 26 in the recidivist group and 23 in the non-recidivist group. It was interesting to note the rate of known repeated offenses among the recidivist group. The mean number of delinquencies among this group was four, as contrasted to the average number of offenses among the non-recidivists, which was one, of course. Thus, the two groups seemed to represent distinct differences in their degree of anti-social behaviour.

Table 1 shows the marital status of families at the time of referral. Considering any state other than "parents-living-together" as being a broken home, this table shows that 22 out of 49 families, or 44.8%, were in this category. This percentage is high in comparison to 10.9% of the families shown in the 1956 Census Data. ^{1/}

^{1/} CENSUS OF CANADA, 1956, Volume III, Table 56.

When the figures in the table are subjected to the statistical procedures outlined in Chapter III, the results show chi-square to be equal to 15.13. For a degree of freedom of four, a chi-square equal to 15.13 is significant at better than .05 level. Since the level of significance is smaller than the previous set level of significance, the decision is to reject null hypothesis number one in favour of the alternative hypothesis number one.

The data provided fairly conclusive evidence that the families of delinquents are structurally less intact than those of non-delinquents, and therefore are less cohesive in this way.

TABLE I

DISTRIBUTION OF 49 FAMILIES OF DELINQUENT BOYS FROM ACTIVE FILES OF THE HALIFAX REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE, AS OF NOVEMBER 1965, BY MARITAL STATUS AT THE TIME OF REFERRAL AND RECIDIVISM, COMPARED TO 1956 CENSUS DATA

Marital Status	Total Population		Non-Recidivist		Recidivist		1956 Census Data <u>a</u> / Families with children in Nova Scotia
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	
TOTAL	49	100	23	100	26	100	154,317
Parents Together	27	55.2	14	61.8	13	50.0	136,152
b/ Parents Separated	11	22.5	5	21.8	6	22.9	5,489
Widowed	8	16.3	3	13.1	5	19.3	11,657
Divorced	1	2.0	1	4.3	0	0.0	472
Unwed	2	4.0	0	0.0	2	7.8	473

a/ Numbers are given for families with children only, as shown in Census of Canada, 1956, Volume III, Table 56.

b/ Under parents separated, there are 5 actual separations and 6 desertions.

Chi-Square $\chi^2 = 15.13$ $\leftarrow .05$ level 2 x 4 table df = 4

TABLE II

DISTRIBUTION OF 49 FAMILIES OF DELINQUENT BOYS FROM ACTIVE FILES OF THE HALIFAX REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE AS OF NOVEMBER 1965, BY MARITAL STATUS AT THE TIME OF REFERRAL

<u>Marital Status of Parents</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
TOTAL:	49	100.0%
Structurally Complete Married	27	55.2%
Structurally Broken	22	44.8%
a/ Separated	5	10.2%
b/ Deserted	6	12.3%
Widowed	8	16.3%
Divorced	1	2.0%
Unwed	2	4.0%

a/ One mother became widow after separation. Three mothers who are separated are co-habiting.

b/ Four out of the six desertions were by mothers. Three delinquents were foster children. Two of these foster children were illegitimate and were made wards. The other foster child was deserted by his mother at the age of two. One delinquent was an adoptive child.

ESB/res

Table II illustrates the marital status of the family of the entire delinquent population studied.

The percentage ratio found in this table were as follows:

- (1) Married: 55.2%; (2) Separated: 10.2%;
- (3) Deserted: 12.3%; (4) Widowed: 16.3%;
- (5) Divorced: 2.0%; (6) Unwed: 4.0%.

Although the various classifications of the broken homes (separated, divorced, deserted, etc.) were not compared for statistical significance with the same classification among the control group, the differential pattern of family marital status was quite evident in the delinquent population.

It was apparent in all categories of broken homes that the delinquent group had a higher than average representation.

It is interesting to note that four out of the six desertions were by the mothers. Studies have indicated that in the majority of desertions, the father is the one who leaves home. ^{1/}

^{1/} Joseph E. Steigman, THE DESERTED FAMILY, Journal of Social Casework XXXVIII, 1957, p. 167.

Table III indicates the quality of relationship between father and son. In the recidivist group, one out of 26, or 3.8%, of the members fall into the category "good", while eighteen out of 23, or 69.1%, of the delinquent cases revealed poor relationships between father and son. In the non-recidivist group, five out of 23, or 21.8%, indicated good relationships between the delinquent and his father, while ten, or 43.4%, of the father-son relationships fall into the "poor" category.

Tabulated father-son relationships were analyzed statistically by means of the chi-square method. It was found that chi-square was equal to 4.45. For a degree of freedom of one, a chi-square equal to 4.45 is significant at better than the .05 level, and thus the second null hypothesis may be rejected.

These results indicate that there is a basis for holding that the effective communication relationships between father and son is of a distinctly different quality among recidivists than among non-recidivists. This qualitative distinction presents itself as a poorer relationship among the recidivist population - the judgments as to good or bad being made in keeping with a perception of those qualities as defined

in the chapter on theory. From this comparison of
recidivists to non-recidivists, a similar relation
may be inferred between delinquents and non-delinquents.

TABLE III

DISTRIBUTION OF 49 DELINQUENT BOYS FROM ACTIVE FILES OF THE HALIFAX REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE AS OF NOVEMBER 1965, BY FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP AND RECIDIVISM - NON-RECIDIVISM

	Recidivists		Non-Recidivists	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
TOTAL:	26	100	23	100
Very Good	1	3.8	0	0.0
Good	0	0.0	5	21.7
Fair	3	11.7	5	21.7
Poor	14	53.7	7	30.9
Very Poor	4	15.4	3	12.9
Unknown	4	15.4	3	12.9

Chi-Square $X^2 = 4.54 < .05$ level 2 x 2 table df = 1

ESB/res

Table IV shows the quality of relationship between mother and son. Examination of Table IV reveals the following: 7.6% of the recidivist group as compared with 34.8% of the non-recidivist group indicate a good relationship with their mother; while 57.8% recidivist as compared to 26.1% non-recidivist fell into the category of poor mother-son relationships.

When this table was subjected to the chi-square test, it was found that chi-square is equal to 5.72. For a degree of freedom of one, a chi-square equal to 5.72 is significant at better than the .05 level. Thus, the null hypothesis may be rejected and the third hypothesis accepted.

TABLE IV

DISTRIBUTION OF 49 DELINQUENT BOYS FROM ACTIVE FILES OF THE HALIFAX REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE AS OF NOVEMBER 1965, BY MOTHER-SON RELATIONSHIP AND RECIDIVISM - NON-RECIDIVISM

	Recidivists		Non-Recidivists	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
TOTAL:	26	100	23	100
Very Good	0	0	0	0
Good	2	7.6	8	34.8
Fair	7	27.0	5	21.7
Poor	14	54.0	6	26.1
Very Poor	1	3.8	2	8.7
Unknown	2	7.6	2	8.7

Chi-Square $X^2 = 5.72$ \leftarrow .02 level 2 x 2 table df = 1

KSB/res

TABLE V

DISTRIBUTION OF 49 DELINQUENT BOYS FROM ACTIVE FILES OF THE HALIFAX REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE AS OF NOVEMBER 1965, BY MOTHER-FATHER RELATIONSHIP AND RECIDIVISM - NON-RECIDIVISM

	Recidivists		Non-Recidivists	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
TOTAL:	26	100	23	100
Very Good	0	0	1	4.3
Good	1	3.8	7	30.9
Fair	7	27.0	7	30.9
Poor	8	30.8	2	8.7
Very Poor	7	27.0	3	12.9
Unknown	3	11.4	3	12.9

Chi-Square $X^2 = 10.22 < .01$ level 2 x 2 table df = 1

ESB/res

Examination of Table V reveals the following: One of the 26, or 3.8%, of the recidivists fall into the category of good communication, while fifteen, or 57.8%, fall into the category of poor communication. In the non-recidivist group, eight of the 23 delinquents, or 35.2%, of the families reveal good mother-father relationships, while five, or 21.6%, non-recidivists families reveal poor parental relationships.

When these figures are subjected to the statistical test, chi-square, they yield a chi-square equal to 10.22. For a degree of freedom of one, a chi-square equal to 10.22 is significant at better than .01 level. The data in this instance also provide fairly conclusive evidence, that the quality of relationships between mother and father is significant in recidivism among delinquent offenders.

Since the level of significance is less than the previous set level of significance, the fourth null hypothesis is rejected in favour of the fourth alternative hypothesis.

The data provided fairly conclusive evidence that the quality of the mother-son relationship is significant in recidivism among offenders.

This research project has resulted in the validation of its four hypotheses at highly significant levels. It is another problem, however, to make a decision on what conclusions and inferences can be drawn from such findings. To conclude that the factor of incohesiveness as defined by the study, is the, or even a, cause of delinquency would be an extremely naive assumption.

At the same time, there seems to be a rule of logic to which one might bear reference in inferring causality between factors with related incidence of occurrence. This reasoning would hold that where two or more phenomena occur simultaneously and with specified degrees of related severity over a previously defined number of occasions out of all possible numbers of occasions, then either one can be said to be the cause of the other or both can be related to a similar cause or causes within the specified level of significance.

What this indicates, in effect, is that some sort of causal relationship may exist when such things as juvenile delinquency and family incohesiveness appear together over a significant number of times. But what type of causation can be inferred from the

coincidental happening of so few factors out of the great number of possible factors which also may be coincidentally associated with delinquency?

People have, in the past, hypothesized that juvenile delinquency is the result of an innate psychological anomaly. The same condition, according to some, accounts for lack of basic sociability and therefore a lack of a person's primary group cohesiveness. On this highly improbable tenet, a lack of family cohesiveness and juvenile delinquency are both caused by some abnormal psychological predisposition.

At such an inconclusive point, it is advisable to rely upon the strengths of the theory which have already been demonstrated. From this basis, one should use his supportive findings to validate whatever part of the theory his findings substantiate. The total of all valid aspects of the theory is combined to form the inferential aspects of the thesis.

Since the writer holds confidence in the view that present understanding of delinquency tends to be accretive with some substantiation for various theoretical processes, a definitive statement about

the cause of delinquency will be withheld. It seems logical, on the other hand, to be sensitively aware of a variety of hypothesizing from which to attempt to understand and treat anti-social behaviour. For example, the theory of "family incohesiveness" urges one to look for and treat the following traits in the juvenile delinquent: lack of basic trust; feelings of being rejected; feelings of inferiority and inadequacy; and general feelings of discomfort about one's personal relationships. Hopefully, the alleviation of these disturbances may result in the staying of anti-social attitudes in many individuals.

The final chapter will deal with what conclusions, beyond those stated above, may be inferred by this study and the writer's recommendations which follow these conclusions.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the purpose of this chapter to look further at the results of the hypotheses which were tested in the preceding chapter, and to analyze the significance of these results. In retrospect, it was evident that the findings did substantiate the hypotheses to a significant degree. There was a significant difference between recidivists and non-recidivists with respect to parental-filial affection. The delinquent population also revealed a higher rate of broken homes than the non-delinquent population.

The study was not sufficiently extensive nor exhaustive to present the findings as final and decisive in regard to the relationship of family cohesiveness to delinquency. However, as the hypotheses under study will substantiate, certain conclusions could be drawn, and recommendations made relating to identification of delinquents and methods of treatment.

When factors such as those examined in the study occur with a significant frequency in recidivist,

and with greater frequency in non-recidivist, it may be assumed that some causative process is operative.

For the above mentioned reasons, it is thought that incohesiveness is a crucial factor in families.

Perhaps a restatement of some of the limits and limitations, and suggestions how they might possibly be eliminated, may be beneficial for those interested in further study of the relationship between the cohesive family and delinquency.

The limitations of time and insufficient information recorded on case records made it necessary to limit the scope of the concept of family cohesiveness. In an ideal study of family cohesiveness as related to social behaviour, one should examine its manifestations in all facets of family life. For example, affectional ties between all members should be evaluated for their particular significance. This thesis partialized the concept and examined only one aspect of cohesiveness, which was chosen somewhat arbitrarily. Cohesiveness may be manifest in many ways and among various elements within the family. The elements examined here were thought to be significant representations of family cohesiveness.

Further studies could perhaps follow Gleucks' procedure more closely. The Gleucks ^{1/} in the study, evaluated a number of delinquent and non-delinquent families with regard to the affectional mood of the home. The evaluation was based on data collected from social investigations and psychiatric interviews. Perhaps more valid results could be obtained from case records which would contain the family history and an outline of the etiology of the child's behaviour. For example, in the Halifax area, the case records of the Halifax Mental Health Clinic for Children would probably provide a more valuable sample.

Also, by using a control group, it would be possible to determine more convincingly whether the delinquent is more deprived of family cohesiveness than the non-delinquent.

For the purpose of statistical analysis, it was necessary to divide the sample into recidivists and non-recidivists. In this study, the recidivists have been defined as delinquent who have made more than one court appearance, but it does not necessarily follow that the non-recidivists have committed only

^{1/} Sheldon & Eleanor Gleuck, UNRAVELING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, op. cit.

one delinquent act. In many cases, the dividing line between recidivists and non-recidivists may be tenuous, and therefore, could have introduced a bias either for a rejection or acceptance of the null hypothesis.

Getting to the main focus of this chapter, which is the assessment of the findings in relation to the role and function of social work. Tappin ^{1/} states that "the purpose of social work, whether in individual or group activities, is to assist man to attain satisfying relationships within the limits of his capacities and of essential community standards".

The rejection of the null hypothesis number one indicates a significant correlation between broken homes and delinquency. Also the rejection of null hypothesis number two, three and four, indicates a significant correlation between lack of reciprocal parental-filial affection and delinquency.

If incohesiveness in the home is significant in producing delinquency, then steps must be taken by the social worker to increase the quality of family

^{1/} Paul W. Tappin, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1949, p. 34.

cohesiveness in the home of delinquents and the homes of potential delinquents. In the following pages, some recommendations and conclusions will be outlined as possible steps to increase the quality of cohesiveness in the family.

As the causal factors which were defined in this study are thought to be operational in the origins of delinquency, as well as in the production of recidivism, the conclusions and recommendations will be stated so as to apply to delinquents in general rather than exclusively to recidivists.

From this study emerges the awareness that in order to be of service in treating the delinquent, one must know and understand him in relation to his family. The social worker should recognize the importance of evaluating the whole family situation. Therefore, it may be important to have the entire family involved in treatment. Through working with the family of the delinquent, the worker can assist the parents with their difficulties in the traditional family case-work method. Helping parents in time of crisis and conflict may prevent further family disfunctioning and breakdown.

In outlining the prevention and treatment programs relating to the findings of this study, two basic questions arise. (1) What reliable device can the social worker use to detect incohesiveness in the family? (2) What steps can be taken by the profession of social work to increase the quality of cohesiveness in the incohesive home?

With regard to the first question, it seems to be evident that in any fundamental preventive attack on juvenile delinquency, some reliable device which will identify potential delinquents sufficiently early in life to permit intervention, if necessary. The Gleucks in their work UNRAVELING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, presented such an instrument based on certain factors in family life, especially parent-child relationships. This device is known as the Gleucks' "Social Prediction Table". The table originally known as a five-factor table has been revised to a three-factor table (discipline of boy by mother, supervision of boy by mother, and cohesiveness of the family). The fact that the Gleucks' give recognition to the importance of cohesiveness in the family lends support to the findings of this particular study.

The Prediction Table devised by the Gleucks appears to have a good deal of value for the practitioner concerned with the prevention and treatment of delinquency.

Once the potential delinquent is identified, the family could be put under supervision. All too often the individual does not receive professional interest or therapy until he has been brought to the attention of the agency by an appearance in Juvenile Court.

The Gleucks' Social Prediction Table has another attribute besides assisting in the identification of potential delinquents. It could prove to be an asset in aiding the study diagnosis and treatment of the potential delinquent in the family.

After administering the table, if the individual shows a strong indication of becoming a delinquent, then the factors contributing to the individual pathology will also likely be evident. Therefore, the prediction table can be used to isolate specific factors in the family environment which are influencing the child's behaviour, (i.e., family in-cohesion). Once the undesirable factor, such as

family incohesiveness, is identified, then the worker can set up an appropriate treatment plan. A plan which would focus on building an atmosphere of affection and wholesome interdependence and interaction among parents and children.

The prediction table could also be used in isolating causative factors in families of confirmed delinquents. The prediction table could be administered to the delinquent and his family even though it is obvious that the worker is no longer attempting to predict. By applying the "table", factors which are contributing to the child's deviant behaviour can be isolated. It would seem, then, that the prediction table could be used as a diagnostic aid in the treatment of delinquency.

How accurate are prediction tables such as the one devised by the Gleucks? The New York City Youth Board applied the Gleucks Social Prediction Table to a group of boys in that city. After ten years, they evaluated the results of their predictions and found that they were accurate in predicting whether a boy would become a delinquent or non-delinquent in 91% of the cases.^{1/}

^{1/} Maude M. Craig & Selma J. Gleuck, "A Manual of Procedures for the Application of the Gleuck Prediction Table", Youth Board Research Institute of New York, 1965, pp. 14-15.

Another study by Richard E. Thompson ^{1/} establishes the Social Prediction Table as a valid instrument for distinguishing among children already showing behaviour difficulties (those who are true delinquents and those whose maladapted behaviour is probably temporary).

With regard to question number two, the following recommendations are put forward as possible steps to increase cohesiveness in the family unit.

A comprehensive program for family enhancement would envision the coordination of the existing social and psychiatric services. Social workers should become involved as part of treatment teams and join in to implement new treatment approaches, such as the joint family therapy method. ^{2/}

This method works on the assumption that the person identified as needing treatment is only a symptom of the total family pathology. ^{3/}

^{1/} "A Validation of the Gleuck Social Prediction Scale for Proneness to Delinquency", JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINOLOGY AND POLICE SCIENCE, November - December, 1952.

^{2/} Virginia Sater, CONJOINT FAMILY THERAPY; Science and Behaviour Books, Inc., Palo Alto, California, 1964.

^{3/} Ibid., p. 2.

A practical recommendation for preventive programs is one outlined by Gerald Caplin and paraphrased here. 1/

This program would involve the social worker as a consultant to others who have a basic and essential responsibility for working with children. As such, it may mean the social worker's acting as consultant to teachers in the Department of Education. In this capacity, the school teacher is in a position to sense the social vicissitudes of the child or the child's family. When she does so, she may detect the development of a family crisis. According to Caplin, the teacher is often in a position where she is able to influence the child in such a crisis, favourably or unfavourably to cope with the ensuing stresses. If she finds that she is unable to accomplish the task, then she consults the social worker who helps her adopt a more satisfactory approach toward the resolution of the child's difficulty.

The Gleucks' Prediction Table might be of assistance in this type of approach. It would help identify specific factors in the environment which

1/ Gerald Caplin, AN APPROACH TO COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, Grune & Stralton, Inc., New York, 1961, pp. 185-203.

are contributing to the deviant behaviour of the child.

The above mentioned approach would be preventive in that the first signs of crises would be recognized and dealt with. It would also enable the professional social worker to reach indirectly a large number of individuals and families who are in danger of undergoing severe disturbance.

Another recommendation is the establishment of a family court. In a family court, a social worker would function as consultant to the legal team. The worker would provide leadership by direction or suggestion, to assist the magistrate in resolving the family conflict.

A major step toward increasing the quality of cohesiveness in the home is to educate the public on the concept of the cohesive home and get this concept into actual operation in family life. Presumably, various means of public dissemination can spread this understanding, with the hope that the normal approaches to child raising will be used more and more by parents, especially those in the vulnerable social classes. Education programs for marriage and education programs in child raising should prove to be valuable. Through

such programs, it may be possible to find an effective way of implanting the philosophy and value of a cohesive home in the minds of present and future parents.

More informed and responsible parents should help in the reduction of the problem of delinquency. The parents must be informed of the value of congenial home relations. Only as parents are made aware of the significance of the personal relationships within the home can we hope for improvement of the problem of incohesiveness in the home. This requires educating, directing, training and advising parents of their continued responsibility.

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APPENDIX

MARITIME SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Thesis Research Project, 1965

Schedule for Assessment
of Delinquents' Files

nv65
p&o/cn

1. Schedule No _____ 2. Completed by _____ 3. Edited by _____
initials date initials

DELINQUENT

4. Date of birth _____ 5. Place of birth _____
mo & yr

6. Present home address:

7. Note here and on back any significant change of address, with dates in and out, and explain:

8. Year of birth and sex, in birth order, of children (include delinquent and circle; if foster or adopted siblings indicate with "F" or "A"):
()
over

9. Present offence or offences:

10. Previous offences, with month and year:

()
over

F A M I L Y S T R U C T U R E

11. When delinquent was born mother was (circle and show date under):

Single	Married	Cohabiting	Deserted	Separated	Divorced	Widow
()	()	()	()	()	()	()

12. Mother's present status is (circle and show date under):

Single	Married	Cohabiting	Deserted	Separated	Divorced	Widow
()	()	()	()	()	()	()

13. Note here and on back, with dates, any significant changes in status of mother, and explain:

()
over

14. If delinquent has not always made his home with his biological mother (as living with father only, with foster or adoptive parents, or other) explain here and on back, giving relevant dates:

()
over

15. If delinquent has been separated from either or both parents intermittently or permanently, explain here and on back, identifying absent parent and giving dates or periods of absence:

()
over

16. Note here and on back and references in record to physical or mental ill-health or hospitalization of either parent, identifying and giving dates:

()
over

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

17. Relationship between father and mother is

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very good good fair poor very poor

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

18. Relationship between father and delinquent is

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very good good fair poor very poor

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

19. Relationship between mother and delinquent is

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very good good fair poor very poor

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

20. The reputation of the family in the community is, or relations with neighbors are:

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very good good fair poor very poor

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

21. Discipline for the delinquent was

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
(a) very lax lax firm strict very strict

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
(b) very erratic erratic consistent very consistent

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very kindly kindly harsh very harsh

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

()
over

22. Check and report here and on back any reference in record to

() constant quarrelling (identify family members, subjects, frequency)

() physical abuse (show of whom by whom, frequency, severity)

() drinking which affects family unity (show by whom, attitudes of other members, frequency, severity)

()
over

WORK, EARNINGS, ETC.

23. Father's occupation:

24. Earnings:

25. Is father employed () full-time or () part-time

:.....:.....:.....:.....:
almost always usually sometimes very rarely

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

26. Mother's occupation:

27. Earnings:

28. Is mother employed () full-time or () part-time

:.....:.....:.....:.....:
almost always usually sometimes very rarely

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

29. Note here and on back if mother has worked since delinquent's birth, indicating periods mother was in the home, and what provision was made for mother-substitute when she was not; give dates:

()
over

30. Do family consider their income to be

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very adequate adequate inadequate very inadequate

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

31. Have the family received welfare assistance

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very frequently frequently rarely very rarely

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

32. Report here and on back any reference to criminal behavior on part of either parent or of siblings, showing date, nature of offence, relationship of offender to delinquent:

()
over

FAMILY HOUSING

33. Is family housing

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very good good fair poor very poor

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

34. Is overcrowding (more than one person per room, omitting bathroom) shown

() explicitly or () implicitly in the record

35. What rent (or equivalent) is paid for housing:

()
over

36. Is the neighborhood where the family lives

.....:::::
very good	good	fair	poor	very poor

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

37. Since delinquent's birth family has moved

() not at all () once () more than once

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

38. Explain here and on back if present housing and neighborhood are not typical for family since before delinquent's birth:

()
over

A S S O C I A T I O N S

39. Is it () explicitly or () implicitly either () confirmed or () denied in the record that delinquent was a member of a gang?

40. Is it () explicitly or () implicitly either () confirmed or () denied that delinquent was a leader of a gang?

41. Does the delinquent follow the example of the gang, and do what they like to do

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
always usually sometimes occasionally rarely

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

42. Does the delinquent, if he is not leader, emulate the leader

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
always usually sometimes occasionally rarely

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

P E R S O N A L I T Y

43. Does delinquent exhibit hostility to others

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very frequently frequently sometimes rarely very rarely

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

44. Does delinquent exhibit resourcefulness or daring

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very frequently frequently sometimes rarely very rarely

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

45. Does delinquent exhibit difficulty in relations with authority figures (parents, teachers, police, probation officers, etc)

:.....:.....:.....:.....:.....:
very frequently frequently sometimes rarely very rarely

() explicitly or () implicitly or () uncertain from the record

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