

ABSTRACT

The study focused the emotion recognition in delinquents and non delinquents' youth and presence of psychopathic trends in the jail population. It was assumed that both groups will show significant differences in the emotion recognition ability especially for negative than positive emotions. Psychopathic trends will be high in the jail population. Role of SES, educational level and family size was also explored. Sample comprised 50 juvenile delinquents (experimental group) and 50 non-delinquents (control group) with age range 14-17 years ($M = 15.5$, $SD = 1.30$) selected on the basis of conduct disorder criteria of Diagnostic Statistical Manual-IV-TR (2000). Experimental group was drawn from District Jail Lahore and control group from 4 public schools of Sargodha. A semi-structured interview form was developed to obtain in depth information regarding respondents' present and past life history. Two measures Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (Cooke, Michi, Hart, & Hare, 1991) and Urdu version of an experimental task Facially Expressed Emotion Labeling (Kessler, Traue, Bayerl & Hoffman, 2002) were used. The result of 2 x 6 ANOVA indicated that experimental and control groups were significantly different in emotion recognition; delinquents' accuracy score was high on negative emotions (anger and fear) whereas non delinquents on positive emotions (happiness and surprise). When determined delinquency trends, most of the subjects of experimental group met the DSM-IV TR criteria of delinquency ($n = 43$). Significant differences were found for emotion recognition task for the subjects with high psychopathic trends and no trends. t-test revealed significant differences for total PCL-R total and its two subscales scores. SES, educational level and family size showed non significant effects. It may be concluded that delinquency level was the important determinant in psychopathic trends and emotion recognition. The results are the first attempt in Pakistan to explore the personality and family contributors of delinquency in our youth.