



## A Study of Scientific Temper of Potential Delinquents & Non Delinquents of District Srinagar

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### Abstract

We are living in a conflict zone in Kashmir, delinquency is on the rise. After making in-depth search of various research journals using offline and Google search engine related to delinquency and scientific temper no single study was reported. The basic objective of science teaching in our schools is to help students cultivate scientific habits. By cultivation of scientific habits we mean displaying an attitude of mind characterized by curiosity, open mindedness, rationality, objectivity of intellectual beliefs and aversion to superstitious beliefs. If these healthy traits are inculcated in our youth it will be hard to trace delinquent elements in them. This hypothesis needs testing, it is in this backdrop that investigators identified 200 delinquents and 200 non delinquents from the secondary schools of Srinagar by the administration of Lidhoo Delinquency Proness Scale. Scientific Temper Scale was administered to both the groups and results revealed that there is a significant mean difference between potential delinquents and non-delinquents on open mindedness, rationality, objectivity of intellectual beliefs and aversion to superstitious beliefs dimensions of Scientific Temper and mean difference favored non delinquents.

### Introduction

A new menace has come to plague the valley schools and higher education with a sizable segments of students bunking off their institutions and spending time roaming about deserted roads or hanging around busy city squares or restaurants during class hours. Over the recent months in particular the number of such students has increased manifold without evoking any concern among teachers and parents. Though these students leave home early morning for school they play truant instead. They skip their schools at the ideal spots for bunking or the comparatively less populated bunds along Amira-Kadal, Shivpora and Jawharnagar. Besides Restaurants and Snooker Points permit these fugitives in without even a cursory inquiry for they are just concerned about their money. On lookers divulge that apart from boys, girls too resort to absconding from their schools. Fleeing and roaming around roads can prove dangerous and can push these young students into the tentacles of various anti-social and illicit activities. The activities of delinquents is a great cause worry for parents and teachers, sometimes they feel as mute spectators and helpless before the delinquent activities of their children. These fugitive children are more prone to smoking, drug abuse, alcoholism, gambling, sexual exploitation, crimes and many other undesirable activities. The question before us is why these delinquent children engage in various anti-social activities like violence, lack of motivation and commitment towards studies, drug addiction, and damage to public property, disrespecting their elders and parents. Is it that the parental grip is loosening and the value system is collapsing, is it that the basic physiological need of love and belongingness is missing from the society and relations have become more contractual and mechanical? The question before us is why children show cold behavior towards their parents and teachers and lack empathy.

Worrying trend is attributed to numerous factors but after making in-depth probe the investigator found that the research that has been carried in this direction has been in piece meals. Many people have their individual opinion on the factors responsible for delinquency. What is the need of the hour is to generate/pool sufficient data on delinquency with the help of standardized constructed tools. The investigator is committed to make an in-depth study of delinquency and the findings that shall be generated shall help the clinical psychologists, teachers, parents, students and future researchers interested in delinquency to reflect and chalk out the pragmatic and effective intervention strategies to deal with the problem of delinquency. K.C Panda in a trend report on "Research in Psychology of Education" NCERT writes that no rigorous methodology and techniques have been evolved to study factors affecting delinquency. The report further reads no serious attempt has been made to study delinquency in relation to various psycho-social variables, here we shall take one variable as Scientific Temper. It is in the light of this backdrop that the Investigator justifies the proposed study which is states a sunder:-

Statement of the Problem:

**A Study of Scientific Temper of Potential Delinquents & Non Delinquents of District Srinagar**

**Objectives**

The following objective has been formulated for the proposed study.

1. To identify potential Delinquents, and Non Delinquents.
2. To compare potential Delinquents and Non-Delinquents on various dimensions of Scientific Temper.

**Hypothesis**

The following hypothesis are formulated for the proposed study

1. There is a significant difference between potential delinquents and non-delinquents on various dimensions of Scientific Temper.

**Data Gathering Tools:**

For the collection of data the investigator shall employ the following data gathering tools.

1. Lidhoo delinquency proneness scale was (LDPS) employed for the identifications of potential delinquents and non-delinquents.
2. Nadeem & Showkat Scientific Temper Scale was used to compare Potential Delinquents & Non – Delinquents

**Sample:**

Initial sample was 1000 male students. After the administration of Lidhoo delinquency scale, 20% extreme group technique shall employ for identification of potential delinquents and non delinquents.

Two Hundred delinquents and two hundred non -delinquents from High School of District Srinagar were administered Scientific Temper Scale

**Statistical Technique Employed:**

1. t-test

**Results**

**Table 01: Significance of the mean difference between Non – Delinquents (N=200) and Potential Delinquents (N=200) on curiosity dimension of scientific temper scale**

Dimension	Group	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Significance
Curiosity	ND	7.40	1.74	1.35 *	NS
	PD	7.21	1.86		

The above table shows that the mean difference between non – delinquents and delinquents is not significant, because the calculated t-value is less than the tabulated t-value at .05 level of significance. However, the mean of non – delinquents 7.40 is slightly higher than the delinquents 7.21 on curiosity dimension of scientific temper scale.

**Table 02: Significance of the mean difference between Non – Delinquents (N=200) and Potential Delinquents (N=200) on open-minded dimension of scientific temper**

Dimension	Group	Mean	S.D	t.value	Significance
Open Mindedness	ND	5.97	2.03	4.10	Sig. at .01
	PD	5.15	2.05		

The perusal of above table, shows that there is a significant difference between non – delinquents and delinquents on open minded dimension of scientific temper. A look at the table, reveals that the mean difference favors non – delinquents. The non – delinquents displayed the willingness to revise opinions and conclusions in the light on new facts and evidences. In comparison delinquents were somewhat slightly rigid, while responding to the items of open minded dimension of scientific temper scale.

**Table 03: Significance of the mean difference between Non – Delinquents (N=200) and Potential Delinquents (N=200) on objectivity dimension of scientific temper**

Dimension	Group	Mean	S.D	t.value	Significance
Objectivity	ND	6.37	2.43	6.72	Sig. at .01
	PD	4.89	2.16		

The above table reveals, that there is a significant difference between, non – delinquents and delinquents on the objectivity dimension of scientific temper scale. A look at the table reveals that the mean of non – delinquents (6.37) is decidedly better than the delinquents (4.89) on objectivity dimension. The mean difference favors, non – delinquents the results confirm that non – delinquents display a greatest possible concern for observing and recording facts without any influence of personal pride, bias or ambition. They displayed unwillingness to draw inferences before sufficient evidence is collected. They displayed unwillingness to accept facts that are not supported by convincing proofs. In comparison delinquents exhibited rigidity and closed view when exposed to the items on objectivity dimension.

**Table 04: Significance of the mean difference between Non – Delinquents (N=200) and Potential Delinquents (N=200) on ‘Rationality’ dimension of scientific temper scale**

Dimension	Group	Mean	S.D	t.value	Significance
Rationality	ND	5.90	2.43	4.86	Sig. at .01
	PD	4.78	2.21		

The above table shows that there is a significant difference between non – delinquents and delinquents on Rationality dimension of scientific temper scale because the calculated value of 4.86 exceeds the tabulated ‘t’ value at .01 level of significance. A look at the table show, that the mean of non – delinquents (5.90) is decidedly better than the delinquents (4.78); the mean difference favors non – delinquents. The results confirm that non – delinquents displayed questioning attitude towards authority. They believe in the principle of cause and effect relationship. They agree that customs, rituals and traditions should be subjected to a test of reasoning, and those elements should be accepted which appeal to reason and logic. In comparison delinquents were somewhat rigid in their approach.

**Table 05: Significance of the mean difference between Non – Delinquents (N=200) and Potential Delinquents (N=200) on ‘Aversion to Superstition’ dimension of scientific temper scale**

Dimension	Group	Mean	S.D	t.value	Significance
Aversion to Superstitions	ND	5.51	2.22	6.14	Sig. at .01
	PD	4.33	1.84		

The above table reveals that there is a significant difference, between non – delinquents and delinquents on the ‘Aversion to superstitions’ dimension of scientific temper scale. The mean of non – delinquents is decidedly better than the mean of delinquents (4.33). The results confirm that non – delinquents are aversive to superstitious beliefs. They believe in the principle of consistency, hard work rather than luck, non – delinquents preferred scientific based explanations, than the cooked stories by astrologers and magicians. They attached more importance to modern Values. Non- delinquents agree that all religions should be respected, believe in the principle of gender equality to social justice.

**Table 06: Significance of the mean difference between Non – Delinquents (N=200) and Potential Delinquents (N=200) on composite score of scientific temper scale**

Dimension	Group	Mean	S.D	t.value	Significance
Total	ND	31.5	10	5.2	Sig at .01 level
	PD	26.5	9.3		

The above table shows that the two groups, differ, significantly, on the composite score of scientific temper scale, because the calculated value (5.2) exceeds the tabulated t value at.01 level of significance. The mean of non – delinquents (31.5) is decidedly better than the mean of delinquents (26.5) and the mean difference favors non – delinquents. The results confirm that non – delinquents displays a desire to understand new situations that are not explained by the existing body of knowledge. They, at times display curiosity and like to watch science related programme on television. They are willing to revise opinion and conclusion in the light of new evidences and facts. They demonstrate greatest possible concern, for observing and recording facts without any influence of personal, pride, bias or ambition. They displayed a questioning attitude towards traditional customs, rituals, beliefs and aversion towards superstitions beliefs. They believe that one should be guided by logic and reason rather than one emotion. In comparison the delinquents were not much curious, rational, objective, open minded as revealed by the response agreement to the items in the scale.

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