

# **PERSONALITY TRAITS AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: HOW PERSONALITY INFLUENCES CRIMINAL ACTIVITY (A CRITICAL ANALYSIS)**

**SUNITA \***

## **ABSTRACT**

Juvenile crime is one of the most exciting and potent areas of research in behavioral sciences and became a concentrate of many sociologists and sociable scientists. Delinquency is a state of deportment disarrangement in the adolescent. The canvass of puerile delinquency gives study to seniority run, noble disclosure and the unbrokenness and course of antisocial behavior. These are directly or secondarily character by several historic stretches, terminate, vary in society and kindred. The coincident muse distends to have an exact analysis of role of individuality traits (OCEAN and PEN Models) in Juvenile delinquency and criminal behavior and to bound whether such factors are predictive of future recidivism. Despite nice legal frame composition, the juvenile thief offenses endure alarming and this study aims at contributing to the existing literature to understand how celebrity prestige criminal activity.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Personality traits demonstrate a variety of individual behaviors (Costa & McCrae, 1992). This difference is appropriate to custom when exploring the individual concert in different areas. Among all traits, carefulness and neuroticism are thinking the best, to predict work-related production and motivation (Salgado, 1997). From an instructive perspective, students that have tall conscientiousness, openness and extraversion traits are more motivated to teach (Ross, Rausch, and Canada, 2003; Payne, Young seek, & Beaubien, 2007) whereas, the students with high neuroticism and low extraversion traits are less motivated (Komarraju et al., 2009). Most scholars think that

neuroticism has a negative relationship with academic motivation and open-mindedness, conscientiousness; extraversion has a peremptory union with academic motivation (Kumar Raju & Karau, 2005).

A personality trait is a trait pattern of imagination, emotion, or behaving that attends to be fixed over age and across relevant situations. The Big Five-Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, and Openness to Experience-are a set of five liberal, bipolar trait measure that constitutes the most widely employed model of traits structure.

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Big 5 Trait	Example Behavior for LOW Scorers	Example Behavior for HIGH Scorers
<b>Openness</b>	Prefers not to be exposed to alternative moral systems; narrow interests; inartistic; not analytical; down-to-earth	Enjoys seeing people with new types of haircuts and body piercing; curious; imaginative; untraditional
<b>Conscientiousness</b>	Prefers spur-of-the-moment action to planning; unreliable; hedonistic; careless; lax	Never late for a date; organized; hardworking; neat; persevering; punctual; self-disciplined
<b>Extraversion</b>	Preferring a quiet evening reading to a loud party; sober; aloof; unenthusiastic	Being the life of the party; active; optimistic; fun-loving; affectionate
<b>Agreeableness</b>	Quickly and confidently asserts own rights; irritable; manipulative; uncooperative; rude	Agrees with others about political opinions; good-natured; forgiving; gullible; helpful; forgiving
<b>Neuroticism</b>	Not getting irritated by small annoyances; calm, unemotional; hardy; secure; self-satisfied	Constantly worrying about little things; insecure; hypochondriacal; feeling inadequate

Figure 1.OCEAN Model-Personality Traits

**PEN MODEL OF PERSONALITY**

The PEN Model is a part of analytically supported absolute dominant taxonomy of character contains the three super substitute: Psychoticism, Extraversion, and Neuroticism (Eysenck and Eysenck 1985). The PEN assumes a hierarchic arrangement of trait characteristics with Psychoticism (vs. Impulse Control), Extraversion (vs. Introversion), and Neuroticism (vs. Emotional Stability) located at the highest position. They are sending to as symbol (or secondary-order constituent in factor analytic expression) as opposed to traits (or first-order cause) describe them.

The type concept of Psychoticism, or P, is made up of traits likely aggressive, stoical, egocentric, 4 Temperament, Eysenck's PENs Model, and humor-related traits impersonal, impulsive, antisocial, unemphatic, creative, and tough-disposed. The traits whose intercorrelations give proceed to the typical concept of Extraversion, or E, are sociable, lively, active, peremptory,

sensation-search, carefree, dominant, surgeon, and bold. Finally, Neuroticism, or N, is made up of traits probable anxious, dulled, crime feelings, low self-value, strung-up, irrational, reserved, fretful, and excitable (Eysenck and Eysenck 1985).

These super factors were extracted from other list and show a violent quality of generalisability across separate cultivates. They also resemble agent extracted from beastly behavior. The PEN system also forms the basis for causal speculation of character. There are many ponder aimed at investigating the hereditary building of P, E, and N and at distinctive the psychophysiological and biochemical constituent relating to them. Eysenck has suggested cortical arousal, middle by the reticular conformation, as being amenable for definite diversity in Extraversion, and differences in limbic system arousal, intervening by the sympathizing nervous system, as being responsible for special contention in Neuroticism. More freshly, Psychoticism was related to the hormonal system (Eysenck and Eysenck 1976).

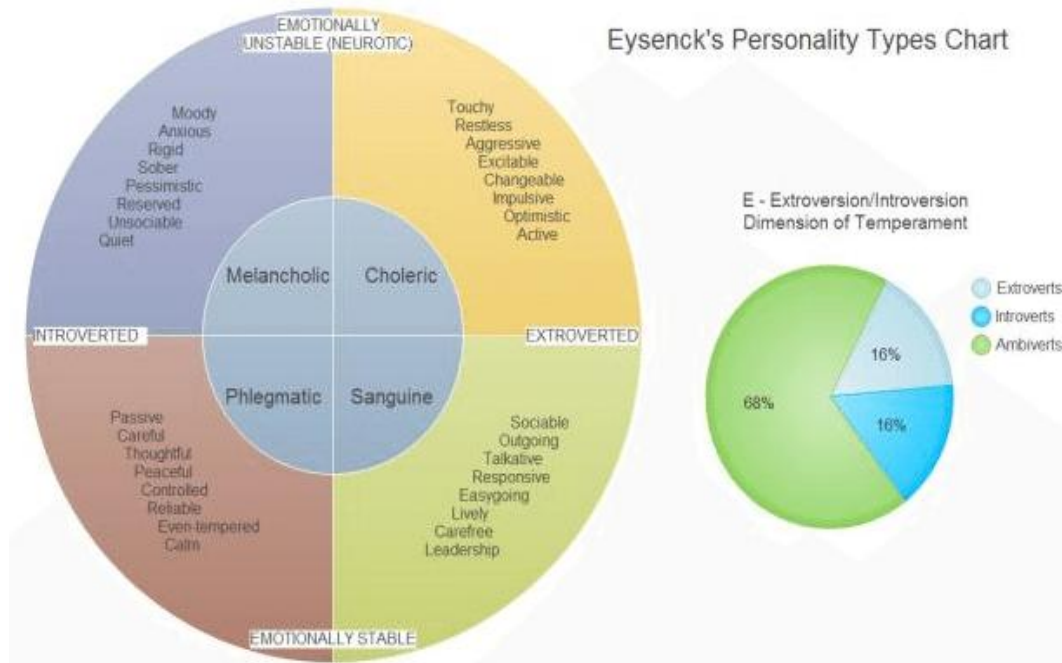


Figure 2. Eysenck's PEN Model

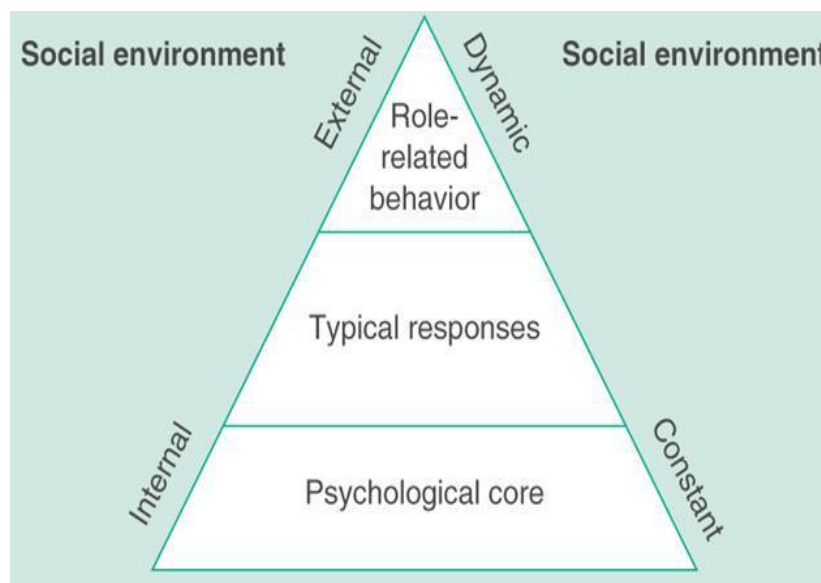


Figure 3. PEN model- Personality Traits

The PEN model has two main aspects: descriptive and casual. The descriptive aspect is hierarchical taxonomy based on factor analysis, such as **super factors** of Psychoticism, Extraversion, and Neuroticism (PEN) and lower-order factors like sociability and positive affect (components of extraversion). However, both the models include Extraversion and Neuroticism at the highest level. The PEN personality traits are demonstrated in Fig No 2 and 3.

Delinquency may be defined as "essentially a thrust against society and may be described as any act or series of acts of an individual or group that violates accepted social or moral standards and brings individuals into conflict with society". A juvenile is a youth teen ranging from as young as 9 years old till the age of 18 who engage in illegal criminal behavior. Defining delinquency is not the hard part, figuring out the reasons why adolescents commit crimes is. Since the turn of the twentieth century, juvenile delinquency has

been an important area of study. Academicians, Medical Practitioners, Legal Scholars, policymakers are ardent on rudimentary queries about the nature of Juvenile Delinquency (JD). How should the concept of JD be demarcated? Who pledges delinquent acts? What is the rate of delinquency? Is the rate increasing or decreasing? How to prevent these crimes?

Juvenile crime is a serious offense and it is injurious for the familiar method in any country. There is a trend of enhance in child crimes earth-over, with more and more involvement of the youth in violent crimes. India tells conspecific lean of the increasing rank of outrageous crimes attached by the juveniles. It is a very serious business for the folk and solutions to end the problem need to be sought very carefully. Indian constitutional system and judiciary has answer to these trends and has brought some amendments in the laws pertaining to juvenile integrity in India

“Adolescence” is a dynamically evolving theoretical construct informed through physiologic, psychosocial, temporal and cultural lenses. This critical developmental period is conventionally understood as the years between the onset of puberty and the establishment of social independence (Steinberg, 2014). The most commonly used chronologic definition of adolescence includes the ages of 10-18 but may incorporate a span of 9 to 26 years depending on the source (APA, 2002)

Adolescence has continuously been described as a period of “storm-and-stress”(Arnett,1999). Though these storm-and-stress relics constrained to combats with parents, momentary mood commotions, confusion, depression and trivial delinquent acts in most adolescents (Arnett,1999), problems escalate in minority youth. Some adolescents are engaged in serious delinquent acts and end up in juvenile detention centers, others experience severe emotional distress. Studies on child psychology (Farrington, 2005; Lay et al., 2005) endorse detecting

childhood, youth and family jeopardy factors are vibrant in the anticipation of juvenile felonious behavior. Determining which specific risks, or combination of risks, impact on later offending and/or delinquent youth outcomes allows practitioners to identify most efficiently which of these children and youth are most at-risk (Farrington, 2005; Lay et al., 2005) and thus to target prevention and treatment more effectively.

## **THEORIES OF CRIME**

The study of juvenile delinquency is important because it provides us with trustworthy and reliable theories that can help with understanding the motives of juveniles. These theories fall under three categories, biological, sociological and psychological.

### **THE BIOLOGICAL THEORY OF CRIME**

According to biological theory, thebio-physical factors like genetic influence, chromosomal abnormalities, biochemical irregularities, etc. predispose certain people to crime. Most Biological theories of crime argue that particular individuals are more prone to deviance than others because of their genetic make-up. Genetically inherited characteristics either directly cause or predispose them towards deviance. The following researchers can be considered for an elaboration of this theory:

**Cesar Lombroso:** criminals had peculiar bodily characteristics

**Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck:** the type of physical build predispose people to crime

**Klinefelter’s Syndrome:** British criminologist identifying the Y chromosome for being delinquent

**Henry E. Kelly:** Chemical Imbalances in the body like Hypoglycemia, can lead to crime and deviance.

The biological theory considers delinquent behavior as predisposed and revolves around the idea that children are born to be criminals. Cesar Lombroso is credited for creating the major biological theory called Positivism. His theory states that individuals who grow up committing crimes have inherited biochemical and genetic factors. Lombroso also states that criminals tend to have certain facial features that are considered a predisposition to commit crime such as a flattened nose and supernumerary teeth. Another criminalist, Sheldon, found that different body types made individuals behave differently. For example, he believed that mesomorphs were more likely to commit crimes because they were athletic, as opposed to the physique of an endomorph, a fat person (Champion,

### **A PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY OF CRIME**

According to the psychological theory, crime results from personality attributes uniquely possessed, or possessed to a special degree, by the potential criminal. Thus crime is the result of an immature ego and superego, which are too weak to control the sexual and aggressive instincts of the id. Psychological theories help understand juvenile delinquency and "like religion, more than like sociology or law, psychology is essentially concerned with the individual himself and is addressed centrally to the processes within and around the individual which give rise to specific forms of behavior" (McDavid and McCandles, 1962).

The three propositions of a psychological theory are:

1. Behavior is largely the product of unconscious psychological- biological forces [drives and instincts].
2. Criminality arises out of conflicts related to these basic drives.
3. To modify undesirable [criminal] behavior, the person must be guided towards insight into the unconscious roots of his responses

so that he can develop control over such impulses.

In a well- balanced personality, id, ego and superego work in relative harmony. But in abnormal cases, imbalance and disharmony occur. When super-ego is not sufficiently developed, the released repressed instincts may lead to anti-social behavior. Conflicts in the unconscious mind give rise to feeling of guilt with consequent desire for punishment to remove the guilt feelings and restore a balance of good against evil. The individual then commits the criminal act, leaves clues for apprehension in order to be caught and punished.

### **SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION THEORY**

The theory of social disorganization states a person's physical and social environments are primarily responsible for the behavioral choices that a person makes. At the core of social disorganization theory, is that location matters when it comes to predicting illegal activity. Shaw and McKay noted that neighborhoods with the highest crime rates have at least three common problems, physical dilapidation, poverty, and a higher level of ethnic and cultural mixing. Shaw and McKay claimed that delinquency was not caused at the individual level, but is a normal response by normal individuals to abnormal conditions. Social disorganization theory is widely used as an important predictor of youth violence and crime.

Shaw and McKay discovered that there was four (4) specific assumption as an explanation of delinquency.

1. The first assumption is the collapse of community based controls and people living in these disadvantaged neighborhoods are responding naturally to environmental conditions.
2. The second is the rapid growth of immigration in urban disadvantaged neighborhoods.

3. The third is a business located close to the disadvantaged neighborhoods that are influenced by the “ecological approach” of competition and dominance.
4. The fourth and last assumption is disadvantaged urban neighborhoods lead to the development of criminal values that replace normal society values.

Social disorganization theory suggests that a person’s residential location is more significant than the person’s characteristics when predicting criminal activity and the juveniles living in this areas acquire criminality by the culture's approval within the disadvantaged urban neighborhoods. Therefore, location matters when it comes to criminality according to social disorganization theory.

Social disorganization theory studies can help government and law enforcement policy-makers make informed decisions from the evidence to form strategies that help prevent criminal activity in disadvantaged communities to make it safer for all.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The Big Five consists of five main personality traits that form the acronym OCEAN. (Caprara, et al., 2001) (1) Openness to experience, originality, or open-mindedness; (2) conscientiousness, control, or constraint; (3) Extraversion, energy, or enthusiasm; (4) agreeableness, altruism, or affection; and (5) neuroticism, negative affectivity, or nervousness are five personality traits, a human personality’s large number of distinct, more specific characteristics can be reduced to. (Goldberg, 1990; John & Srivastava, 1999; John, et al., 2008) They represent the human personality at a very broad level of abstraction. (John, et al., 2008).

Costa and McCrae (1992) identified the facets activity, assertiveness, gregariousness, warmth, excitement seeking and positive emotions for

extraversion, whereas John (1992) defined the first factor with the adjectives active, assertive, energetic, enthusiastic, outgoing and talkative. The traits dominant, sociable, outspoken, noisy and show-off are also interesting to mention. (John & Srivastava, 1999) Individuals with a low level of extraversion, also known as introverts are often described as shy, quiet and withdrawn. (John, 1990) Judge et al (2002) found that extraverted individuals are more likely to experience positive emotions. For extraversion item examples include “Is outgoing, sociable”, “I really enjoy talking to people” and “Quiet” (reverse-scored). (John & Srivastava, 1999).

Conscientiousness represents the dimension of self-control in the Big Five as it can be seen “as a dimension that holds impulsive behavior in check”. (McCrae & John, 1992) It includes traits like efficient, organized, playful, reliable, responsible, neat and thorough and implies the desire to do a task well. (John, 1989) “Conscientiousness describes the extent to which an individual is responsible, dependable, organized, persistent, and achievement-oriented”. (Shi, et al., 2009, p. 210) The term conscientiousness combines the inner (conscience) and outer (diligent and thorough) aspects at the same time since the two seem to correlate empirically. (McCrae & John, 1992) The statements to measure the level of Factor III could be: “Does a thorough job” “Is a reliable worker”, “Tends to be disorganized” (reversed), “Tends to be lazy” (reversed), “I am a productive person who always gets the job done.” (John, 2000).

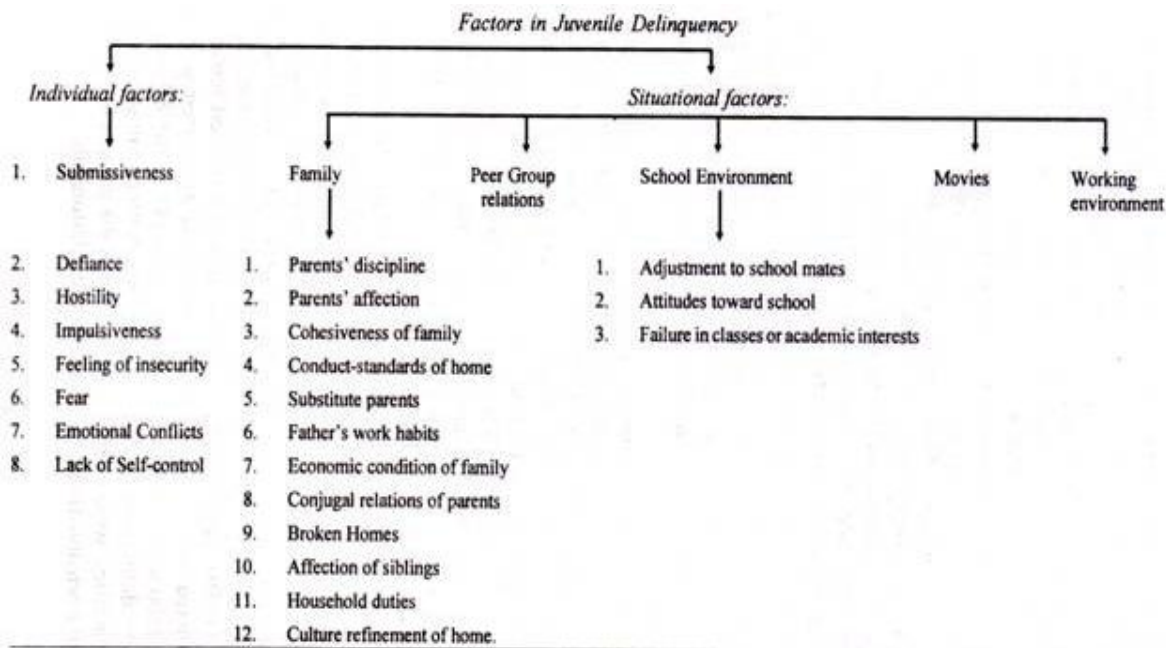
Individuals with high scores of Neuroticism tend to experience Anxiety, Hostility, Depression, Self-Consciousness, Impulsiveness, and Vulnerability (Costa, et al., 1991) are often associated with irrational thinking and poor control of impulses and cravings. (McCrae & John, 1992) They are also often characterized as tense, unstable, touchy, self-pitying and worrying, whereas individuals with low level of neuroticism are

simply calm and relaxed. (John, 1989; McCrae & John, 1992) This factor is also often reversed called emotional stability. It can reveal a person’s capability of managing high levels of stress, their tendency to have negative life experiences and the likelihood of making them excited. (Hogan & Hogan, 1996; Judge, et al., 2002; Shi, et al., 2009) To measure Neuroticism the following exemplars could be considered: “Worries a lot”, “I often feel tense and jittery”.

**DISCUSSION**

The study is an only effort to gain insight into the relationship between personality traits and Juvenile Delinquency and presence expressed in this concern are those of the case of hypostatic efficiency. Juvenile Delinquency is often a difficult topic to finish, as there are many distinct variables that must be taken into preparation in

order to truly describe and make it thorough awareness of the concept. The most general aspect of this reflected is to fastening, the weight of soon hazard component along with personality traits (as an interposition method) on juvenile offending and Though some risk factors are common to many child delinquents, the patterns and particular combination of risk factors vary from child to child. Identification of these multiple risk and protective factors have proven to be a difficult task and there is no solution to Prevent Juvenile Delinquency, identifying risk and protective factors remain essential in escalating the chronic criminality of juvenile. The studies stress that the focus on risk factors that appear at a young age is the key to preventing child delinquency (Elliott, D.S *et al.* 1996). Preventing delinquency early in a child’s life can pay significant dividends by reducing crime rates (Farrington, D.P. 1989).



**Figure 4. Peer factor invention and personality traits**

The Personality Traits (**OCEAN and PEN models**), the association of dimensions as a key research direction to observe and each of them capture a specific facet of identity and can't be ignored in measuring the juvenile delinquency. It is essential to conceptualize and investigate them empirically to gain a more comprehensive understanding of

these traits on Juvenile Delinquency. Although the Big Five and PEN models are most easily characterized by their extreme poles, it is important to keep in mind that relatively few people are at the extremes. Most people are around the middle of the continuum

## CONCLUSION

The paths of incorporation of characters with criminal theory could also be convenient (Adams et al, 1992), in emerging logic of uniqueness in youth and developing adulthood, and might link the purposes of individuality to psychosocial evolution of maturity. The future research agenda should take into account examining interconnections among identity conceptualizations in adult hood (Marcia,2002), especially focus on personal pressures arising from the environment align with individual conditioning factors to press a person towards crime.

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