

## ABSTRACT

This exploratory research was designed to investigate the relationships between the incidence of juvenile delinquency and alienation, and certain associated variables among a sample of 269 Jamaican adolescents. A battery of tests was employed to measure the criterion variable and 4 independent variables.

The "Normal" sample consisted of 160 Grade 11 students selected from a New Secondary school in an urban town in the parish of St. Ann. The "Problem" group was comprised of 109 adolescents in the two senior Correctional Centres also located in St. Ann.

Data were analysed for the respective sub-samples on the basis of gender and institutional type, using the "t" statistic, Pearson's product-moment correlations and the analysis of variance (ANOVA) technique.

The main findings from the statistical procedures indicated the following:

(a) "t" tests:

- (i) No significant differences appeared between the male and female "Normals" on any of the variables probed.
- (ii) Significant differences surfaced between the "Problem" males and females for CREAT and FIFD, indicating that the males are more creative and field independent than their female counterparts.

iii) When all "Problem" Ss were compared with the "Normal" Ss, their "Normal" counterparts' results indicate significant differences for ALIEN and CREAT, with the delinquents being more creative and alienated than their "Normal" peers.

(b) **Pearson's product-moment Correlations:**

(i) For the total "Problem" group, all variables investigated correlated significantly with FIFD. For PRGRPINF, there were significant correlations with ALIEN, PARINF and FIFD. For the total "Normal" group, most significant correlations related to PARINF.

(ii) In terms of gender, most significant relations surfaced for the "Problem" females for FIFD and PRGRPINF, while for the "Normal" females, PARINF and CREAT have shown the largest number of significant relations.

(c) **Two-Way Analysis of Variance:**

There were either significant main or interaction effects emerging between the "Problems" and the "Normals" for all variables probed except PRGRPINF.

The implications of the findings for education are discussed and appropriate recommendations presented. The need for the entire society, including home and

school, to become involved in creating a worthwhile environment for its youth,  
featured as the main thrust of these recommendations.