

Psychiatric aspects of juvenile delinquency

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Thesis ; M.Sc. 2001

The aim of this work was to study the psychological characteristics of a sample of young delinquent females.

Thirty delinquent females aged from 12-20 years, referred from juvenile courts committing one or more sexual crime. Physical, neurological and psychiatric examination were done, also psychological tests (Beck depression Inventory, Hamilton Anxiety Scale, Hand Projection Scale and personality disorder according to DSM-III-R) are done to assess the personality and any psychiatric disorder.

Results: As regards the sexual experience, about one fifth of the sample 6/30 (20%) report prepubertal sexual experience, in the form of rape. The incidence of a positive history of postpubertal sexual experience reaches

a value of 28/30 (93%) of the sample. 33.3% of the subjects report sexual relations with the same sex (lesbianism).

Conclusion: Sexual activity among delinquent adolescents is greater than that the general adolescent population. Female adolescent antisocial behaviour is primarily sexual in nature and takes predominant form of delinquent behaviour.