

A STUDY OF THE SUCCESS AND
FAILURE OF EX-TRAINING CENTRE INMATES

A Hong Kong Prisons Department Research Project

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FOREWORD

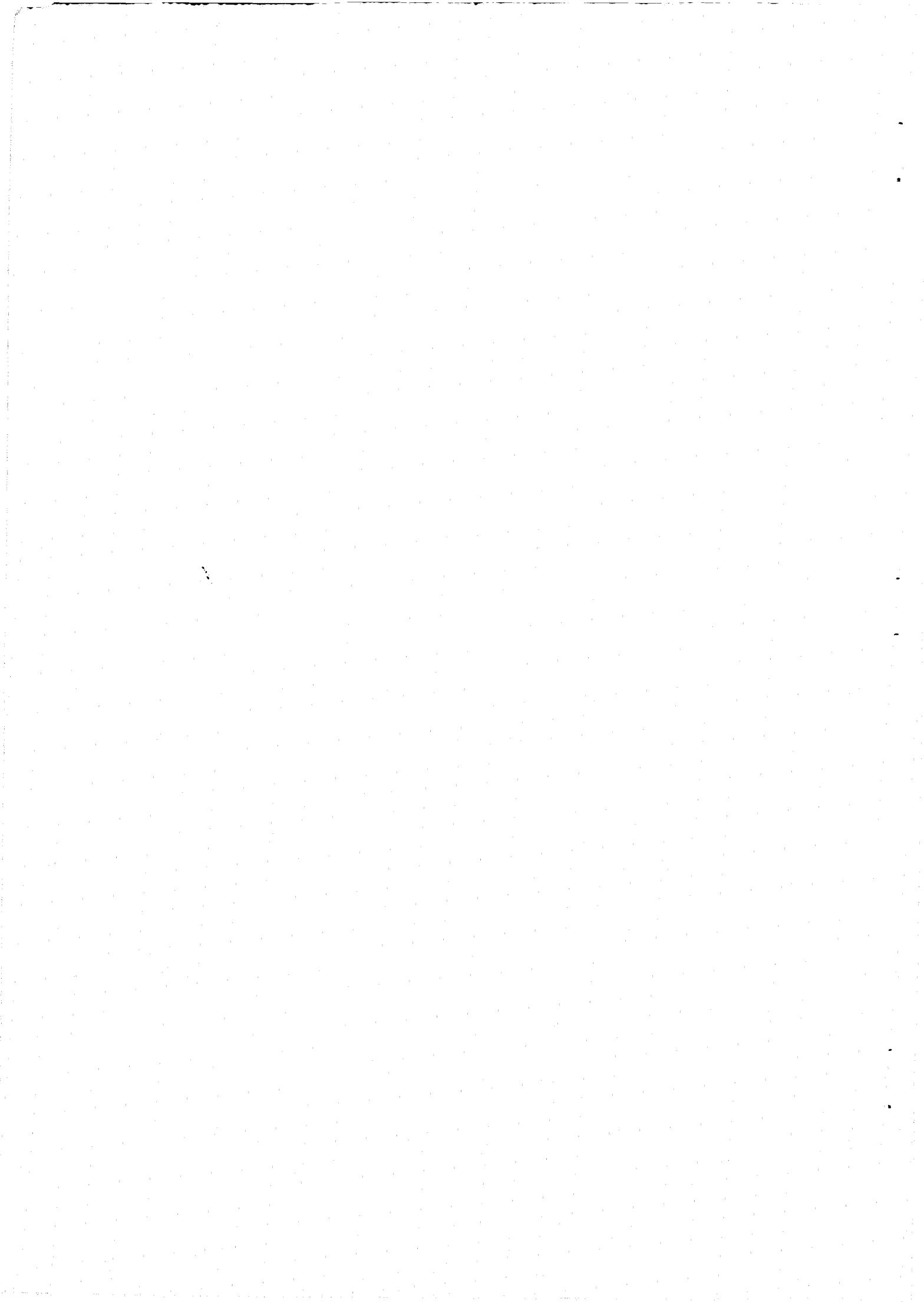
Since the Training Centre programme was first introduced in 1953, it has played an important role in the Criminal Justice System of Hong Kong as it has provided the Judiciary with a useful option for dealing with young offenders. The purpose of the present research is to delineate why the Training Centre programme has been effective with some delinquent youths, but not with others, and to make recommendations to modify the programme wherever this is shown to be necessary and is feasible.

The data in this research was collected by some fifteen after-care officers of the Department, and the final report was compiled by Miss Catherine Sun, Officer-in-charge of the Department's Research, Planning and Statistics Section.

(T. G. Garner)
Commissioner of Prisons

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1. The Problem of Recidivism

Penal policies are designed and implemented to fulfil various aims, amongst which are : retribution by society, reformation of the offender and segregation of the offender for the protection of society⁽¹⁾. The amount of emphasis placed upon each of these aims fluctuates with the passage of time. For instance, penal measures meted out under the laws of the Roman Empire were largely retributive, while modern penologists are endeavouring to accomplish correctional rehabilitation. Despite the extremities of attitudes towards offenders, the ultimate objective of all penal systems has been to minimize the probability of an offender committing another crime at the conclusion of his transaction with the penal system - a concept appropriately termed as "reductivism" by Nigel Walker⁽²⁾.

The success of a penal system in accomplishing the objective of "reductivism" is measured to a large extent by the recidivism rate of the offenders discharged from the system (although one must bear in mind that the reasons for reverting to crime very often lay outside the penal system within the society). By recidivism, penologists generally refer to relapse into crime subsequent to the completion of the first incidence of treatment for an offence or a group of offences.

The fact that after having been processed through the same correctional machinery, some individuals revert to crime while others do not is an indication that recidivists and non-recidivists bear dissimilarities along various lines. These dissimilarities, once unearthed, should be of great value in the planning and implementation of correctional programmes.

1.2. Literature survey

So far, there has not been any local research on recidivism which has been the chosen topic of research for some foreign criminologists and penologists.

(1) Walker, Nigel. (1972) Sentencing in a Rational Society. London : Penguin Books pp. 15-17.

(2) Walker, Nigel. op.cit., p.18.

For instance, Daniel Glaser established that there are variations amongst cases of marginal failure, evident recidivism, clear reformation, and marginal reformation.⁽³⁾ Charmian Blackler noticed significant differences between adult men serving their first prison sentence and those serving a second prison sentence. He also found a positive correlation between recidivism and isolation from the conventional world.⁽⁴⁾ McClintock and Avison reported that initial delinquent behaviour of a more serious nature such as committing crimes of violence is very likely to lead to future convictions.⁽⁵⁾ The Gluecks discovered that differences between delinquents and non-delinquents, recidivists and non-recidivists in terms of personal attributes can be correlated with the differences in the behaviour patterns of these individuals during and after correctional treatment.⁽⁶⁾

In more detailed contexts, J.W. Anderson found that there is a relationship between recidivism and intelligence.⁽⁷⁾ West and Farrington found that erratic or over strict parental discipline, and discipline which is harsh in emotional quality are both associated with an increased likelihood of subsequent delinquency.⁽⁸⁾ Virkkunen highlighted the relationship between paternal deprivation/lack of paternal substitute and subsequent recidivism.⁽⁹⁾

In short, these findings affirm that recidivists and non-recidivists do differ in various aspects.

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- (3) Glaser, Daniel (1964) The Effectiveness of a Prison and Parole System New York. The Bobbs - Merrill Co. Inc., Chapter 4.
 - (4) Blackler, Charmian "Primary Recidivism in Adult men : Differences Between Men on First and Second Prison Sentence" in The British Journal of Criminology Vol. 8 No. 2 April 1968.
 - (5) McClintock F.H. and N.H. Avison (1968). Crime in England and Wales, London : Heinemann pp. 233-4.
 - (6) Glueck, S. & E. Glueck (1968) Delinquents and Non-Delinquents in Perspectives, Cambridge, Mass : Harvard University Press pp. 174-6.
 - (7) Anderson, J.W. "Recidivism, Intelligence and Social Class" The British Journal of Delinquency Vol.8, 1958 pp. 294-7.
 - (8) West, D.J. and D.P. Farrington (1975) Who Becomes Delinquent? London : Heinemann, pp. 50-52.
 - (9) Matti Virkkunen, "Paternal Deprivation and Recidivism in Juvenile Delinquents" in British Journal of Criminology Vol.16 No. 4 October 1976.

1.3. Recidivism in young offenders

Although the factors leading to and the conditions surrounding the recidivism of any type of offender are worthy of exploring and unearthing, this research has chosen specifically to look at the recidivism of young offenders. The reason for this choice is that it is the view of certain criminologists that the process of criminal maturation follows a continuum, and that juvenile delinquency is the starting point of this process.(10) However, not all juvenile delinquents go on to become hardcore criminals, some of them succeed in alienating themselves from the process. If the factors related to their success can be identified, it might be possible to prevent some juvenile offenders from embarking upon criminal careers.

Since there has not been any local research on the recidivism of young offenders, the present study intends firstly, to look at a conglomeration of factors which are believed by workers in the correctional field to be related to recidivism, and secondly, determine via statistical analysis if these factors are significantly different for recidivists and non-recidivists.

1.4. Hypotheses

From the findings of foreign researchers and the experience of local correctional workers, this study set out to test the following hypotheses concerning recidivism in young offenders :-

1. the socio-economic make-up of recidivists and non-recidivists are significantly different.
2. the younger the age at first conviction, the higher the likelihood of reversion to crime.
3. the more intense the affiliation with criminal elements or groups, the higher the likelihood of reversion to crime.
4. the more intentional the violence involved in the initial crime, the greater the likelihood of a reversion to crime.
5. the worse the quality of emotional attachment to family, the higher the probability of reverting to crime.
6. the better the adjustment to and acceptance of institutional treatment, the less the likelihood of reversion to crime.
7. the more stable the post-treatment style of living, the less the likelihood of reversion to crime.
8. the more optimistic the attitude towards personal environment and the higher the degree of self opinion, the less the likelihood of reversion to crime.

(10) Tappan, Paul W. (1949) Juvenile Delinquency New York : McGraw-Hill
p. 15.

CHAPTER 2

Research Design

2.1. Definition of terms

As stated in the foregoing chapter, the present study is concerned with recidivism in young offenders.

Within the context of this research project, recidivism refers to an individual's conviction for an offence subsequent to his discharge from a training centre administered by the Prisons Department in Hong Kong. (see Appendix A) By young offenders, this study refers to those persons of or above the age of 14 and under the age of 21, and who underwent a period of detention in a training centre.

2.2. Universe of the study

Male inmates admitted into training centres during the period from 1.6.71 to 31.5.72 were selected as the subjects of this study for the following reasons.

Firstly, female inmates were not selected because of their small number which may contaminate the normality of the male sample.

Secondly this particular period was chosen because, training centre inmates being at that time subject to four years statutory supervision (from the date of admission) (11) would either have fairly recently completed their supervision period or have less than six months remaining to stay under supervision. It is safe to assume that the behaviour of the latter is unlikely to alter during the last six months of supervision because those who have been successful in refraining from criminal acts for as long as this tend to keep up their behavioural standards while those who have already been reconvicted usually do not put in very much effort to "make good". If an earlier period were to be chosen, most if not all of the subjects would have already completed their statutory supervision periods and the longer the period since being released from supervision the harder it is to re-establish contact.

A total of 343 persons who fitted the criteria stated above were chosen as subjects for the study. Out of this number, only 255 could be contacted for interviews. The remainder had either left the Colony or could not be traced, because their supervision periods having expired, they had no legal obligation to inform their after-care officers of any change in their place of residence.

(11) In 1974, the statutory supervision period was altered to 3 years counting from the date of discharge.

The 255 persons who could be contacted were divided into successes and failures, depending upon their post-training behaviour.

2.3. Criteria of success and failure

An ex-training centre inmate who was convicted for an offence whilst under statutory supervision is considered a failure. An ex-training centre inmate who completed his statutory supervision or had less than 6 months to stay under supervision, and who had no record of conviction whilst under supervision is considered a success. Within this framework, 139 are classified as "successes" and 116 as "failures".

2.4. Data Collection

Plans were formulated for data to be collected along 6 lines and the details of information contained within each are set out below :

Line 1 : Pre - institutional socio-economic attributes

- district of residence
- type of housing & accommodation
- religious affiliation
- marital status
- length of residence in Hong Kong
- educational attainment

Line 2 : Criminal maturity

- age at first conviction, and offence if different from the one leading to the Training Centre conviction under study
- institutionalization prior to Training Centre conviction
- offence leading to Training Centre conviction, and condition surrounding offence
- attitude towards legal system
- criminal elements in family
- triad affiliation
- triad members in family

Line 3 : Relationship with family (pre-institutionalization, whilst in institution, and post-release)

- living arrangements
- whether parents living
- marital status of parents
- emotional attachment to family members
- reaction of family to training centre sentence
- financial contribution to family

Line 4 : Adjustment to and acceptance of institutional training

- infraction of institutional discipline
- response to schooling and vocational training in training centre
- evaluation of training centre programme

Line 5 : Post-release experience

- peer group affiliation
- triad affiliation
- occupational status
- hardships encountered
- overall mobility

Line 6 : Beliefs and feelings

- moral integrity
- belief in innate ascription and inevitability
- self-conceptualization
- perceived relationship with others
- perceived quality of social justice
- temporal aspiration

Data required was obtained from official records and through personal interviews with the subjects concerned.

For interviews, a questionnaire (Appendix B) explicitly setting out the questions to be asked and providing for alternative responses was used. The validity and reliability of the questionnaire was affirmed in the pre-test.

After-care officers who had once supervised or were supervising the subjects of this research were selected as interviewers. This is because rapport exists between after-care officers and their supervisees, and a more genuine response would thus be expected.

To ensure that uniformity was maintained when conducting the interviews, a training seminar was held to explain the nature of the research as well as to discuss certain interviewing techniques with the interviewers.

2.5. The Questionnaire

Since information was gathered along 6 lines, the questionnaire (see Appendix B) was accordingly broken down into 6 parts as follows :

<u>Information needed</u>	<u>Source of Information</u>	<u>Questionnaire</u>
Pre-institutional information	official records	Part I
Criminal maturation	interview/partially checked with official records	Part II
Relationship with family - pre-institutionalization, whilst in institution, and post-release	interview	Part III
Adjustment to and acceptance of institutional training	interview/official records	Part IV
Post-release experience	interview	Part V
Delinquents' beliefs and feelings	attitudinal scale	Part VI

The attitudinal scale in Part VI of the questionnaire is made up of nineteen Likert-scale type of statements. The internal validity of the individual statements was tested by using Pearson's product-moment

(12) The significance of the correlation coefficients was tested by using the F(1, N-2) test.⁽¹³⁾ The power of individual items to discriminate between successes and failures was determined by employing the Gamma (contingency) test.⁽¹⁴⁾ The internal validity and discriminating power of the individual items are tabulated at Appendix C.

(12) The formula used is

$$r = \frac{\sum XY - \frac{\sum X \sum Y}{N}}{\sqrt{\left[\sum X^2 - \frac{(\sum X)^2}{N} \right] \left[\sum Y^2 - \frac{(\sum Y)^2}{N} \right]}}$$

where X is the score obtained for an individual statement
Y is the total score obtained by an individual respondent
N is the number of respondents

(13) The formula used is

$$F(1, N-2) = \frac{r^2}{1 - r^2} (N - 2)$$

where r is the Correlation Coefficient for individual items
N is the number of respondents

(14) The formula used is

$$G_{(\text{Gamma})} = \frac{CP - IP}{CP + IP}$$

where CP refers to a cross-tabulated score in which the values of two variables run in the same direction, and
IP refers to a cross-tabulated score in which the values of two variables run in different directions.

CHAPTER 3Findings I : Pre-institutional socio-economic attributes3.1. Introduction

Cohen⁽¹⁵⁾ and Miller⁽¹⁶⁾ established that the lower socio-economic class tends to produce more delinquent boys than the other classes. They attributed this phenomenon to the fact that although the lower class boys aspire to achieve the same things as the middle-class boys, the former are limited by their heritage, social contacts etc.. Therefore, out of frustration, they either set out to upset the middle-class values or else achieve their aspirations via illegal means.

The present research does not aim at re-affirming the foregoing findings, instead it attempts to find out if any difference exists between the successes and failures in terms of socio-economic attributes. In other words, this research seeks to determine if recidivism in juvenile delinquents is a consequence of frustration or not.

3.2. District of residence

Table 1 shows the district of residence of the subjects.

Table 1

DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE

	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Hong Kong Island	25	18.0	22	19.0
Kowloon	14	10.1	12	10.3
New Kowloon	75	53.9	63	54.3
New Territories & Outlying Islands	25	18.0	19	16.4
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$\chi^2 = 0.134$ df = 3 P = 0.05

Excessive emphasis must not be put upon the lack of significant difference between the successes and failures in this respect. This is because owing to the crowded living conditions in Hong Kong, one residential district may be accommodating inhabitants with different socio-economic backgrounds. Furthermore, the close proximity of residential districts exposes adolescents to similar social influences.

(15) Cohen, Albert K., (1963)., Delinquent Boys. The Free Press of Glencoe pp. 164-9.

(16) Miller W.C. and J.J. Conger (1966) Personality, Social Class and Delinquency. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. pp. 208-9

3.3. Type of accommodation

The type of housing occupied is displayed in Table 2.

Table 2

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION

	Success Group No.	Success Group %	Failure Group No.	Failure Group %
Apartment/Flat/House	18	12.9	12	10.4
Tenement floor	23	16.5	24	20.7
Self-contained public housing	36	25.9	29	25.0
Non-self-contained public housing	33	23.8	37	31.9
Housing Society	14	10.1	7	6.0
Hut	9	6.5	2	1.7
Simple stone structure	6	4.3	5	4.3
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 7.058 \quad df = 6 \quad P = 0.05$$

The type of accommodation taken up by a household is generally a reflection of the household income. The lack of difference between successes and failures in the type of accommodation they occupied tends to indicate that there is no difference between the two groups in terms of their household income.

3.4. Educational attainment

There appears to be no significant difference between success and failure cases in terms of educational attainment. (see Table 3)

Table 3

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

	No Formal Education	Lower Primary	Upper Primary	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary	Post - Secondary & above	Total
Success No. Group	2	23	76	35	3	0	139
%	1.4	16.5	54.7	25.2	2.2	-	100.0
Failure No. Group	2	34	60	17	3	0	116
%	1.7	29.3	51.7	14.7	2.6	-	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 4.34 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

However, it can be seen that a somewhat higher proportion of the successes as compared with the failures have received secondary education. The importance therefore of formal education in affecting adolescent behaviour must be taken into consideration.

3.5. Religious affiliation

Out of 67 professing to have some form of religious affiliation, 35.8% from the success group and only 10.4% in the failure group practised ancestral worship (see Table 4).

Table 4

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS

	None	Catholic	Protestant	Ancestral Worship	Buddhist	Total
Success Group No. %	102	7	4	24	2	139
	73.4	5.0	2.9	17.3	1.4	100.0
Failure Group No. %	86	9	7	7	7	116
	74.2	7.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 12.915 \quad df = 4 \quad P = 0.05$$

This significant difference can be interpreted to mean that success cases experienced stronger spiritual attachment to their family than the failure cases.

3.6. Marital status

Although no significant difference in this respect exists between the success and failure groups, a slightly higher proportion of the successes as compared with the failures, are married (see Table 5).

Table 5

MARITAL STATUS

<u>Marital status</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Single	114	82.0	102	87.9
Married	24	17.3	13	11.2
Separated	1	0.7	-	-
Divorced	-	-	1	0.9
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 3.830 \quad df = 3 \quad P = 0.05$$

It would appear that responsibility towards one's family serves as a brake to one's reversion to crime.

3.7. Length of residence in Hong Kong

The majority of both groups were born in Hong Kong (see Table 6).

Table 6

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG

<u>Years of Residence</u>		<u>Success Group No.</u>	<u>Success Group %</u>		<u>Failure Group No.</u>	<u>Failure Group %</u>
Born in H.K.		114	82.0		86	74.1
Not born in H.K.						
5 years & less		1	0.7		1	0.9
6 - 10 yrs.		4	2.9		5	4.3
11 - 15 yrs.		7	5.0		7	6.0
16 - 20 yrs.		11	7.9		13	11.2
21 yrs. & over		2	1.5		4	3.5
Total		139	100.0		116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 2.337 \quad df = 1 \quad P = 0.05$$

Within this framework of reference, recidivism in juvenile delinquents cannot be attributed to social mobility.

3.8. Summary on chapter

With the exception of religious affiliation (which it appears does not play an important role in the life of an average youth), the socio-economic attributes of successes and failures are not significantly different.

With reference to para. 3.1., it can be concluded that ex-Training Centre inmates did not revert to crime out of frustration on socio-economic grounds or while seeking to fulfil their aspirations via illegal means, but rather, the factors related to recidivism in juvenile delinquents are to be sought elsewhere.

CHAPTER 4

Findings II : Criminal maturity

4.1. Introduction

The judgement of an individual's criminal maturity is based on his attitude towards the legal system, his ability to rationalize his criminal acts, his acceptance of and recognition by the criminal world, and the amount of technique and planning which he has used in his criminal pursuits.⁽¹⁷⁾ Therefore, a person's criminal age is not necessarily parallel or equivalent to his chronological age. Within the context of the present study, it can be argued that if a delinquent has attained a high degree of criminal maturity before being institutionalized, he is unlikely to benefit much from institutional training as a consequence of prior influences.

4.2. Age at first conviction

Although 18.1% of the failures compared with 7.9% of the successes were convicted at or before 14, the difference in mean age is not statistically significant (see Table 7).

Table 7

AGE AT FIRST CONVICTION

	AGE AT FIRST CONVICTION												Total
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Success No. Group %	-	-	-	1	2	8	14	36	36	17	18	7	139
Failure No. Group %	1	1	2	4	3	10	12	17	24	28	10	4	116

$$t = 1.709 \quad df = 253 \quad P = 0.05$$

This finding further highlights the fact that the chronological age of an individual delinquent has very little to do with his criminal age.

(17) Sutherland, Edwin H. (1960) Principles of Criminology J.B. Lippincott Co. pp. 219-223.

4.3. Number of previous convictions on admission into training centre

38.9% of the successes and 25% of the failures had no record of previous conviction on admission into training centres (see Table 8).

Table 8 NUMBER OF PREVIOUS CONVICTION(S) ON ADMISSION

No. of Previous Conviction(s)	Success Group No.	Success Group %	Failure Group No.	Failure Group %
0	54	38.9	29	25.0
1	60	43.2	47	40.5
2	16	11.5	30	25.9
3	6	4.3	7	6.0
4	2	1.4	2	1.7
5	1	0.7	1	0.9
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 5.832 \quad df = 1 \quad P = 0.05$$

This statistically significant difference is an indication that the failure group may be criminally more mature as they have had more experience in law-breaking and as such are apt on the one hand, to have little respect for the law, and on the other, to be able to rationalize their criminal behaviour more efficiently for their own purposes.

4.4. Nature of previous offences

No significant difference is observed between the successes and failures in this area, as the majority of previous offences for both groups were against property (see Table 9).

Table 9 NATURE OF PREVIOUS OFFENCE

Nature of Previous Offence	Success Group No.	Success Group %	Failure Group No.	Failure Group %
Against Lawful Authority				
Membership of a Triad Society	18	20.6	10	11.4
Breach of Bond	1	1.2	-	-
Affray	1	1.2	3	3.4
Against the Person				
Wounding/Assault	5	5.7	5	5.7
Criminal Intimidation	1	1.2	-	-
Against Property				
Robbery & Assault with Intent to Rob	28	32.2	25	28.4
Blackmail	3	3.4	2	2.3
Receiving Stolen Property	-	-	2	2.3
Theft	9	10.3	16	18.2
Housebreaking	1	1.2	-	-
Taking Conveyance Without Authority	1	1.2	1	1.1
Loitering with Intent	1	1.2	2	2.3
Unlawful Possession	-	-	4	4.5
Against the Penal Code				
Possession of Offensive Weapon	9	10.3	11	12.5
Against Local Laws				
Possession of Dangerous Drugs	3	3.4	3	3.4
Disorderly Conduct	4	4.6	2	2.3
Offences Against Women and Girls	2	2.3	1	1.1
Driving without a Licence	-	-	1	1.1
Total	87	100.0	88	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 17.165 \quad df = 17 \quad P = 0.05$$

However, the motivation for committing the offence leading to the first conviction is significantly different for the successes and failures. From the distribution of motives laid out at Table 10, it can be said that the delinquency of the failures is of a more utilitarian nature than the successes.

Table 10 MOTIVATION FOR FIRST CONVICTION

<u>Motivation</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Claims ignorance, on impulse	42	30.2	25	21.6
For easy money	37	26.6	40	34.4
Financial problems and without work	6	4.3	9	7.8
Influenced by peers	44	31.7	23	19.8
Influenced by triad elements or societies	3	2.2	9	7.8
Addiction to drugs	-	-	2	1.7
Being challenged or for revenge	-	-	3	2.6
Claims to be innocent of the offence	7	5.0	5	4.3
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 20.333 \quad df = 7 \quad P = 0.05$$

In other words, the failures committed their offences because they were seeking material gains to satisfy their needs. If instrumental or utilitarian delinquency contributes to the satisfaction of needs, it is likely that recidivism may ensue when there are other needs to be satisfied as the delinquent has learnt to obtain what he wants the easy way.

4.5. Institutional experience prior to Training Centre Conviction

Although 37.9% of the failures compared with 27.3% of the successes have been either placed under probation or detained in a boy's home, this difference is not of statistical significance. (see Table 11)

Table 11

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF PROBATION OR DETENTION IN A BOYS' HOME

<u>Experience of Probation or Boys' Home</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	38	27.3	44	37.9
No	101	72.7	72	62.1
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 3.555 \quad df = 1 \quad P = 0.05$$

4.6. Nature of offence leading to Training Centre Conviction

The majority of both groups were convicted for property offences (see Table 12).

Table 12

NATURE OF OFFENCE LEADING TO TRAINING CENTRE CONVICTION

<u>Nature of offence leading to Training Centre conviction</u>		<u>Success Group No.</u>	<u>Success Group %</u>	<u>Failure Group No.</u>	<u>Failure Group %</u>
Against Lawful Authority					
Membership of a Triad Society	16	11.6		10	8.6
Breach of Bond	1	0.7		4	3.4
Escape from Legal Custody	1	0.7		-	-
Affray	2	1.4		-	-
Against Public Morality					
Indecent Assault	-	-		1	0.9
Against the Person					
Wounding/Assault	5	3.6		3	2.6
Manslaughter	2	1.4		3	2.6
Against Property					
Robbery & Assault with Intent to Rob	84	60.5		60	51.7
Blackmail	1	0.7		4	3.4
Receiving Stolen Property	-	-		1	0.9
Theft	13	9.5		6	5.2
Housebreaking	1	0.7		-	-
Obtain by False Pretenses	-	-		1	0.9
Going Equipped for Stealing	1	0.7		-	-
Burglary	2	1.4		4	3.4
Loitering with Intent	1	0.7		2	1.7
Against the Penal Code					
Possession of Offensive Weapon	4	2.9		11	9.5
Against Local Laws					
Possession of Dangerous Drugs	2	1.4		3	2.6
Disorderly Conduct	1	0.7		-	-
Offences Against Women and Girls	2	1.4		3	2.6
Total	139	100.0		116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 23.807 \quad df = 19 \quad P = 0.05$$

However, it is interesting to note that the successes committed more crimes involving intentional violence than the failures - an observation which does not seem to fit in with McClintock and Avison's findings as stated in para. 1.2..

4.7. Affiliation with clandestine society

61.9% of the success group contrasted with 91.4% of the failure group confessed to being affiliated with a triad society (see Table 13).

Table 13

TRIAD SOCIETY AFFILIATIONS

Triad Affiliations	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	86	61.9	106	91.4
No	53	38.1	10	8.6
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 29.602 \quad df = 1 \quad P = 0.05$$

Out of this number, 38.7% of the failure group and only 11.6% of the successes professed to be active members. (see Table 14)

Table 14

POSITION HELD IN TRIAD SOCIETY

Position	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Office bearer	2	2.3	1	0.9
Active member	10	11.6	41	38.7
Former member	36	41.9	22	20.8
Associates	38	44.2	42	39.6
Total	86	100.0	106	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 20.877 \quad df = 3 \quad P = 0.05$$

These figures significantly indicate the more advanced criminal maturity of the failure group whose socialization into the criminal subculture appears to be of a more penetrating nature.

4.8. Attitude towards the legal system

Attitude towards the legal system within the context of the present research is measured by the individual delinquent's attitude towards the sentence imposed upon him by the court. As stipulated in para. 4.1., this aspect is also treated as an index of criminal maturity. Therefore, the lack of significant difference between successes and failures in their attitude towards the legal system is an indication that although the latter are established to have attained a higher point in the process of criminal maturation, they are still far from being totally mature in their criminality. In other words, they are still corrigible. (see Table 15)

Table 15

ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Attitude	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Fair	104	74.8	82	70.7
Unfair	26	18.7	21	18.1
No idea	9	6.5	13	11.2
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 1.799 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

4.9. Summary on Chapter

From the foregoing paragraphs, it can be seen that the failure group's involvement in crime is more advanced than that of the successes both in terms of nature as well as instances. Furthermore, the failures appeared to be much more integrated into the criminal subculture than the successes as the former professed to have a stronger affiliation with triad societies.

These findings affirm the introductory assumption that the deeper a person has fallen into crime, the harder it is for him to extract himself from it.

CHAPTER 5

Findings III : Influences from the family

5.1. Introduction

The family is generally accepted as the primary socializing agent that transmits the moral standards and values which forms the basis of an individual's behaviour. Needless to say, what is taught and examples set decide if future behaviour will be socially acceptable or not. However, of much more importance is the extent to which an individual accepts moral standards and values and this is directly proportionate to the quality of parental control. If parental control is insufficient or inappropriate, delinquent behaviour may ensue as a consequence of the inadequacy of the teaching/learning process.

How then can parental control be defined? Parental control is not simply the sanctioning of "shoulds" and "should-nots", it can also refer to the control of an individual's behaviour through his emotional attachment to his family and a later developed sense of responsibility towards his family members.

Within the context of the present research, if differences are found between the failures and successes in the quality of parental control exerted on them, then it can be interpreted to mean that the capability of the parents to transmit moral standards and values should also be different.

The substance of what is implanted will be examined in a later chapter.

5.2. Relationship with family before admission

It is of significance that 41% of the successes compared with only 19.0% of the failures reported that they enjoyed very intimate emotional attachment to their families before the commencement of their training centre sentences. (see Table 16)

Table 16 RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY BEFORE ADMISSION

<u>Relationship with family</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Very close	57	41.0	22	19.0
Reasonable	66	47.5	68	58.6
Not Harmonious	16	11.5	26	22.4
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 15.911 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

The failures' lack of emotional attachment points to the inadequacy of parental control and the shortcomings in the implanting of moral values and standards.

5.3. Relationship with family during stay in the training centre

Parallel to the findings in para. 5.2., 45.3% of the successes claimed that whilst under detention, relationship with their families actually improved. (see Table 17)

Table 17

RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY DURING STAY IN A TRAINING CENTRE

<u>Relationship with family</u>	<u>Success Group No.</u>	<u>Success Group %</u>	<u>Failure Group No.</u>	<u>Failure Group %</u>
Closer	63	45.3	7	6.0
Same as before	67	48.2	53	45.7
Alienated	7	5.0	48	41.4
Deteriorated	2	1.5	8	6.9
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 79.154 \quad df = 3 \quad P = 0.05$$

This can be interpreted as an increase in the exertion of parental control by the family who became very concerned by the adolescent's involvement in crime.

48.3% of the failures, on the other hand, reported that relationship with their families suffered deterioration whilst they were serving their training centre sentence. In this case, the failures' families appeared to have neglected to re-exert parental control.

The significant difference in this area can perhaps be explained by the equally significant difference in the families' responses towards the delinquents' predicament. 80.6% of the successes revealed that their families were concerned over their training centre sentence. This is diametrically in contrast to 58.6% of the failures' families who were either ashamed, hostile or indifferent. (see Table 18).

Table 18

FAMILY'S RESPONSE TO PRESENT SENTENCE

<u>Family's response</u>	<u>Success Group No.</u>	<u>Success Group %</u>	<u>Failure Group No.</u>	<u>Failure Group %</u>
Ashamed	8	5.7	39	33.6
Hostile	4	2.9	10	8.6
Indifferent	11	7.9	19	16.4
Reasonable and concerned	112	80.6	48	41.4
Over-protective	4	2.9	-	-
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 53.099 \quad df = 4 \quad P = 0.05$$

5.4. Relationship with family after release from training centre

Consistent with the findings in paras. 5.2. and 5.3., 64.8% of the successes and only 5.2% of the failures (see Table 19) maintained close relationship with their families.

Table 19

PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY

<u>Relationship</u>		Success Group No.	Success Group %	Failure Group No.	Failure Group %
Close		90	64.8	6	5.2
Reasonable		48	34.5	74	63.8
Cold and indifferent		-	-	36	31.0
Not applicable		1	0.7	-	-
Total		139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 114.364 \quad df = 3 \quad P = 0.05$$

In support of these findings, the amount of leisure time which the success and failure groups spent with their families are also significantly different. (see Table 20).

Table 20

LEISURE TIME SPENT WITH FAMILY

<u>Leisure time spent with family</u>		Success Group No.	Success Group %	Failure Group No.	Failure Group %
Very often		39	28.1	6	5.2
Occasionally		47	33.8	40	34.5
Rarely		51	36.7	68	58.6
Not applicable		2	1.4	2	1.7
Total		139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 25.324 \quad df = 3 \quad P = 0.05$$

Failures who rarely spend any leisure time with their families have little opportunity to be influenced by their family members.

5.5. Financial contribution to family after release from training centre

The gesture of making a monetary contribution to the family may be interpreted as a demonstration of an individual's sense of responsibility towards his family.

Only 14.4% of the success group as compared to 55.2% of the failures made no financial contribution towards their families. The lack of sense of responsibility towards the family indicates that parental control over failures was inadequate. (see Table 21)

Table 21

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO FAMILY AFTER RELEASE FROM A TRAINING CENTRE

<u>Financial contribution to family</u>		Success Group No.	Success Group %	Failure Group No.	Failure Group %
Yes		118	84.9	52	44.8
No		20	14.4	64	55.2
Not applicable		1	0.7	-	-
Total		139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 47.971 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

5.6. Summary on Chapter

Comparatively speaking, before admission into a training centre, the successes were much closer to their families than the failure group. The families of the success group further reinforced this closeness by showing concern over the delinquents' conviction and admission for training. The failures' families were ashamed by their involvement in crime and therefore allowed further deterioration in family relationships. A positive display of concern kindled a sense of responsibility in the successes who responded by making financial contributions to their families.

The lack of parental control over the failure group does not only block the transmission of socially acceptable morals and values, it also induces the delinquents to further indulge in crime as they feel no obligation towards their families to stay on the right track.

In conclusion, it can be said that lack of family influence and control contribute to delinquency as well as recidivism.

CHAPTER 6

Findings IV : Response to Institutional Training

6.1. Introduction

Juvenile delinquents are very often involved in crime as a consequence of two variables, namely a lack of self-discipline and an acceptance of morals and values depicted by society as undesirable. Based on this understanding, remedial education is instituted with disciplinary overtones in training centres with the hope that delinquents may replace socially unacceptable values and morals with acceptable ones, and simultaneously learn to discipline themselves through being disciplined.

Therefore, it can be argued that if a delinquent is unable to adjust himself to disciplinary training and responds poorly to remedial education, then he is unlikely to benefit from being detained in a training centre - which is to say, he is likely to revert to crime.

The purpose of this chapter is to examine if the success and failure groups responded differently to the correctional programme in training centres.

Areas under examination are : ability to adjust to and acceptance of institutional training, and evaluation of the overall programme by the ex-inmates.

6.2. Infraction of rules

Rule-breaking for a training centre inmate can be interpreted as either an outburst of frustration, the reaction to being provoked by other inmates, or a deliberate act calculated to challenge the authority. An inmate who breaks a centre rule for any of these reasons is either having adjustment problems, or else finding himself incapable of accepting the discipline imposed upon him.

In the present research, it was found that only a very small portion of the respondents had committed disciplinary offences. In fact, 9.4% of the successes compared with 14.7% of the failure group were rule-breakers. (see Table 22)

Table 22

INFRACTION OF RULES

<u>Infraction</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
No	126	90.6	99	85.3
Yes	13	9.4	17	14.7
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 1.720 \quad df = 1 \quad P = 0.05$$

Infraction of rules regarded as inability to adjust usually leads to an extension in the normal length of detention. 78.4% of the successes and only 61.2% of the failures were detained for 14 months or less. (see Table 23)

Table 23

LENGTH OF DETENTION (IN MONTHS)

	Months																			Total
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
Success No.	3	5	18	25	32	26	13	5	3	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0		$\bar{X}_S = 13.33$	
Group %	2.2	3.6	12.9	18.0	23.0	18.7	9.3	3.6	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.4	0.7	-	-	-	-		139 100.0	
Failure No.	1	7	9	12	16	26	19	7	6	1	2	2	2	2	1	1			$\bar{X}_F = 14.40$	
Group %	0.9	6.0	7.8	10.3	13.8	22.4	16.4	6.0	5.2	0.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.9	0.9		116 100.0	

t = -3.175

df = 253

P = 0.05

This significant difference further reflects the fact that the failures appeared to take a longer time to adjust to institutional training and therefore had to be detained longer in order to catch up with the others. But then a longer detention may not prove to be totally beneficial as a prolonged loss of liberty and segregation from the community may cause increased frustration and consequently aggravate the situation. However, as far as possible, inmates are discharged as soon as they have reached their optimum level of performance.

6.3. Response to vocational training and schooling

No significant difference was found between the two groups in this area. (see Tables 24 & 25)

Table 24 RESPONSE TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING

<u>Vocational Training</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Good	121	87.1	91	78.4
Fair	18	12.9	24	20.7
Apathetic	-	-	1	0.9
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 3.860 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Table 25 RESPONSE TO SCHOOLING

<u>Schooling</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Good	116	83.5	90	77.6
Fair	23	16.5	25	21.5
Apathetic	-	-	1	0.9
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 2.129 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

The majority of both groups performed satisfactorily. However, there are some differences between the successes' and failures' acceptance of the training programme.

6.4. Acceptance of institutionalized training

The degree of acceptance was tested by 5 opinion statements.

Statement 1 : see Table 26

Table 26

OPINION AS TO INSTITUTIONALIZED TRAINING

"The training was so rigid that I could not handle it"

<u>Opinion</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	32	23.0	34	29.3
Neutral	17	12.2	8	6.9
Disagree	90	64.8	74	63.8
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 2.809 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Statement 2 : see Table 27

Table 27

OPINION AS TO INSTITUTIONALIZED TRAINING

"The training programme was unpleasant but beneficial"

<u>Opinion</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	116	83.4	59	50.9
Neutral	10	7.2	15	12.9
Disagree	13	9.4	42	36.2
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 33.055 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

83.4% of the successes compared with 50.9% of the failures agreed to the statement. This indicates that the success group's acceptance of the programme is much better. If an inmate accepts the training well, he is likely to be more influenced by it.

Statement 3 : see Table 28

Table 28

OPINION AS TO INSTITUTIONALIZED TRAINING

"The training I received will not influence my future life"

<u>Opinion</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	79	56.8	65	56.0
Neutral	4	2.9	13	11.2
Disagree	56	40.3	38	32.8
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 7.568 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

40.3% of the success group and 32.8% of the failure group disagreed with the statement. This difference further points to the failures' view of the training as being valueless.

Statement 4 : see Table 29

Table 29

OPINION AS TO INSTITUTIONALIZED TRAINING

"There was not sufficient opportunity
for me to voice my difficulties"

<u>Opinion</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	95	68.3	86	74.2
Neutral	5	3.6	15	12.9
Disagree	39	28.1	15	12.9
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 14.157 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

28.1% of the successes compared with only 12.9% of the failures disagreed with the statement. This finding partially explains why the failure group considers the training programme as valueless, since they felt that channels via which they could ventilate their feelings of frustration were not readily available.

Statement 5 : see Table 30

Table 30

OPINION AS TO INSTITUTIONALIZED TRAINING

"The training programme made me restless"

<u>Opinion</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	45	32.4	51	44.0
No	94	67.6	65	56.0
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 3.620 \quad df = 1 \quad P = 0.05$$

The majority of both successes and failures disagreed with the stated opinion.

The absence of any difference between successes and failures in their responses to Statements 1 and 5 indicates that non-acceptance is a corollary of the pre-determined value attributed to the training programme, and not the consequence of inability to meet the necessary requirements.

6.5. Summary on chapter

Differences were found between successes and failures in the extent to which they perceived the training centre programme as being valuable and of substantial influence to their future life. Therefore, before the training actually commences, it appears necessary that the training centre inmates should be convinced of the value of the training programme because if this is not done, the inmates may reject the training as a result of pre-conceived ideas which will hinder the programme from bringing about the desired effects.

CHAPTER 7Findings V : Post-release experiences7.1. Introduction

Although the ultimate aim of any correctional institution is to provide its clients with adequate training and prepare them psychologically to lead their lives as law-abiding citizens, sometimes partially as a consequence of the unrealistic expectations on the clients' part, difficulty in adjustment may ensue which eventually ends up in recidivism. From this observation, it can perhaps be assumed that the successes are more capable of adjusting themselves to the main community because their expectations happen to be more realistic and attainable.

Besides unrealistic expectations, rejection by family members, employers and peers, the lack of financial and psychological support, coupled with continued association with undesirable elements may also contribute to consequent recidivism.

The objective of this chapter is to examine if there are any differences in the post-release experiences of successes and failures.

7.2. Expectations of earnings

81% of the failures compared with 36.7% of the successes had expected that they would be able to find jobs that pay monthly salaries of \$800 and over. (see Table 31)

Table 31

SALARY EXPECTED FROM FIRST JOB ON RELEASE FROM A TRAINING CENTRE

Expected Salary (in dollars)	Success Group No.	Success Group %	Failure Group No.	Failure Group %
300 - 399	1	0.7	-	-
400 - 499	10	7.2	1	0.9
500 - 599	13	9.4	2	1.7
600 - 699	28	20.1	6	5.2
700 - 799	28	20.1	11	9.5
800 - 899	22	15.8	47	40.5
900 - 999	7	5.1	22	19.0
1000 - 1099	17	12.2	18	15.5
1100 & over	5	3.6	7	6.0
No special preference	5	3.6	2	1.7
Not applicable	3	2.2	-	-
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$t = 5.658 \quad df = 243 \quad P = 0.05$$

Considering that 82.7% of the failure group have only received primary education (see para. 3.4. and Table 3), their expectations appeared to be somewhat unrealistic.

Unrealistic expectations naturally resulted in overt disappointment, and gradual loss of confidence in one's own ability to stay within the law.

7.3. Procurement of first job

Before an inmate is granted release, his after-care officer will procure a job for him by liaising with his family or friends, or by directing him to hunt for jobs in prospective agencies.

Over half of the success group obtained their first job through their after-care officers' arrangements with their families. (see Table 32)

Table 32 PROCUREMENT OF FIRST JOB ON RELEASE

<u>Job obtained through</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
After-care officer	3	2.2	3	2.6
After-care officer's arrangement with inmate's family	73	52.5	35	30.2
Effort of self	12	8.6	42	36.2
After-care officer's arrangement with inmate's friends	49	35.3	36	31.0
Not applicable	2	1.4	-	-
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 32.228 \quad df = 4 \quad P = 0.05$$

26% of them compared with 0.9% of the failures stayed on their jobs for 25 months and over. (see Table 33)

Table 33 LENGTH OF STAY IN FIRST JOB AFTER RELEASE FROM A TRAINING CENTRE

<u>Length of stay</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
1 - 6 months	48	34.5	87	75.0
7 - 12 months	21	15.1	18	15.5
13 - 18 months	20	14.4	8	6.9
19 - 24 months	12	8.6	2	1.7
25 - 30 months	14	10.1	-	-
31 - 36 months	18	13.0	1	0.9
Over 3 years	4	2.9	-	-
Not applicable	2	1.4	-	-
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$t = 8.123 \quad df = 251 \quad P = 0.05$$

The differences between successes and failures in the 2 foregoing aspects are statistically significant.

The more realistic expectations of the success group coupled with the demonstration of familial concern contribute to a higher job stability in this group.

7.4. Satisfaction with first job

A large proportion of the success group were satisfied with the first job they obtained immediately after release. (see Table 34)

Table 34

SATISFACTION WITH FIRST JOB AFTER RELEASE FROM A TRAINING CENTRE

<u>Satisfied with 1st Job</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	103	74.1	63	54.3
No	34	24.5	53	45.7
Not applicable	2	1.4	-	-
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 13.820 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

45.7% of the failures were dissatisfied with their first jobs largely because of boredom, unpleasant conditions of work and low salaries. (see Table 35)

Table 35 REASON FOR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH FIRST JOB

<u>Reason for Disappointment</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Work was dull and uninteresting	9	26.5	21	39.6
Poor working conditions	3	8.8	11	20.8
Salary too low	15	44.1	19	35.8
No future prospects	7	20.6	2	3.8
Total	34	100.0	53	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 8.878 \quad df = 3 \quad P = 0.05$$

Only 2 from the failure group stated that they were dissatisfied because of lack of prospects which indicates that the failures were apparently more concerned with the fulfilment of primary needs and less with self-actualization needs.

7.5. Acceptance by fellow-workers

The majority of the respondents whose previous criminal history became known to their fellow-workers reported that they were not alienated as a consequence of such knowledge. (see Table 36)

Table 36

FELLOW WORKERS' RESPONSE TO THE INMATES' TRAINING CENTRE HISTORY

<u>Response</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Suspicious	3	8.8	5	14.3
Cold and aloof	5	14.7	4	11.4
Reasonable	26	76.5	26	74.3
Total	34	100.0	35	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 0.597 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

This proves that dissatisfaction with the job stemmed from bloated expectations and not from rejection by co-workers.

7.6. Financial assistance from family

77% of the successes received financial assistance from their families immediately on release from training centres while 57.8% of the failures claimed that no such assistance was ever offered to them. (see Table 37)

Table 37

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM FAMILY ON RELEASE FROM A TRAINING CENTRE

<u>Financial Assistance from Family</u>	<u>Success Group No.</u>	<u>Success Group %</u>	<u>Failure Group No.</u>	<u>Failure Group %</u>
Yes	107	77.0	49	42.2
No	31	22.3	67	57.8
Not applicable	1	0.7	-	-
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 33.970 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Considering that failures and successes have similar socio-economic backgrounds, the evidence appears to be that the failures' families were much less concerned with their well-being.

7.7. Source of psychological support

Again in this aspect, the successes' families evidently rendered much more support to them when they were depressed or unhappy than the failures' families (see Table 38).

Table 38 SOURCE OF SUPPORT WHEN DEPRESSED AND UNHAPPY APART FROM SUPERVISING OFFICER

<u>Source of Support</u>	<u>Success Group No.</u>	<u>Success Group %</u>	<u>Failure Group No.</u>	<u>Failure Group %</u>
Family or relatives	44	31.6	13	11.2
Friends	52	37.4	66	56.9
Social Agencies	-	-	-	-
Self	14	10.1	15	12.9
Not applicable (problem not encountered)	29	20.9	22	19.0
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 17.585 \quad df = 3 \quad P = 0.05$$

A positive show of concern did seem to give encouragement to the delinquents to toe the line.

7.8. Associates during leisure hours

Only 6% of the failures (see Table 39) spent their leisure with their families. This can be regarded as a reaction towards the families' lack of concern.

Table 39

ASSOCIATES IN LEISURE TIME

<u>Leisure associates</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Family members	34	24.5	7	6.0
Friends	105	75.5	109	94.0
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 15.908 \quad df = 1 \quad P = 0.05$$

If the failures' intimate friends were law-abiding citizens, then spending time with friends should not constitute a source of worry. However, such was not the case as 85.4% of the failure group professed that their intimate friends have criminal records. Through differential association, it would appear difficult to stay out of trouble even if one so desires.

In contrast to the failures, 24.5% of the successes spent their leisure hours with their families. Furthermore, 52.5% of them did not have friends with criminal records. (see Table 40)

Table 40

INTIMATE FRIENDS WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD

<u>Intimate friends with a criminal record</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
All of them	-	-	1	0.9
Most of them	3	2.1	22	19.0
Some of them	13	9.4	22	19.0
A few of them	50	36.0	54	46.5
None of them	68	48.9	14	12.0
Uncertain	5	3.6	3	2.6
Not applicable	-	-	-	-
Total	139	100.0	116	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 52.352 \quad df = 5 \quad P = 0.05$$

7.9. Contacts with triad societies or gangs

42.5% of the failures had contacts with triad societies or gangs while only 12.8% of the success admitted the same. Again, through the influence of differential association, the likelihood of reverting to crime would become much higher. (see Table 41)

Table 41

CONTACTS WITH TRIAD SOCIETIES OR GANGS
AFTER RELEASE FROM A TRAINING CENTRE

<u>Triad or gang contacts</u>	Success Group		Failure Group	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	11	12.8	45	42.5
No	75	87.2	61	57.5
Total	86	100.0	106	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 20.211 \quad df = 1 \quad P = 0.05$$

7.10. Summary on chapter

As none of the respondents chose to pursue any schooling after their release from training centres, their employment history became the focus of investigation.

It was found that during the post-release period, the failures' families rendered little financial or psychological support to them. In terms of job procurement, less than one-third of the failures' families assisted. The overall lack of family concern over the failures together with their unrealistic expectations of the future culminated in exaggerated disappointment. Association with criminal elements then seemed logical as these people might have been in the same dilemma before and would thus be more in the position to offer consolation. As a result of the combined influence of these factors, recidivism then becomes understandable.

CHAPTER 8

Findings VI : The Delinquents' Beliefs and Feelings

8.1. Introduction

The referential framework of an individual's behaviour is constructed upon his morals and values. Morals and values are acquired through the process of socialization which takes place either within the family, in school, or by interaction with one's peers.

If an individual is asked to pronounce his morals and values, he is likely to find the task difficult. Should he be able to perform the task, what he says may not be what he practises or thinks. The best way to unearth a person's moral standards and values is by observing the attitudes which he expresses towards himself and his surroundings, because attitudes are made up of two components, namely beliefs and feelings, both of which are closely related to one's value system.

An individual's behaviour, whether criminal or non-criminal, is an expression of his beliefs and feelings. The purpose of this chapter is to examine if the beliefs and feelings of successes and failures are significantly different. To achieve this end, both groups were asked to respond to a set of attitudinal statements pertaining to beliefs and feelings towards different aspects of human life.

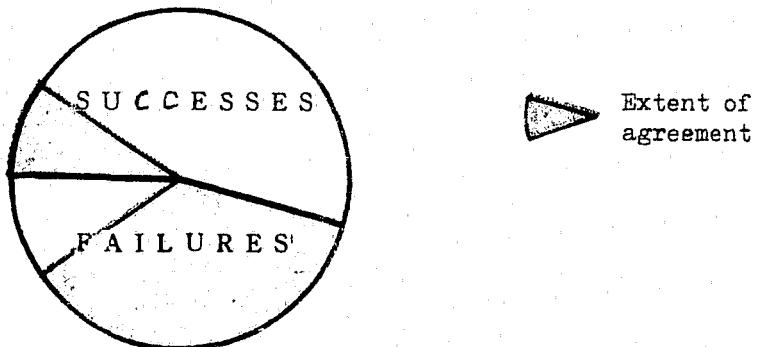
8.2. Moral integrity

Respondents were asked to endorse their agreement or disagreement with 2 attitude statements, both of which tapped at their beliefs in conventional values and the employment of legal and socially acceptable means to achieve their ends.

Statement 1 : See Figure 1

Figure 1 : Response to

"To get ahead in life, you may have to do something
which is not necessarily r'ght"



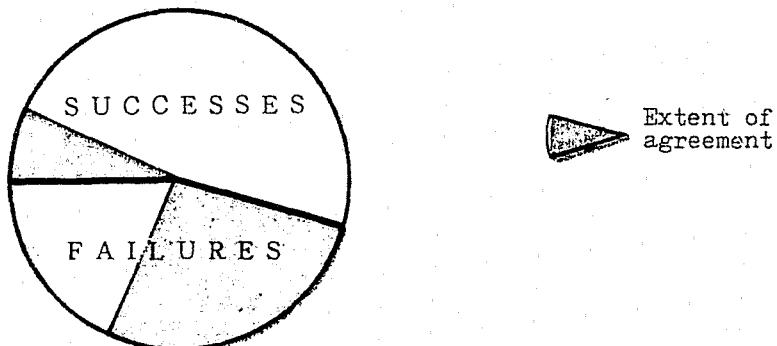
$$\chi^2 = 116.413 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

The failures evidently believed that the end justifies the means, and were thus likely to resort to illegal means to obtain what they wanted. The successes, on the contrary, were much more conventional and believed that the means were as important as the end.

Statement 2 : See Figure 2

Figure 2 : Response to

"One should employ all possible means to achieve one's goal"



$$\chi^2 = 87.861 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

The failures' responses further demonstrate that they were ruthless and had every tendency to engage in socially unacceptable behaviour in order to reach their goals.

From the responses given, it can be seen that irrespective of their achievement needs, the successes had a higher degree of moral integrity than the failures and were less likely to engage in criminal pursuits as a means to reach their goals.

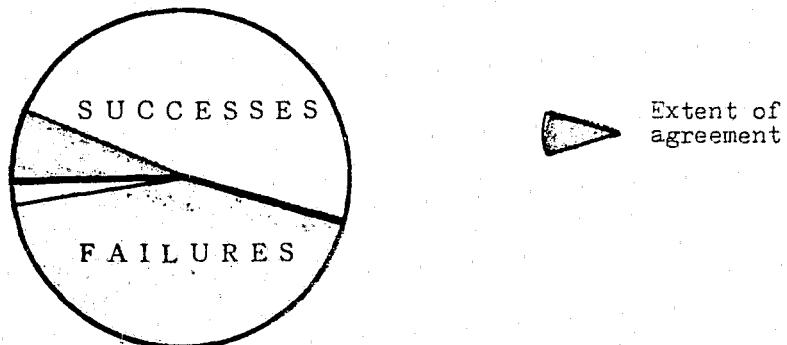
8.3. Belief in innate ascription and inevitability

4 statements were designed to detect if the delinquents believed in innate ascription and ultimate inevitability. It is assumed that an individual who leaves everything in the hands of fate is unlikely to make any effort to stay on the line, is likely to become passive and resort to whatever course of action that appears to be viable irrespective of whether such course is legal or illegal. In this respect, the failures are predicted to have firmer beliefs in innate ascription and inevitability than the successes as the latter obviously put in some effort to stay within the law. Furthermore, the temporal aspirations of the failures are expected to be of a poorer quality as they are expected to adopt a 'live-for-the-day' attitude.

Statement 3 : See Figure 3

Figure 3 : Response to

"No matter how hard I try, I simply cannot stay out of trouble"



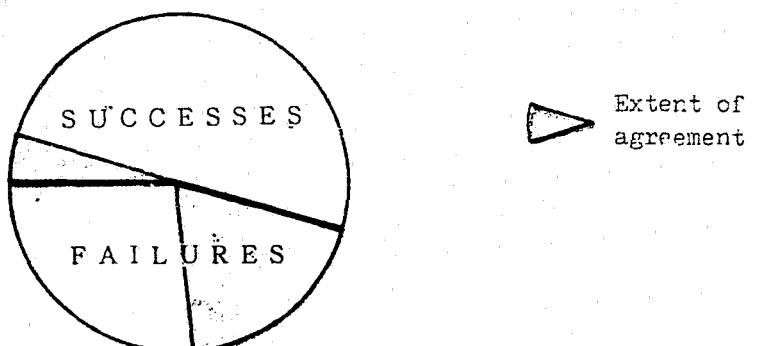
$$\chi^2 = 149.248 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

The failures' overwhelming agreement with the statement is an indication of their feeling of inability to evade trouble and their consequent decision to give up trying since any effort by them was pointless anyway. 72.7% of the successes however did not agree with the statement and were willing to devote some effort to stay law-abiding.

Statement 4 : See Figure 4

Figure 4 : Response to

"There are different types of people in this world,
some are born good, others are born evil"



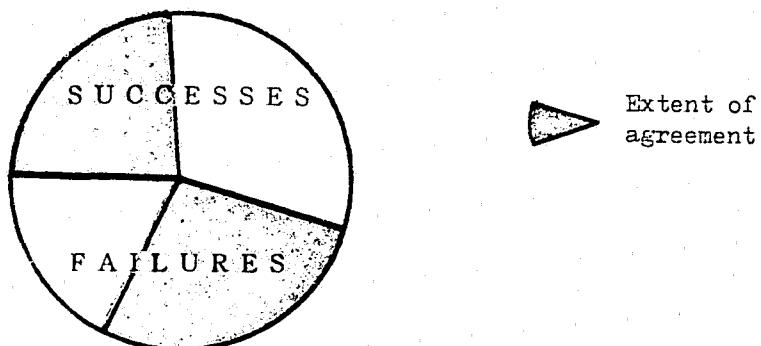
$$\chi^2 = 48.784 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

41.4% of the failure group compared with 8.6% of the success group agreed with the statement, which goes to show that the failures believed that crime-committing was inevitable for certain persons regardless of their socio-economic background and the quality of correctional training which they had received. It is probable that the failures counted themselves as born evil and thus incapable of breaking out of the vicious cycle.

Statement 5 : See Figure 5

Figure 5 : Response to

"Punishment is unlikely to change
the innate qualities of a person"



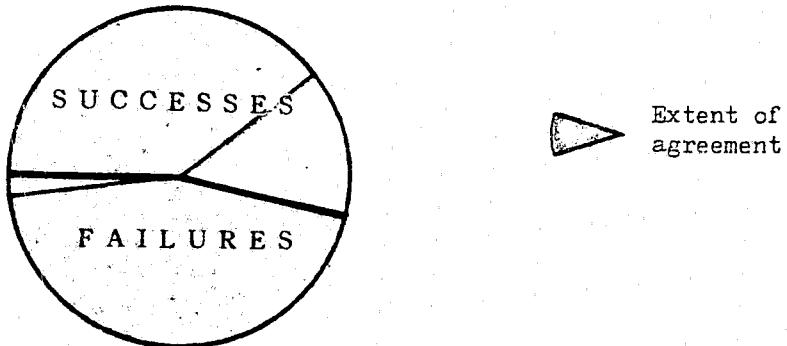
$$\chi^2 = 8.056 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Parallel to statement 4, more failures than successes believed that the qualities bestowed upon an individual at birth stay with him, and the corrective measures exerted upon him in the later stages of his life are unlikely to effect any changes.

Statement 6 : See Figure 6

Figure 6 : Response to

"Whatever is going to happen to me will happen
no matter what I do"



$$\chi^2 = 23.923 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Although more failures agreed with this statement than successes, nevertheless it is interesting to note that a large portion of both groups seemed to believe in pre-destination.

From the responses to the 4 attitudinal statements, the failure group seems to regard themselves as being on the receiving end of things and are rather pessimistic towards their future.

8.4. Self-concept

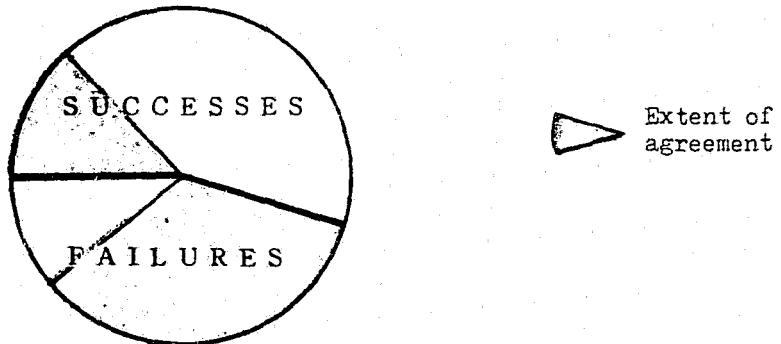
The values which an individual assigns to himself limit the quality of his temporal aspiration because an individual who conceives of himself as valueless is unlikely to strive for high goals. Within this context, the failures are expected to have poorer self-concepts than the successes as the latter strove comparatively harder to stay away from criminal pursuits.

3 attitudinal statements were presented to the respondents to find out if the self-evaluation of the failures and successes are significantly different.

Statement 7 : See Figure 7

Figure 7 : Response to

"At times, I think I am no good at all"



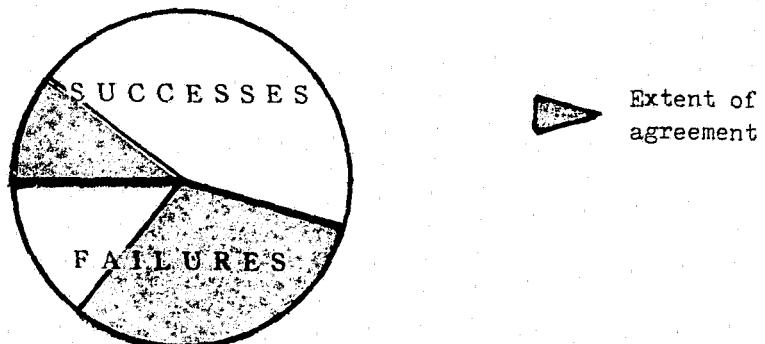
$$\chi^2 = 75.782 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

75.9% of the failures compared with 23.7% of the successes agreed with the statement, which confirms that the former had poor self-images.

Statement 8 : See Figure 8

Figure 8 : Response to

"On the whole, I am not satisfied with myself"



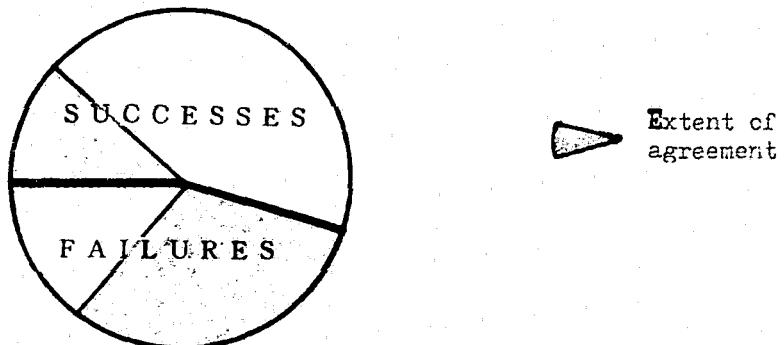
$$\chi^2 = 100.538 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

69.0% of the failures agreed with the statement. If an individual is dissatisfied with himself, there are two alternative routes of action to pursue : one is to make attempts to improve oneself, the other is to remain inactive. The route chosen by the failures is explicitly distinctive in their responses to statement 9.

Statement 9 : See Figure 9

Figure 9 : Response to

"If I can, I would like to be someone else"



$$\chi^2 = 66.827 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

The majority of the failures (70.7%) expressed agreement with the statement. This is to say that the failures, although dissatisfied with themselves, did not endeavour to improve themselves. Instead, they ventilated their frustration by wishing they were someone else.

8.5. Perceived relationship with others

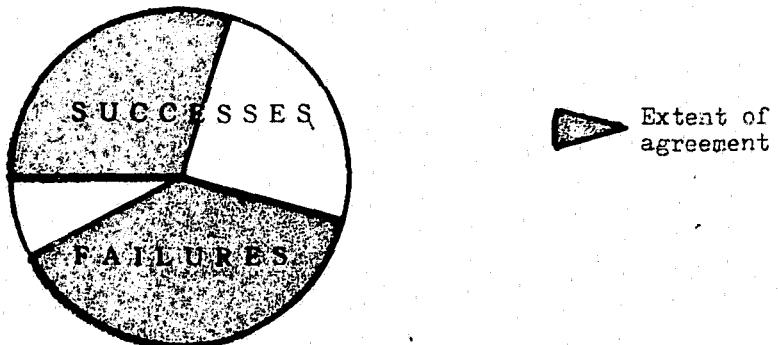
Behaviour is an expression of beliefs in and feelings towards things and people. It can be said that behaviour is influenced to a large extent by the manner in which an individual perceives of his relationship with those whom he comes into contact. If an individual perceives of others as nonchalant towards his well-being, it is probable that he may react with equal nonchalance or even detrimentally harmful behaviour. Criminal pursuit which is a violation of individual as well as societal behavioural norms can be a reaction towards perceived nonchalance in others.

Respondents were asked to state their opinions towards 2 attitudinal statements to see if successes enjoy better relationship with others than failures.

Statement 10 : See Figure 10

Figure 10 : Response to

"Most people do not care what happens to me"



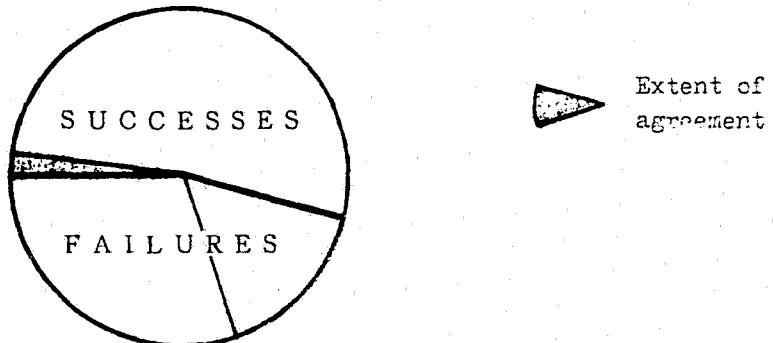
$$\chi^2 = 22.728 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Since criminal acts are very often illustrations of the criminal's inconsideration towards others, the failures' perceived lack of concern of others towards them may partially explain why they had less to hinder them from criminal pursuits.

Statement 11 : See Figure 11

Figure 11 : Response to

"If I am in trouble, my parents will not lend a helping hand"



$$\chi^2 = 148.448 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

A substantially larger number of the failures agreed with the statement which reinforces the concept that failures do perceive of others, especially their significant others, as nonchalant towards their well-being.

8.6. Perceived quality of social justice

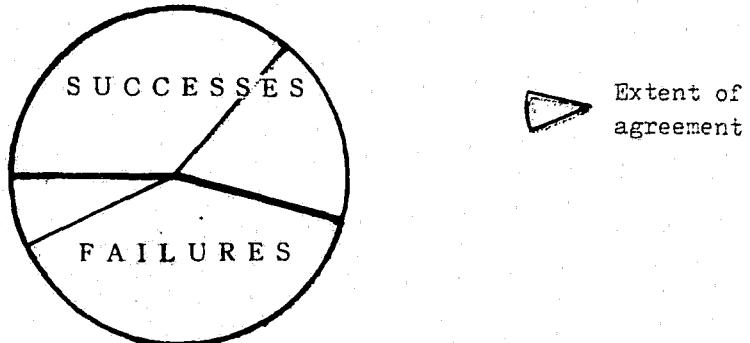
By social justice, one usually refers to an individual's concept of whether social discrimination exists in terms of if there is fair treatment to every individual regardless of his socio-economic background.

If an individual feels that social justice is a non-existent entity, it is likely that he will not treat society with justice by staying within the law. This is why failures are projected to have less faith in eventual social justice.

Statement 12 : See Figure 12

Figure 12 : Response to

"The rich are respectable regardless of how they accumulate their wealth"



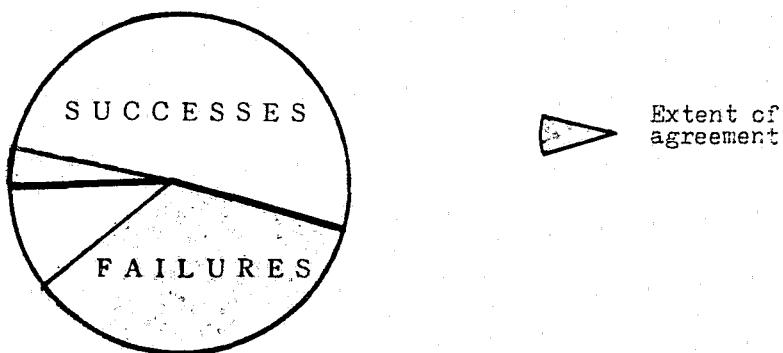
$$\chi^2 = 12.349 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Although the responses of successes and failures are significantly different, it appears that the majority of both groups agreed with the statement - a feature which is somehow true of the lower socio-economic class who view themselves as the underdogs because they are relatively more deprived economically.

Statement 13 : See Figure 13

Figure 13 : Response to

"Our society lacks opportunity and people do not get what they deserve"



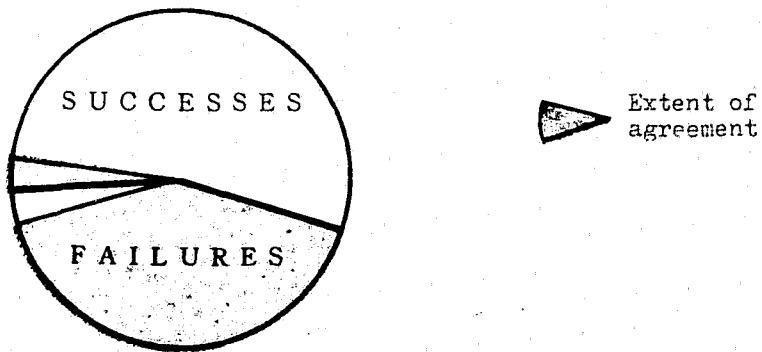
$$\chi^2 = 160.560 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

The failures overwhelmingly agreed with the idea which shows that they felt caged in by their social designation, and saw no legal route via which they might achieve their goals.

Statement 14 : See Figure 14

Figure 14 : Response to

"A man who once committed a crime will be stigmatized by society as a criminal for the rest of his life"



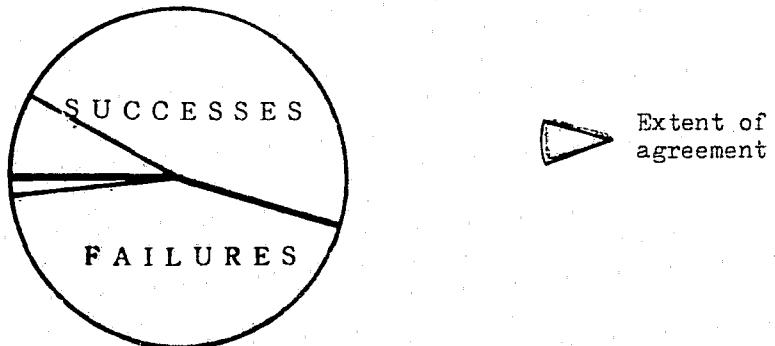
$$\chi^2 = 209.723 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Perhaps as a consequence of pre-institutional/institutional indoctrination and post-institutional experience, the failures felt that they were branded as criminals and were unlikely to be accepted by society as law-abiding citizens. This belief explains their subsequent reversion to a criminal career.

Statement 15 : See Figure 15

Figure 15 : Response to

"There is no difference between lying once and ten times!"



$$\chi^2 = 163.971 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

In support of the responses to Statement 14, the failures believed that there would ultimately be no difference between one and ten wrong-doings, as a wrong-doer would always be condemned irrespective of his intention to stay on the line.

From the responses to the four statements, it can be seen that failures had less conviction in and respect for social justice which explains their consequent recidivism.

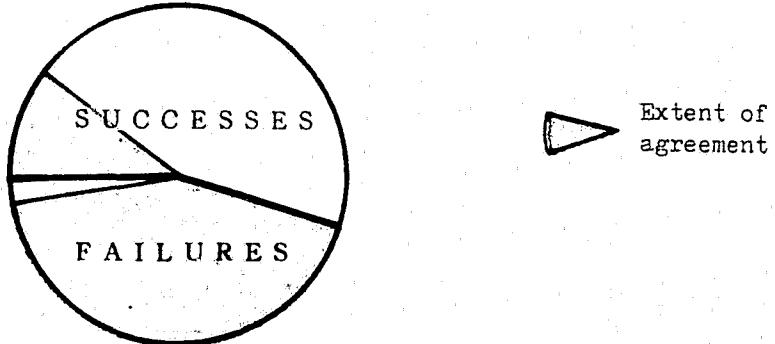
8.7. Temporal aspiration

The quality of an individual's temporal aspiration is determined to a large extent by his upbringing, past experiences, present predicament, and the strength of his belief in inevitability. From the responses of the successes and failures towards the attitudinal statements in the foregoing sections, it seems most likely that the temporal aspirations of these two groups should be significantly different.

Statement 16 : See Figure 16

Figure 16 : Response to

"It is useless to plan ahead since no one can be sure what the future holds"



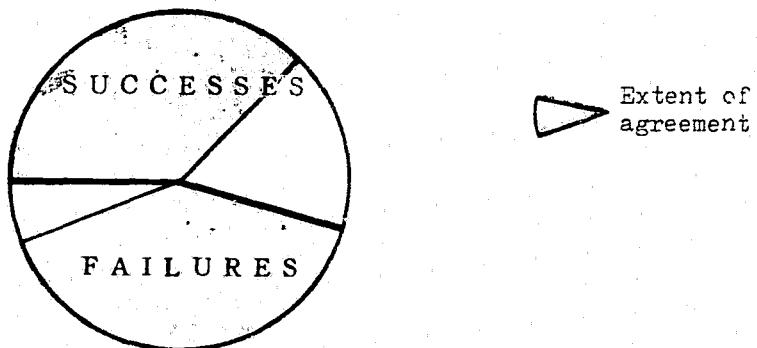
$$\chi^2 = 144.662 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

As displayed clearly, 94.8% of the failures endorsed their agreement with the statement which shows that they did not foresee themselves as either progressing or regressing in the future but envisaged remaining stagnant and allowing FATE to take care of them. Since the ability to stay law-abiding is not a chance factor but comes from active determination, such passive attitude of the failures partially explains their recidivism.

Statement 17 : See Figure 17

Figure 17 : Response to

"It is too early to think about things that may happen two years later"



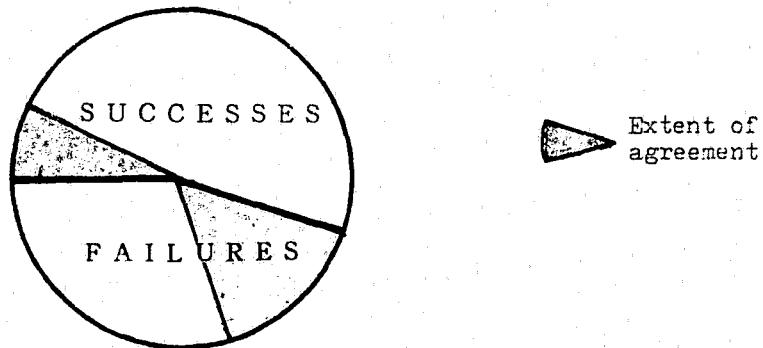
$$\chi^2 = 15.623 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Parallel to the responses to statement 16, more failures than successes made no plans for the future.

Statement 18 : See Figure 18

Figure 18 : Response to

"It is better to live for to-day and let tomorrow take care of itself"



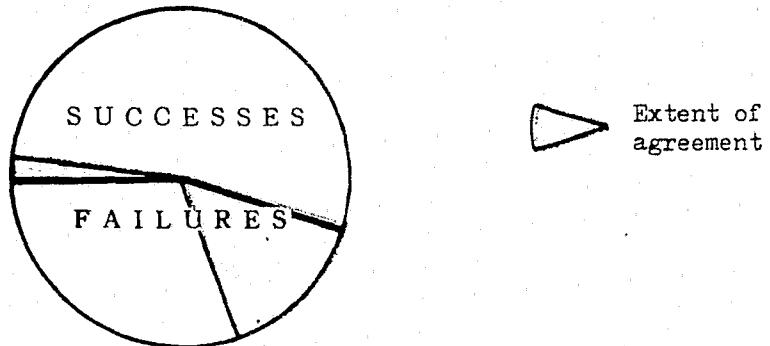
$$\chi^2 = 25.605 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

Again, more failures than successes saw no benefit in forward planning.

Statement 19 : See Figure 19

Figure 19 : Response to

"There is nothing wrong with spending forthcoming
money in advance"



$$\chi^2 = 41.591 \quad df = 2 \quad P = 0.05$$

This statement also serves as an indicator that more failures than successes saw no need to save up for the future.

The failure group as firm believers in pre-destination appeared to see no need to plan ahead. This passive attitude demonstrates the fact that the failures lacked motivation and self-determination to stay out of trouble, but rather permitted themselves to be mastered by their environment.

8.8. Summary on chapter

As illustrated by the failures' responses to the 19 attitudinal statements, they appeared to be lacking in moral integrity, had low self-esteem, believed in innate ascription and eventual inevitability, disbelieved in the existence of social justice, and did not see the need to plan ahead. Their attitudes can be described as defeatist in nature, and they are, as such, not likely to make any positive attempts to stay within the law.

CHAPTER 9

Nullification and Verification of Hypotheses

In para. 1.4. certain hypotheses are laid out in an attempt to identify the factors which are related to recidivism in young offenders. Numerous aspects believed by other researchers and local workers in law enforcement agencies to be related to recidivism have been examined in the foregoing chapters, and the findings from these investigations culminate in the following conclusions.

However, whilst interpreting these conclusions, it must be borne in mind that they are limited to those juvenile delinquents who once served a sentence of detention in a training centre run by the Prisons Department of Hong Kong. Any extension of these conclusive views therefore to cover other delinquents must be done with adequate reservations.

CONCLUSION I (Sections 3.2 to 3.4)

The socio-economic background of those who revert to crime after a period of training and those who do not are not significantly different.

CONCLUSION II (Section 4.2)

The age at first conviction cannot be correlated with reversion to crime subsequent to a period of correctional training.

CONCLUSION III (Section 4.7)

Reversion to crime after a set period of correctional training is related to affiliation with criminal elements/groups during the pre-institutional period.

CONCLUSION IV (Section 4.4)

The amount of intentional violence used in the initial crime is not correlated with eventual success or failure.

CONCLUSION V (Sections 5.2 to 5.4)

Juvenile delinquents who enjoy close emotional attachment to their families tend to be less susceptible to revert to crime after concluding a period of correctional training.

CONCLUSION VI (Section 6.4)

If a delinquent views his opportunity to receive correctional training as valuable, he is likely to accept the training programme better, benefit more from it, and consequently succeed in staying law-abiding.

CONCLUSION VII (Chapter 7)

If the post-institutional adjustment of a delinquent is satisfactory, then his chances of staying on the right side of the law are much better.

CONCLUSION VIII (Chapter 8)

If a delinquent sees himself as being of value, believes in his own ability to stay law-abiding, perceives of others as being concerned about his welfare, and feels that society treats him fairly, then his likelihood to revert to crime after a period of correctional training is sharply reduced.

From the stated conclusions, it can be seen that 6 out of the 8 hypotheses stipulated in para. 1.4. are supported by the findings.

CHAPTER 10

Derivative Findings

10.1. Introduction

Recidivism after the completion of a set period of correctional training is believed to be related to various factors. As stated in the introductory chapter, the main purpose of this research is to uncover these factors so that recidivism in juvenile delinquents may be more effectively controlled.

Several major areas were subjected to testing and analysis, and it was discovered that acceptance of correctional training, relationship with the family and post-institutional adjustment are of utmost importance in determining eventual recidivism. Based on these findings, the following recommendations are made.

10.2. Recommendations

Recommendation I

It is essential that before a juvenile delinquent is actually subjected to correctional training, he is given ample opportunity to comprehend fully the purposes behind every facet of the training programme so that he may take his full part in and benefit from the programme accordingly. If the delinquent fails to see the purpose of the training, he may condemn it from the beginning and thus defeat the court's objective of sentencing him to a training centre.

Essentially speaking, if a delinquent has benefited from the correctional training which he is subjected to, there should be certain changes in his feelings and beliefs towards himself and society at large. Such changes, if any, can be detected by administering attitudinal scales similar to the one used in Chapter 8 once at admission, again after 2 to 3 months and finally once before discharge.

Recommendation II

The family as the primary socialization agent can exercise tremendous influence over an individual's behaviour especially before the individual attains adulthood. Through the family, socially acceptable behavioural norms and standards may be transmitted to the adolescent provided that his relationship with the family is one of mutual trust and concern.

A family which shows understanding towards the delinquent's correctional sentence, and offers him guidance and assistance during and after his institutionalization, is erecting obstacles in the delinquent's way to recidivism because the delinquent is likely to think twice before he returns parental concern with disappointing behaviour.

To reconcile the family's ill feeling, if any, towards the delinquent and to assist the family to understand its importance in the delinquent's rehabilitative process are tasks of the after-care officer. The present recommendation therefore calls for the intensification of the supervision process.

Recommendation III

Some delinquents reverted to crime because they envisioned their post-institutional experience to be all roses without thorns. When they discovered that such was not the case, they became discouraged and ultimate recidivism came easily. It therefore becomes important that all inmates in training centres be required to undergo a pre-release programme whereby they are prepared psychologically to stand up to problems that may be forthcoming during their post-release period. To further assist these youths in their post-release adjustment, accommodation in a half-way house should be provided for them where their re-integration into society can be completed under proper guidance and supervision. Association with criminal elements in any form whatsoever should be discouraged as such exposure may be detrimental to the individual's determination to remain law-abiding. Again, after-care officers will be charged with the responsibilities in this case.

In working with young offenders, it is essential to keep in mind that one must never attempt to alter the environment to suit the individual. Rather, the individual must fit into the environmental confines. This lays the emphasis on the quality of correctional training offered as well as the intensity of after-care follow up.

APPENDIX A

Training Centres in Hong Kong

Training Centres in Hong Kong operate under the Training Centres Ordinance (Cap. 280 Laws of Hong Kong). This Ordinance provides for the training and reformation of offenders who have attained the age of 14 but have not attained the age of 21.

Before committing a young offender into a training centre, the court must place him under the custody of the Commissioner of Prisons so that the offender's suitability for this form of detention can be determined.

Since the inauguration of the first Training Centre in 1953, certain amendments to the relevant Ordinance have been made. The subjects of the present research were sentenced in accordance with the Training Centre Ordinance of the Revised Edition 1971. The 1971 edition provided that the period of detention in a training centre must not be less than 9 months, but should not exceed 3 years.

The training centre programme is composed of 3 major aspects. Firstly, each inmate is assigned to an after-care officer who gives him individual counselling and makes post-release arrangements for him. Secondly, as far as practicable, an individual vocational training programme is designed for the inmate in accordance with his interests. Thirdly, each inmate is obliged to take remedial education which is adjusted to his educational background.

A training centre boy's suitability for discharge is decided and evaluated by a Board of Review which periodically interviews each inmate to consider his progress. Once a boy is judged to have reached the peak of his response, he is released to prevent him from deteriorating.

Following discharge from a training centre, the ex-delinquent is subjected to four years' statutory after-care supervision counting from the date of his admission. If a supervisee's conduct should be unsatisfactory and he breaches the terms of his supervision order, he can be recalled to a training centre for further detention and training.

In 1974, the governing legislation was amended and consequently, the length of detention was altered to an indeterminate period of 6 months to 3 years, and the statutory supervision period became 3 years counting from the date of discharge. Statistics have shown that under the new supervision terms, non-reconviction rates are much higher.



APPENDIX B

The Interview Schedule

General information

- a. Inmate No. _____
b. (i) Present age _____
(ii) Age at release from Training Centre _____

I. Pre-institutional socio-economic attributes

- a. District of residence : _____
1. Hong Kong Island
2. Kowloon
3. New Kowloon
4. New Territories & Outlying Islands
- b. Type of Accommodation _____
1. apartment/flat/house
2. tenement floor
3. self-contained public housing
4. new self-contained public housing
5. Housing Society
6. hut
7. simple stone structure
8. others
- c. Religious affiliation : _____
1. None
2. Catholic
3. Protestant
4. Ancestral Worship
5. Buddhist
6. Others
- d. Marital status : _____
1. single
2. married
3. cohabit
4. separated
5. divorced
- e. Length of residence in H.K. : _____ years
- f. Education attainment : _____
1. No formal education
2. lower primary
3. upper primary
4. lower secondary
5. upper secondary
6. post-secondary & beyond

III. Criminal maturity :-

- a. Age at first conviction : _____
- b. What offence did you commit which brought you to a Training Centre?

- c. Did you commit this offence by yourself or were you with a gang?

(If with a gang) How many members were there in your gang?

- d. Have you ever committed any offence before the one which brought you to a Training Centre?

1. Yes
2. No
- (If yes) (i) What was/were the offence(s)?
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
- (ii) Did you commit the offence(s) by yourself or were you with a gang?

- e. (i) What do you think drove you to commit the first offence?

- (ii) Did you premeditate before you committed the first offence?

1. Yes
2. No
- (iii) Do you think that the sentence(s) passed on you by the court was/were fair?

1. Yes
2. No
- f. Have you ever been on probation or sent to a boy's home/approved school?

1. Yes
2. No
- g. (i) Have you been connected with the triad society in any way (with or without the formal enrolment ceremony)?
1. Yes
2. No
- (ii) (If yes) What was your position?
1. office bearer
2. active member
3. former member
4. affiliated

h. (i) Has any one in your family committed any criminal offence?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

(ii) (If Yes) Who? _____

i. (i) Has any of your family member ever joined/been connected with the triad society?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

(ii) (If Yes) How many and who are they?

Number _____

- 1. father
- 2. mother
- 3. brother
- 4. sister
- 5. others (specify)

III. Influences from the family (pre-institutionalization, whilst in institution and post-release)

a. With whom did you live?

- 1. alone
- 2. friends
- 3. relatives
- 4. family
- 5. wife

b. Are your parents still alive?

- 1. both alive
- 2. neither living

(How old were you when they died?)

Father _____

Mother _____

3. mother dead (How old were you when she died?)
Father dead (How old were you when he died?)

c. (i) Are/were your parents separated?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

(ii) (If yes) Since when? (in terms of age of respondent)

d. Before your Training Centre sentence

(i) With whom were you closest to in your family?

- 1. mother
- 2. father
- 3. both father and mother
- 4. siblings
- 5. relatives
- 6. no one

(ii) Who do you think in your family is least concerned with your well-being? _____

1. mother
2. father
3. both father and mother
4. siblings
5. relatives
6. no one

(iii) How would you describe your relationship with your family at present? _____

1. very close
2. so - so
3. not close
4. no relationship at all
5. indifferent and unconcerned
6. hostile

e. How did your family react to your Training Centre sentence?

1. ashamed
2. hostile
3. indifferent
4. reasonable and concerned
5. over-protective

f. (If the respondent was single before Training Centre sentence)
Did you have a steady girl friend by then? _____

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not sure

g. Before sentenced to Training Centre, how many people in your family were dependent on you? _____

h. Did you contribute to maintain the family before your Training Centre sentence? _____

1. regularly
2. occasionally
3. rarely
4. never

During Detention in Training Centre

i. (i) Did you get visits or letters from your family relatives or friends? _____

1. Yes
2. No

(If yes), most frequently from whom? _____

1. father
2. mother
3. siblings
4. wife
5. friend
6. girl friend
7. relative

(ii) How often? _____

1. regularly
2. very often
3. occasionally
4. rarely

(iii) How would you estimate your relationship with your family, girl friend/wife during your detention?

(a) family _____

1. closer
2. same as before
3. alienated
4. worsened
5. not applicable

(b) girl friend _____

1. closer
2. same as before
3. alienated
4. worsened
5. not applicable

(c) wife _____

1. closer
2. same as before
3. alienated
4. worsened
5. not applicable

After discharge from Training Centre

j. Did you get any financial support from your family immediately after your discharge from a Training Centre?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not applicable

k. Where did you reside after discharge from a Training Centre?

1. old residence
2. new residence

l. (i) With whom did you live? _____

1. family
2. friends
3. alone

(ii) (If you lived with friends or family) How were you getting along with one another? _____

1. very well
2. so - so
3. not harmonious

(iii) (If not living with family) What is your main reason for not living with your family? _____

1. insufficient space
2. can't get along with family members
3. can't get on well with neighbours
4. don't want to be closely supervised by family

5. living environment not satisfactory
 6. as required by the job
 7. other (specify)
- m. Who in the family would be most likely to tender help or advice when you needed it since your discharge from Training Centre?

-
1. father
 2. mother
 3. both parents
 4. siblings
 5. relatives
 6. wife
 7. nobody

- n. After being discharged from Training Centre, have you ever contributed to maintain the family?
-
1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Not applicable
- o. How often have you spent your leisure with your family?
-
1. very often
 2. occasionally
 3. rarely
 4. not applicable
- p. How would you evaluate your present relationship with your family as a whole?
-
1. close
 2. so - so
 3. cold and indifferent

IV. Adjustment to and acceptance of institutional training

a. Information on institutional adjustment

(i) A summary of infractions of rules and action taken

1. the nature of every infraction _____
 2. the action taken against respondent _____
- Total no. of infractions _____

(ii) Evaluation on schooling and vocational training during Training Centre training

- (a) schooling _____
1. good
 2. fair
 3. not interested
 4. apathetic
- (b) vocational training _____
1. good
 2. fair
 3. not interested
 4. apathetic

(iii) Length of detention in Training Centre _____ months

b. Self appraisal of institutional experience

- (i) Besides the initial period of adjustment, what were the things in the institution that bothered you?

Choose from the following the problems encountered and rank the 3 most significant ones in order of seriousness :-

1. routine life too dull
2. training programme too harsh
3. staff too severe and demanding
4. fail to gain acceptance of other inmates
5. inadequate food supply
6. insufficient medical care
7. inadequate living premises
8. insufficient recreational activity
9. bullied by fellow inmates
10. no problem

(ii) Which part of the institutional programme did you find most interesting? _____

(iii) (a) Do you recommend young people in a similar situation like you to receive Training Centre training?

1. Yes
2. No

(b) Why? _____

c. Different people tend to react to the same situation differently, so does it apply to people who receive the same Training Centre training. Here are some feelings of the ex-Training Centre boys towards Training Centre training, I would like to see if you find them agreeable.

(i) "So rigid that I cannot handle it" _____

1. Yes
2. neutral
3. disagree

(ii) "Unpleasant but beneficial" _____

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

(iii) "I can respond adequately to the training but it will not exert any influence on my future style of living."

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

(iv) "There is not sufficient opportunity for me to voice my difficulties."

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

d. Was your Training Centre training a source of frustration to you?

-
- 1. Yes
 - 2. No

V. Post-release experience

Peer group affiliation

a. (i) How many of your intimate friends have ever committed any offence?

- 1. all of them
- 2. most of them
- 3. some of them
- 4. a few of them
- 5. none of them
- 6. I don't know, I am not sure
- 7. not applicable, I have no intimate friends

(ii) (If yes) Did you know them when you committed your first offence?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not applicables

b. Have you lost any of your old friends because of institutionalisation?

- 1. many
- 2. some
- 3. a few
- 4. none

c. Is any of the acquaintances you made in the Training Centre continued beyond discharge?

- 1. many
- 2. some
- 3. a few
- 4. none

d. Are your present intimate friends

- 1. your old (known before Training Centre admission) friends?
- 2. friends made at Training Centre?
- 3. new friends made after discharge?

e. You surely have met with a no. of problems after discharge, from whom did you ask for help when you encountered the following problems?

(i) short of money

- 1. family or relatives
- 2. friends
- 3. social agencies
- 4. others (specify)
- 5. not applicable

(ii) seeking for job

- 1. family or relatives
- 2. friends
- 3. social agencies

- 4. others (specify)
- 5. not applicable

(iii) depressed and unhappy _____

- 1. family or relatives
- 2. friends
- 3. social agencies
- 4. others (specify)
- 5. not applicable

(iv) undecided over making a decision _____

- 1. family or relatives
- 2. friends
- 3. social agencies
- 4. others (specify)
- 5. not applicable

(v) bullied/intimidated by others _____

- 1. family or relatives
- 2. friends
- 3. social agencies
- 4. others (specify)
- 5. not applicable

f. With whom do you spend your leisure mostly? _____

- 1. family
- 2. friends
- 3. other (please specify)

g. How do you and your friends pass the time together? _____

- 1. picnicking & sports
- 2. movies
- 3. billiard room
- 4. Ma-Jong schools
- 5. gambling den
- 6. ballrooms and music parlours
- 7. loitering around
- 8. others (specify)

h. Have you ever joined any youth centre activities in a voluntary, governmental or religious organization? _____

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

i. Have you ever practiced martial-art (Kung Fu)? _____

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

(If yes) (i) Where did you learn it? _____

(If the respondent learns it from a Kung-Fu school)

- (ii) Are you still a member of it? _____
- (iii) What was your purpose of learning it? _____
- (iv) Did you find what you learnt useful? _____

Vocational information :-

j. What was your occupation before your Training Centre admission? (including student) _____

k. Were you working in the period immediately before your Training Centre sentence? _____

1. Yes
2. No

(If no) How long were you out of work before you committed the offence that brought you to Training Centre? _____

1. 1 month or less
2. 1 - 2 months
3. 3 - 4 months
4. 5 - 6 months
5. 7 months to 1 year
6. more than 1 year
7. not applicable

l. What kind of job did you expect to get on release? _____

m. How much did you expect to get? _____ dollars/month

n. What was your first job after your discharge? _____

o. How did you manage to get it? _____

1. After-care service arrangement
2. family arrangement (via after-care liaison)
3. self effort
4. help of friends (via after-care liaison)

p. Did you feel disappointed with that job? _____

1. Yes
2. No

q. How long did you hold the job? _____

r. Did your employer learn about your Training Centre history? _____

1. Yes
2. No

Did your Co-workers learn about your Training Centre history? _____

1. Yes
2. No

(If yes) How did they react?

(i) employer _____

1. suspicious
2. kept an arm's length
3. reasonable

(ii) Co-workers _____

1. suspicious
2. kept an arm's length
3. reasonable

s. (i) What was the longest job you held after discharge and for how long? _____

(ii) (If the respondent quitted that job)
Why did you quit? _____

1. for a better job
2. can't get along with co-workers and/or superior
3. get fired (and why)
4. can't cope with the job
5. get fed up with the job
6. to avoid being sacked
7. close down of shop/lack of business

t. Do you think that the Training Centre training helps you in seeking a job? _____

1. Yes
2. No

u. Were you working in the period immediately before your latest offence? _____

1. Yes
2. No

(If yes) (i) What was the job? _____
(ii) How long have you been on that job? _____

(If no) For how long have you been unemployed by the time you committed your latest offence? _____

1. 1 month or less
2. 1 - 2 months
3. 3 - 4 months
4. 5 - 6 months
5. 7 months to 1 year
6. more than 1 year
7. not applicable

VI. Attitudes and Self-conception

Different people have different views toward themselves and their relationship with other people. I would like to know some of yours.

a. "To get ahead in life, you may have to do something which is not necessarily right." _____

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

b. "One should employ all possible means to achieve one's goal." _____

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

c. "No matter how hard I try, I simply cannot stay out of trouble" _____

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

d. "There are different types of people in this world, some are born good, others are born evil." _____

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

e. "Punishment is unlikely to change the innate qualities of a person"

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

f. "Whatever is going to happen to me will happen no matter what I do."

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

g. "At times, I think I am no good at all."

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

h. "On the whole, I am not satisfied with myself"

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

i. "If I can, I would like to be someone else."

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

j. "Most people do not care what happens to me."

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

k. "If I am in trouble, my parents will not lend a helping hand."

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

l. "The rich are respectable regardless of how they accumulate their wealth."

1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

m. "Our society lacks opportunity and people do not get what they deserve."

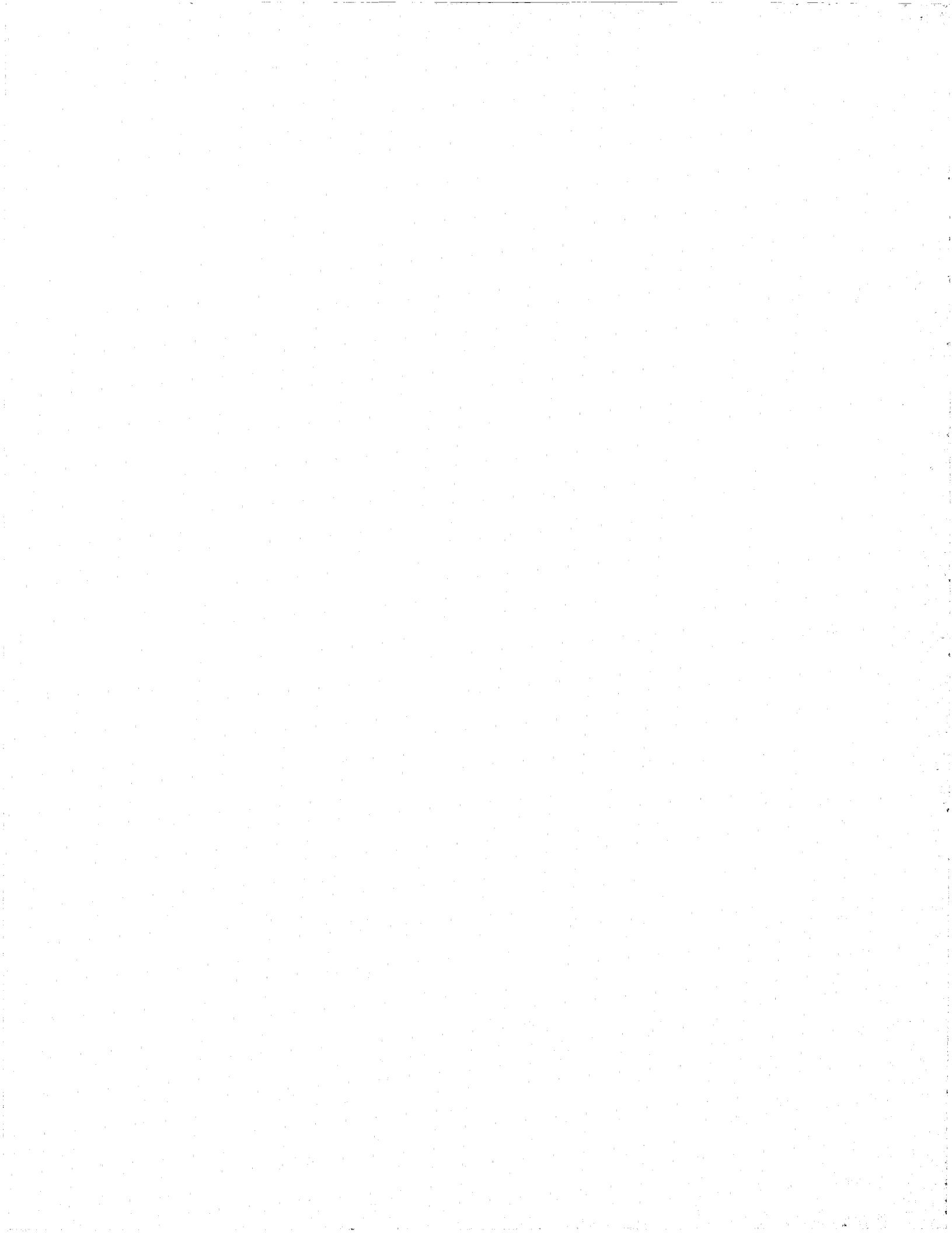
1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

- n. "A man who once committed a crime will be stigmatized by society as a criminal for the rest of his life." _____
1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree
- o. "There is no difference between lying once and ten times." _____
1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree
- p. "It is useless to plan ahead since no one can be sure what the future holds." _____
1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree
- q. "It is too early to think about things that may happen two years later." _____
1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree
- r. "It is better to live for to-day and let to-morrow take care of itself." _____
1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree
- s. "There is nothing wrong with spending forthcoming money in advance." _____
1. agree
2. neutral
3. disagree

APPENDIX C

	Internal Validity		Discriminating Power
Statement 1	0.8296	Statement 1	0.8418
2	0.5957	2	0.6146
3	0.6897	3	0.9518
4	0.4327	4	0.6250
5	0.4140	5	0.4658
6	0.8776	6	1.0000
7	0.5950	7	0.8773
8	0.7600	8	0.9388
9	0.6525	9	0.7351
10	0.5220	10	0.4333
11	0.6013	11	0.7513
12	0.4694	12	0.8491
13	0.7144	13	0.9701
14	0.7751	14	1.0000
15	0.8332	15	1.0000
16	0.7858	16	1.0000
17	0.7518	17	1.0000
18	0.6241	18	0.6056
19	0.4065	19	0.5333

Initially, 33 statements were administered to the respondents. However, a pre-test involving 20 subjects revealed that 14 of the 33 statements had low internal validity and/or little discriminating power.



END