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Structure of Correlation between Delinquency  
and Personality Traits  
— Second Report —

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**I. Purpose**

Based on the prospect discussed in the First Interim Report, this study has the purpose to throw an objective light on the relations between given dimensions of delinquency and some dimensions of personality traits through examining delinquency and personality traits multidimensionally, further composing both of them operationally.

Before discussing the main subject, relations between items themselves which are to be attributed to delinquency and the composed dimensions of personality traits are described. Same is also examined in both types of delinquents who tend to commit property offenses and who mainly commit violent offenses, assuming that delinquency factors may typically or purely appear in these two types.

**II. Method**

**1. Subjects:**

- (1) A total of 1,020 male juvenile delinquents who were received and comprehensively classified by the juvenile classification homes throughout Japan between August 1 and September 30 in 1973.
- (2) A total of 1,248 male juvenile delinquents who were received by the juvenile classification homes throughout the country from June, 1975 through June, 1976. Their main offenses for which they committed to the home were either property offenses or violent offenses.

2. In order to compose delinquency, following objective items were chosen as possible variables which may explain delinquency;

- (1) those items which closely related to juvenile's misconducts such as 'frequency of runaway from home,' 'experience of sexual intercourse,' 'abuse of drugs,' and 'belonging to delinquent group',
- (2) those items which directly related to the present case and previous records of offenses committed, such as 'type of offenses committed,' 'number of accomplice,' and 'manifestation of delinquent acts.'

By using two item groups obtained through the above mentioned procedure separately, two kinds of delinquency were multidimensionally composed by means of the mathematical model, namely, quantification theory model (in case of no criterion) developed by Chikio Hayashi.

3. Factors of personality were, on the other hand, multidimensionally composed by using principal component analysis. For this analysis, responses obtained from 1,000 non-delinquents to the Personality Inventory developed by the Ministry of Justice (MJPI) were employed. Incidentally, those components of responses to MJPI's clinical scales which correlated to the reliability scales were eliminated by applying partial correlation model so as to secure genuineness of personality components, that is, to avoid distorted responses and defensive responses to adjust the responder to socially desirable norms.

### III. Results

1. When referred to the items closely related to juvenile's misconducts, three dimensions were composed. They are (1) general delinquency, (2) delinquency formed through family conflicts at an early stage of life history, and (3) delinquency formed through spoiling upbringing at home. In the meantime, if used the items directly connected with the present case and previous delinquent acts, following three dimensions were composed; (1) proleptic-confirmed delinquency, (2) delayed-occasional delinquency, and (3) multifarious-violent delinquency.

2. Concerning personality traits, five factors were obtained, namely, (1) explosiveness, (2) neurotic tendency, (3) lack of will, (4) vanity, and (5) exaltation.

3. Relations between personality factors and two kinds of composed dimensions of delinquency as well as contributing items which compose delinquency were cross-examined. At the same time, relations between personality factors and contributing items to delinquency in both case of property and violent offenses were also separately elucidated.

#### IV. Discussion

Since 'neurotic tendency' and 'exaltation' factors are considered to have high correlations with criminals and delinquents, several subjects who showed either high score or low score in the composed dimensions of delinquency were here selected and analysed. As a result, following facts were found:

Those who earn a high score in 'general delinquency' dimension, the dimension which indicates that the subjects have serious problems in every item of misconducts examined, tend to show high scores in both 'neurotic tendency' and 'exaltation' compared with those of low score maker in 'general delinquency.' Same tendency are found in the subjects who earn a high score in the dimension of 'delinquency formed through family conflicts at an early stage of life history,' however, it is noted that they are particularly high in 'neurotic tendency.' Although those who are high in 'delinquency formed through spoiling upbringing at home' also show high in 'neurotic tendency' and 'exaltation,' the tendency is the mildest of the three. It is obvious, from the above findings, that the gravity in each dimension of the composed delinquency corresponds to the deviation in personality factors to certain extent.

With respect to the dimensions of delinquency led from items directly related to the present case, both groups who earn high and low scores in 'proleptic-confirmed delinquency' and 'mulifarious-violent delinquency' tend to show a high score in 'neurotic tendency' but no significant feature in 'exaltation.' They can not, therefore, be distinguished each other. On the other hand, subjects who are high in the dimension of 'delayed-occasional delinquency' tend to show rather high score in 'exaltation' and low in 'neurotic tendency.' Accordingly, this type of delinquents presumably has more rash tendency but less neurotic tendency in their personality.

Further, personality traits were crossed with some selected items from which delinquency factors were composed.

Frequency of both runaway from home and change of job proportions to large amount of explosiveness and neurotic tendencies, and small amount of lack-of-will tendency. Regarding types of delinquents, close relations are found between the following matches; habitual type delinquency—vanity, planned type delinquency—lack of will, passionial type delinquency—explosiveness, and follower type delinquency—lack of will. While in case of occasional type delinquency, personality traits of this type of delinquents are more or less similar to those of non-delinquents except 'neurotic tendency' and 'exaltation'.

Finally, personality factors of delinquents were analysed separately for property offenders and violent offenders. Delinquents who have only thefts in their records

show high score in 'neurotic tendency.' Delinquents who have been committing thefts as well as frauds are high in scores of both 'lack of will' and 'vanity.' Close relations are seen between juvenile violent offenders who committed bodily injury, bodily injury causing death, assault, intimidation, etc. and 'explosiveness.' Delinquents who have also extortion other than above violent offenses in their records show high scores in both 'neurotic tendency' and 'lack of will'.

## V. Future Prospect

1. Further discussion should be made for selecting items to compose delinquency factors.
2. It is insufficient to compose multiple personality factors by only assessing personality traits with MJPI which has a limitation to measure moral phases of personality and ego strength.
3. Relations between dimensions of the composed delinquency and other personality factors than 'neurotic tendency' and 'exaltation' should be explored.
4. Female delinquents are to be included in the subjects.



**END**