Comparative Profiles Of Delinquent
and Non-Delinquent Male Adolescents in
Irbid District

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ABSTRACT

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The primary purpose of this study was to investigate the differences between delinquents and non-delinquents in socioeconomic status, personal and social adjustment patterns and personality traits. Furthermore, the study was interested in determining the differences between convicted and incarcerated on the same variables as mentioned above. Finally, the study was interested in identifying the differences between the three subgroups according to the type of offence (theft, assault, and sexual offence) on the socioeconomic status, personal and social adjustment patterns, and personality traits.

The sample of this study was composed of 137 (91 non-delinquents and 46 delinquents) male adolescents. Non-delinquents were selected randomly from four public schools located in Irbid, Husen, Faura, and Kufrrsoum. While, delinquents were selected from both the delinquent institutions in Irbid.

Several instruments were used in this study: Trait Anxiety Inventory, Socioeconomic Status Scale, Minnesota Counseling Inventory, Coopersmith Self-esteem Inventory, and High School Personality Questionnaire which measures 14 personality traits.

The one way analysis of variance revealed significant differences between delinquents and non-delinquents on anxiety trait, attitudes toward self, social relationships, conformity, and adjustment to reality. Non-delinquents were found to have significantly higher scores than delinquents on each of the anxiety and attitudes toward
self scales, while delinquents were found to have significantly higher scores on attitude toward home. On the MCI subscales (Social Relationships, Conformity, and Adjustment to Reality) non-delinquents were found to have significantly lower scores than those of delinquents.

Regarding convicted and incarcerated, one way analysis of variance revealed significant difference on factor Shy/Adventurous (HSPQ). Incarcerated scored higher than did the convicted. The multiple comparisons using the Scheffe' method revealed that sexual offense subgroup reported more positive attitudes toward peers than did the theft subgroup. Differences between other pairs of groups were not found to be statistically significant.

The study found that high anxiety, low self concept, poor social relationships, and irresponsibility are the major aspects that characterize the delinquents from non-delinquents.