Static Risk and Clinical Concern Profiles Among Juvenile Offenders: A Comparative and Multivariate Analysis of Sexual and Non-Sexual Offending

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Abstract:

Objectives: To differentiate between the profiles of juvenile offenders, this study analyzes the risk and clinical concern profiles of adjudicated juvenile offenders for sexual and non-sexual offenses with respect to demographics and static risk factors.

Methods: We collected and analyzed data from 900 male juveniles across government observation homes in South India — one in Bengaluru, Karnataka, and two in Andhra pradesh. It involved 450 sexual and 450 non-sexual offense cases. An 8-item Static Risk scale, a 16-item Common Clinical Concern (CCC) scale, and demographic variables were assessed.

Results: The groups (sexual and non-sexual) showed no difference in Static Risk scores or categories. However, the Non-Sexual group displayed higher CCC scores ($p < .001$, $r = -.15$) and higher peer delinquency, emotional dysregulation, cognitive distortions, school exclusion, truancy, and exposure to violence. Multivariate analysis indicated that age, education, joint-family background, and CCC subscale score distinguished the two groups (pseudo-$R^2 = .148$).

Conclusions: Overall, the Juveniles adjudicated for sexual offenses did not show a higher overall risk than those adjudicated for non-sexual offenses. The findings support a generalist view of juvenile offending and emphasize the value of individualized, dynamic need-based assessment over offense-based distinctions.

Keywords:

Clinical needs assessment, India, juvenile justice, juvenile sexual offending, risk assessment, risk-need-responsivity.