



## THE EFFECT OF DELINQUENT STUDENTS' LIFE STYLES ON THEIR COMMUNICATION APPREHENSION (CA)

Turan SOLEIMANIA<sup>1</sup>, Vida AGHELZADEHB<sup>2</sup>, Sardar BAHRAMNIA<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PhD in Management & Curriculum, Management Department of Educational Science, Ardabil Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ardabil, Iran,

<sup>2</sup> PhD student Department of Educational Science, Ardabil Branch, Islamic Azad University, Ardabil, Iran.

**\*Corresponding Author:**

**Email:** sardar.bahramnia1970@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

*Delinquency is one of the main societal problems caused by the inefficiency of the educational system of that society. To facilitate the teaching-learning process, an effective and efficient educational system must identify and resolve the probable barriers by scientific and planned predictions and solutions for training skilled, creative, expert, entrepreneurial, responsible and responsive human resources. Nowadays, personality traits, especially student delinquency is important and investigable. Hence, the study was conducted to examine the effect of life styles of delinquent students on their communication apprehension (CA) among upper secondary school of boy students in Ardabil from their educator's point of view. Methodology: The population included all educators of Ardebil schools, working in 2017-2018. A sample of 60 subjects was selected using cluster sampling method. The research instruments was a questionnaire of delinquent students' life styles and its effects on their CA. Pearson correlation and regression analysis were used for analyzing the data. Results: The results of regression analysis showed that lifestyle of delinquent students could explain CA. Conclusion: the results showed a significant relationship between the life style of delinquent students and the levels of CA.*

**Keywords:** Delinquency, Life Styles, Epigenetics, Educators, CA.

### INTRODUCTION

Students' life styles are shaped according to their family rearing system affected by inheritance and the environment. However, what is more significant is that due to the complexity of rearing system and its being affected by the environment, adolescents show behaviors as delinquency. Moreover, as almost none of the families know much about the effect of life styles on the formation of the character of their children, they disturb the families with Western models and witness behavioral disorders, moral deviations, and delinquent practices. The current study aimed to deal with concepts such as the definition of delinquency from different perspectives and views, life styles and variables, epigenetics, and its great effects on delinquency, educator and CA, and examined the effect of life style on CA.

In the introduction, the statement of the problem, significance of the study, review of literature and background, the goals and research hypotheses were addressed.

#### ***The significance of the study:***

The extensive development of technology and virtual networks in the global village has attracted many young people and students with no knowledge and applied awareness of its use

towards it. They are unaware of the fact that the networks are apparently instructive but they are malicious in nature and are awaiting to select and get their good baits for whom the adolescents are the ideal option. Thus, juvenile delinquency is a global phenomenon. Different communities face different types of it given their socioeconomic status. The juvenile delinquency is a sub-branch of deviation and crime, which can be summarized as the violation of legal standards by young people. The term delinquent is used for those who act against the rules, regulations, values and norms of culture (Farjad, 1996). Delinquent behaviors are the ones that endanger the health and well-being of adolescents and young people and others in the community (Zarei, 2009). The progress of human societies are indebted to a healthy, committed, expert and young people in those societies. Although delinquency is a very complex social phenomenon characterized in social settings in accordance with legal rules and social norms, the French sociologist Durkheim defines delinquency as follows: "Every action is considered a crime when it disturbs the strong and specific emotions of collective (Group) conscience". It appears that for the definition of delinquency, not all societies can be unanimous, because rather than its characteristics, it is the community's judgment about sociocultural values that makes it a crime. Thus, the legal definition of delinquency and delinquent behavior differ in law, sociology and criminology.

#### *Definition of delinquency in different approaches*

- *Legal approach of crime*

Crime is a violation of the current normative system in the society that is actionable through the Penal Code. Any action against morality and social justice can be considered as a crime. The purpose of drafting penal laws prevent behaviors that somehow affect the community and its people and disturb the social order.

- *Sociological Approach*

The sociological approach to crime is largely based on the theories of Durkheim. According to the theory, "Crime is a natural phenomenon resulting from the culture, civilization, and spaces of every society." The evolution of cultures change the concept of crime, its type and quality, and modernity has a significant role in this regard. Thus, this approach considers social norms in the definition of crime, and it entitles a crime as the practice against the norms of the community, which affects a group or collective emotions and consciences.

#### *Criminological approach*

The overall view of this approach in defining crime refers to commission or omission, which is dangerous to society, for example, addiction is seen as a commission or disregarding driving regulations is regarded as an omission.

#### *Appearance approach*

Appearance approach is one of the oldest delinquency theories describing delinquency based on the biological structure and physical appearance of delinquency. This approach has a completely different theoretical approach towards crime compared to other approaches. Sheldon and Kretschmer suggested the effect of physical shape on individual responses to the situation. They introduced three types of endomorphic, mesomorphic, and ectomorph personality types. Sheldon's studies have shown that personality types have a great effect on delinquent behavior. Later, Glueck's studies on 500 people with proven delinquency against 500 non-delinquent people introduced mesomorph personality type as more offensive and prone to delinquent behaviors. However, in his study, forty-two sociocultural factors were



correlated with delinquency. In evaluating this approach, Dyhumi stated that what remains in today's thought and belief is attributed from the personality roles of actors being watched in a film or television. Ugly people play usually rogue and delinquent roles and attractive people play positive ones. Some studies have confirmed the results of judges' judgments. The results of some showed that the tendency of the judge is in the affirmation of the innocence of those who are more attractive.

#### ***Biological structure approach***

This approach stresses the role of the individual's personality role in delinquent behavior, the same as the effect of genes on behavior.

#### ***Psychological Approach***

Delinquent behavior is rooted in learning the observed behavior. This is the subject of discussion in sociological approaches to delinquent behavior. Psychological approaches mostly consider the psychological aspects of the problem in explaining the crime rather than the biological issue. The theories of this approach mainly discuss the personality element in examining delinquency behaviors, which is called an antisocial personality. Recent studies of this approach by Caspi and Moffitt indicated that anger, anxiety, personality instability are the negative emotions related to the factors predisposing to delinquent behavior.

#### ***Economic status approach***

In the approach, the effects of the economic factor on delinquency, poverty and disease, economic inequalities, education, housing, single parents, bad parents, no parents, and so on are widely discussed.

#### ***Social control approach***

According to Hershey, delinquency as a social issue involves:

Dependence: The sensitivity of a person to his or her beliefs about others

Commitment: The level of risk a person encounters in contradicting contractual behavior.

Engagement: The engagement of a person in different activities, making him not to have time to do something wrong

Beliefs: The credit a person makes for community contractual norms

#### ***Differential association approach***

According to Defleur and Quinney motives, attitudes and criminal practices effectively lead to repeated offenses. Joining delinquents or separating from non- delinquents (differential association) leads to learning that is in violation with the rules. Repetition and the quantitative nature of the discussions offering definitions of crime and law abusive practices on anti-crime processes lead to the adoption of crime.

#### ***Types of common crimes***

Homicide: An act that causes the death of another without legal justifications

Rape: Exercising illegal sexual abuse towards women

Robbery: Getting or the intention to firmly harassing or taking with threatening other people's belongings

Assault: The illegal intention to harm and spoil people's emotions verbally or physically, the severe form of which leads to assault

Burglary: Illegal entry by force or without force into a home, office, factory, workplace, and so on for using and taking their belongings.



Larceny theft: Taking or trying illegally to take others' properties without using force like pickpocketing

Motor vehicle theft: Illegal taking or attempting to take out vehicles that belong to others

Arson: Causing deliberate damage by burning personal property of others or public properties

Fraud: A deliberate intention to deceive others for personal benefits

Vandalism: Hostile looting, causing damage to private or public properties deliberately, such as breaking glasses of public places and attacking people.

Prostitution: Making illegal and sexual relationships or promoting to do so.

### ***Background of the study***

Many studies have been conducted on the life styles of the criminals and the delinquencies committed, but no studies have been done regarding the relationship between CA and the lifestyles of the delinquent students. Some of these studies are as follows:

Khajehnouri (2010) conducted a study on the relationship between ICT and the inclination to commit crimes among 500 high school students in Abadeh using survey method. The results indicated a positive relationship between using ICT and the tendency of delinquency. Nevertheless, using old media was not related to crime and the use of modern ICT, with great popularity among the youth, accounting for about 12% of the tendency to delinquency.

Aliverdinia et al. (2008) conducted a study on the relationship between sport activities (one of the components of lifestyle) and delinquency, where the relationship between more engagement in solitary and delinquent sports was obtained.

Moshkani (1992) conducted a study entitled "Measuring the effect of the internal and external factors of the family on juvenile delinquency of 15 girls in Evin Prison and among 90 girls at the center for the rehabilitation of Tehran." The data from this study showed that reinforcing positive attitudes of belief and ethics led to the delinquency of person.

Pouryousefi et al. (2009) conducted a sociological study of the factors affecting the social behavior of girls using survey method on female students of high schools in 3rd and 19th regions of Tehran, with a sample population of 380. The results indicated a significant relationship between religious families and the behavioral patterns of students (Pouryousefi et al.).

Luckfield et al. (1997) conducted a study entitled "Religiosity aspects as the relationships between deviant behaviors and parents and adults." The study showed the three dimensions of religiosity were intervening variables between parental behaviors and deviation, and the parents expected the religiosity to eliminate the next deviation of their children.

### ***Research hypothesis***

Is there a relationship between life style and CA of upper secondary school students in Ardebil according to educators?

### ***Lifestyles:***

Life style is adapting a stylistic approach to life. Lifestyle can be considered as a set of perceptions, values, behaviors, modes, tastes, and functions that one uses and functions that take place in different areas of life, including the type of cover, food, language, literature, fashion, cultural consumption, personal behaviors, livelihood and leisure (Aboutorabian, 2014). The recent status of Iranian society is such that the life styles of the families have become very diverse and disrupted, so that the members of a family may have different



lifestyles. There are different elements in different life styles that can affect people's behaviors and direct family members towards different directions.

- *Types of life styles:*

A: Islamic life style

B: Modern life style

This study was an attempt to examine and evaluate the relationship between the life style of delinquent students and their CA according to educators.

***Epigenetic:***

The term epigenetic was first introduced in 1942 by the British biologist Conrad Hal Waddington and has had significant advances in various scientific fields to date. Epigenetics is a theory on inheritance stating that genes have a memory for events that modifies the pattern of gene expression without changing the DNA sequence. Epigenetics is a factor affecting the transcription and translation of genes, which can turn on or off the genes. Indeed, epigenetics considers the evolution of organisms as the result of the exchange between the environment and the inheritance. This theory relies on the environment. The role of the environment in this theory has made scientists of other sciences to consider its importance, two of which include psychologists and scientists of educational science.

The famous psychologist Ericsson proposes a theory called epigenetic principle, explaining how humans develop through the manifestation of their personality in predetermined circumstances, affected by culture and customs around them. It easily shows how environment and genetics can form creatures, including human beings in their present time, and inherit certain characteristics of their children.

CA may be genetic in some people. The studies indicated that CA can be inherited. Besides CA, epigenetics can be implicated in some abnormal behaviors, the effects of which on the creatures can be so drastic. Epigenetic can affect children individually in different stages of life as well as hereditary ones. In the molecular world, one can easily see that epigenetics can control certain genes. In the biology aspect, it can even affect humans' homeostasis (maintaining the stable and constant conditions of the environment inside the body such as temperature).

In the biological dimension, epigenetics can have a tremendous effect on the person. A branch of epigenetics called probabilistic epigenetics is a theory that suggests how organisms, besides affecting others, affect themselves. In fact, their two-way function suggests four factors (environmental, neurological, behavioral, and genetic factors). Although the presence of several biological factors may enhance the risk factor of crime in a person, the interaction of psychological issues and the effects of social factors on the delinquency should be considered (Lundman).

***Educator:***

Educators are the ones who have a great mission in the schools of religious, spiritual and social education of students.

***CA:***

- *The concept of CA*

CA is a complex and highly specialized concept that can be examined in the field of human communication. It was introduced by McCroskey in the 1970s and shows the anxiety and state of anxiety that one experiences when communicating with others (McCroskey, 1975).





All humans experience anxiety when facing many people for oral presentations, but in most of situations this anxiety does not mean the loss of communication opportunity.

- **Definition of CA**

The most comprehensive and accepted definition is the one stated by McCroskey: “anxiety or stress caused by the actual or expected relationship with someone or other people” (Pearson et al., 2005).

- **Levels of CA**

- ✓ **People with High CA:** They experience high levels of anxiety while communicating. These people are more comfortable in isolation and loneliness. Moreover, the level of self-esteem is low in these people.
- ✓ **People with low CA:** Although they have difficulties in communicating with others, they can control their anxiety and after controlling their anxiety, they can well present their oral presentations (Pearson et al., 2006).

- **Types of CA**

In 1986, McCroskey, Richmond, and Davis have introduced four types of CA, described and defined below (McCroskey, Richmond, & Davis, 1986).

- ✓ **Personality CA**

The personality CA is “a relatively stable orientation in personality towards a particular type of communication in a variety of contexts” (McCroskey, Richmond, & Davis, 1986).

Among the most important forms of personality CA, CA in oral and written communication can be presented. As this type of CA is related to the personality, its measurement results for each of them would be somewhat constant over time. This type of CA changes when threatened but it is resistant against change.

- ✓ **Situational CA**

According to McCroskey et al., CA is “a relatively stable orientation in the personality of a person towards a particular condition and position,” which has four types.

- CA in public presentations
- CA in some two-person situations
- CA in group discussions
- CA of sessions or classrooms
- Audience-based CA

It depends on the circumstances where the person is and the type of relationship he or she has with the person or other persons, such as the chief of staff and employees is “a relatively stable orientation towards communication with a particular person or group of individuals.”

- ✓ **Situational CA**

This type of CA is at the other end of continuum relative to personality CA and is “a transitory and short-term orientation towards communication with an individual or a group of people,” like calling a guardian into his room.

In a study by Richmond and McCroskey, 70% of the samples had anxiety (Richmond and McCroskey, 1992).

The familiarity of teachers with CA and its types enables the student to establish the CA of the students relative to the socialization and quality of the education process and to have effective



behaviors toward them. They can avoid assigning assignments and tasks that make them more distressed, anxious, and tense.

#### *Other factors*

- *Reinforces*

Children who receive rewards for having communications and their behaviors are supported somehow, they reinforce their behavior and have low CA; and opposite will make them have a higher CA and prefer to ignore communication.

- *Inadequate development of skills*

If the child's parents rarely speak to him and the child does not have the opportunity to contact and communicate with his peers, effective communication skills would not be formed in him, and different types of shyness and CA would be presented instead.

- *Lack of proper behavioral models in the child's life*

#### **A: The components of the lifestyles of delinquent students**

Row	Components of the lifestyle of delinquent students
1	Religious activities
2	Media (domestic and foreign)
3	Manage free time
4	Body music
5	Body management

## **METHODOLOGY**

The study was fundamental with descriptive-correlational design. In this study, we tried to judge the criterion variable CA by the predictive variables.

#### *The population, sample and sampling method*

The population included all educators of the schools in Ardebil, who were working in upper secondary grades of boys' schools in 2017-2018. The sample size was measured based on Klein's method (2011) as 60. The sampling method was cluster sampling. The educators were divided into separate clusters according to the units of work and the first and second districts. Among all educators, 60 subjects were selected and the questionnaires were administered to them.

#### *Research Instruments*

Researcher made questionnaire: A researcher-made questionnaire was used for studying and evaluating the effect of life style of delinquent students on CA according to the educators. The scoring method of the questionnaire was based on Likert scale and had positive and negative scales. In the questionnaire of the effect of life style of delinquent students according to the educators, five options - very high, high, medium, low, and very low were used to be aware of the occurrence and observation of CA. Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to estimate the reliability of the questionnaires and SPSS software was used to analyze the results. After analyzing data, the alpha coefficient of the questionnaire on the effect of life style of delinquent students was obtained from the educators' view (0.85). The obtained coefficients were relatively good coefficients, showing the reliability of the above questionnaire for the application and evaluation of variables.



CA Questionnaire: It included 40 questions designed to explain the effect of life styles of delinquent students on CA according to the educators, which had two levels of high and low of CA. Some questions have been devoted to each of these aspects. After calculations, the alpha coefficient of the questionnaire was obtained as 0.81. The coefficients obtained were relatively good coefficients.

In the inferential statistics, multivariate regression was used based on the research hypotheses. It should be noted that the data was analyzed using SPSS software.

## RESULTS

Table 1 presents the descriptive summary of the collected data (standard deviation). Multivariate regression analysis was used to analyze the hypothesis, whose results are presented in Table 2.

**Table 1: Examining the statistical indices of the subjects in the variable**

Variable	Frequency	Mean	SD
Lifestyle	60	17.60	1.47
CA	60	25.79	2.19

**Table 2: Examining the prediction of the tendency towards entrepreneurship through the components of organizational atmosphere**

Criterion variable	Predictor	R <sup>2</sup>	R	F	Beta	T	Sig
Tendency towards CA	Religious activities	0.63	0.74	108.524	0.43	10.53	0.001
	Foreign and domestic media				0.26	5.60	0.001
	Free time management				0.49	12.10	0.001
	Body music				0.38	9.33	0.001
	Body management				0.35	8.50	0.001

### *Standardized regression coefficient: Beta*

Multiple regression analysis was used to test the hypothesis. According to Table 2, lifestyle components with  $F = 108.542$  at the level of 0.001 significantly predicted the variance of CA. The multiple correlations between variables were about 0.74%, showing that about 0.83% of the variance of CA could be explained by lifestyle component. Table 2 shows the coefficient of determination of variables. These results indicated that the predicting power of the lifestyle components was high and could predict the variance of CA.

## DISCUSS THE CONCLUSION

Studying CA among the male students of upper secondary school in Ardebil showed that the Islamic life style was more common than modern life style among students. However, the components of modern lifestyle showed that high school students' tendency towards using modern music and foreign media such as movies, satellite, and so on was increasing. In contrast, using religious programs in the domestic media showed a drastic reduction. Modern lifestyle and its components, like the use of foreign media and modern music, recreational activities and body management, have caused an increase in the delinquency tendency among students and thus have led to CA and provided the ground for crime. Indeed, listening to vulgar meaningless music, displaying violent images and abnormal scenes from foreign media,



satellite networks, Internet, and familiarity with some of the criminal tricks depicted in the films, emotionally stimulating computer games and virtual Internet communication, caused by modern lifestyle, have had great effect on high levels of CA.

## SUGGESTIONS

It is suggested that the future studies make a comparison of male and female students regarding the research subject for generalizing the results.

## References

- Aboutorabian, F. (2014), Symbols of Western lifestyle versus Islamic life, *Quarterly of Religious Life Style*, No. 1, pp. 126-95.
- Aliverdina, A. Arman Mehr, A. & V. (2008), Sport and Victim Activities: The Experimental Test of Social Linking Theory of Hirschi, *Journal of Motion Exercise and Sports*, Vol. 2, No. 12, pp. 141-133.
- Farjad, M.H. (1996), *Social Pathology, Family and Divorce*, Mansouri Publications
- J. Mc Croskey, V. Richmond, and L. Davis. "Apprehension about Communicating with Supervisors: A Test of Theoretical Relationship between types of Communication Apprehension," *Western Journal of Communication*, 1986, 50, PP. 171-182.
- Judy Pearson, Paul Nelson, Scott Titsworth and Lynn Harter. *Human Communication*, Boston: Mc Graw-Hill, 2005, PP.366-367.
- McCroskey, J.C. "The Effects of Communication Apprehension on Non Verbal Behaviour" Paper Presented to the Eastern Communication Convention (New York N.Y. 1975.
- Pearson, Nelson and Associates, 2006, P.368.
- Pouryousefi, T., Aghapour Farkhosh, A. (2009) Sociological Study of the Factors Affecting the Patterned Behavior of Girl's Social Behavior, *Scientific Journal of Science Social Issue*, Third Year, No. 1, pp. 160-194
- V. Richmond and J. Mc Croskey. *Communication: Apprehension, Avoidance, and Effectiveness*, 1992.
- Zarei, E. (2009), A Survey on the Relationship Between Parents' Parenting Techniques with Juvenile Offending on Highly Risky Behaviors Based on Cloninger Scale, *Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences, Yazd*, Volume 18, Issue 3, pp. 220-224.

