

Study of Religious Value among Violent and Non-violent Male Offenders

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Abstract:

People having high religious value give importance to unity and harmony. These people try to find the experience of unity through self denial and mediation. He seeks out something divine in every event. They are interesting to track what is most meaningful in life, and adapt a particular life style. They are ascetic and find their own ideals in life. They pursue for to experience the world as unified whole. This study is significant for explanation, prediction, prevention, and control of criminal behavior as well as remedial measures for the same. A result of this study suggests that non-violent offenders are found more on religious value than violent offenders. High age group Offenders have been found more on religious value than low age group offenders.

Keywords: Offenders, values, violent, prisoner, criminal.

Introduction:

The offending behaviour is a matter of great concern because civilized society has paid much on the nuisance value of offenders. The present study is concerned with the age wise differences in personality factors, emotional intelligence and values among violent and non-violent male offenders. In group of violent offenders included murderers and in group of non-violent offenders included offenders, who have committed the crime in which element of violence has not been used such as property crime, economic crime, corruption, offences relating to election, false evidence and documents, property, weight and measures, shoplifter, pickpocket, theft, chain snatching, offences relating to coins and currency, drugs and medicine etc. To

understand the effect of age-group difference in committing the crime, both types of offenders are categorized as low age group (20 to 30 years) and high age group (35 to 45 years).

Values guide the individual's behavioural decisions. People having high religious value give importance to unity and harmony. These people try to find the experience of unity through self denial and mediation. He seeks out something divine in every event. They are interested to track what is most meaningful in life, and adapt a particular life style. They are ascetic and find their own ideals in life. They want to experience the world as unified whole.

According to S.P. Kulshrestha (1970) values are pattern of preferences or generalized attitudes with (mostly) real independent existence indicating the desirability of behaviors in terms of social, moral, aesthetic, and psychological needs (Kulshrestha, 1970).

Sumter, M. T. (1999) examined the relationship between inmates' religion and post-release adjustment. She conducted a study on 321 male prisoner's sample, from 12 prisons throughout the United States. Findings of this study indicated that, high frequency of involvement in religious programs in the prison setting were associated with a lower rate of post-release arrests. Sumter then suggested, inculcating religious value among prisoner, religious programs are essential in the prisons and could be a potential rehabilitative consideration. (Sumter, 1999)

Significance of the study:

This study is significant for explanation, prediction, prevention, and control of criminal behavior as well as remedial measures for the same. This study will also facilitate for development of programmes, regarding rehabilitation of the prisoners.

Statement of the problem;

“Religious values among male offenders convicted for violent and non-violent offence”.

Objectives of the study:

- 1) To compare the religious value among violent and non-violent male offenders.
- 2) To find out the differences between low age group and high age group male offenders in terms of their religious values.

- 3) To find out the age wise differences within violent male offenders in terms of their religious values.
- 4) To find out the age wise differences within non-violent male offenders in terms of their religious values.

Following hypotheses were framed on the basis of review of literature and objectives of the study:

- 1) There would be significant difference between violent offenders and non-violent offenders in terms of religious values.
- 2) High age group offenders would be more on religious value than low age group offenders.
- 3) There would be no significant interaction between type of offenders and age group of offenders in terms of their religious values.

Selection of sample

In the present study researcher has selected, 240 male prisoners (participants), convicted for violent and non-violent offence. Out of them 120 were convicted for violent (IPC 302, 304) and 120 were convicted for non-violent offence (IPC 420). The age of samples ranged between '20 and 45' years and they were divided in to two groups that are '20 to 30' and '35 to 45' years. Participants were selected by simple random sampling method, on the basis of conviction within three years after having committed the offence. Age and crime (IPC/SLL) details of prisoners are as per the record of Prison.

The tools used for the present study:

Value test (Study of Values) (S.P. Kulshrestha; 1970):- This test is an Indian adaptation of Allport, Vernon and Lindzey's study of values (1960) in Hindi language, aims to measure the relative prominence of six basic values or interests in personality.

Results:

The obtained F value is 21.91 ($F(1, 236) = 21.91; p < 0.01$) for first main effect in respect of religious variable is statistically significant. The eta square value associated with the same

indicates that the effect size is moderate (.085). It explains 8.5% variance of religious value variable. The Mean of the non-violent offenders ($M = 47.70$, $SD = 6.23$) is greater than the Mean of violent offenders ($M = 43.73$, $SD = 7.19$); it shows that the non-violent offenders are more on religious values than violent offenders.

The F value obtained for the second main effect, is 11.57 ($p < 0.01$) which is also statistically significant. The eta square value associated with the same indicates that the effect is small (.047). It means that the Mean score of low age group offenders ($M = 44.27$, $SD = 7.00$) is lower than the Mean scores of high age group offenders ($M = 47.15$, $SD = 6.73$). This shows the religious value is more among high age group offenders than low age group offenders. The interaction effect ($A \times B$) between types of offenders and age group of offenders is not significant for religious value ($F_{(1, 236)} = 2.79$; $p = NS$).

Conclusions

- 1) Non-violent offenders are found more on religious value than violent offenders.
- 2) High age group Offenders have been found more on religious value than low age group offenders.
- 3) No significant interaction has been found between types of offenders and age group of offenders in terms of their religious values.

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