



**MENTAL ILLNESS AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AMONG CHILDREN'S  
IN ORPHANAGES**

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**ABSTRACT**

*There have been several laws, regulations, and programmes passed and implemented to protect children and adolescents, yet their plight is still a major reason for worry. The main aim of the study is Mental Illness and Emotional Intelligence Among Children's in Orphanages. This research was exploratory in character, using a variety of methods to find the best fit for the problem. The problem of juvenile delinquency is approached differently by the field of psychiatry than by that of criminology.*

*Keywords: Regulation, Criminology, psychiatry, Mental Illness, Emotional Intelligence*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

There have been several laws, regulations, and programmes passed and implemented to protect children and adolescents, yet their plight is still a major reason for worry. The streets aren't the only place where children are exploited, mishandled, and abused; families and institutions are just as guilty. Abuse of children takes many forms, from the withholding of necessities like food and water to the more extreme forms of violence and exploitation. Many kids don't get to have the carefree, cheerful, and fun childhood they deserve. They are prevented from being children and instead made to act like adults, protecting themselves from the dangers of the world. Sadly, crimes committed against children continue to rise. According to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of offences committed against minors rose from 89423 in 2014 to 1,06,958 in 2016, representing a 13.6% rise from the previous year. This is according to the FBI's 2017 National Crime Records Database. Kidnapping, abduction, and rape of juvenile girls and boys occur often throughout the nation, according to research and press reports. No of the length of time a youngster is exposed to cruelty, they will always carry the emotional scars. Young people's feelings of helplessness can mature into resentment and hostility against adult society. When people are injured and vulnerable, they often resort to antisocial behaviour and become easy prey for hardened criminals. It's been shown time and time again that kids who are abused, neglected, or punished severely as kids grow up to be adults who engage in the same behaviour. The outcomes of the investigation have changed this presumption. There has been a worrying rise in the number of reports of IPC offences committed by minors, according to studies and polls. Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2015) reports that the number of minors detained has climbed from 39822 in 2012 to 43,506 in 2013 and 48230 in 2014. There are more males than females arrested for IPC and SLL offences. As of December 2015, authorities have



arrested 11,274 males and 340 females. An exploratory study done in 2011 found that out of all the juveniles engaged in different crimes, 81.4% were youngsters living with parents, 5.7% were homeless, and the balance were minors living under some guardian.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

**Priyadarshini D, Sandhiya & Rathnasabapathy, Maya (2020)** The purpose of this analysis was to learn more about the psychological and behavioural issues faced by orphans. Conduct issues, difficulties with peers, hyperactivity, aggression, a lack of prosocial behaviour, low levels of prosocial behaviour, externalising behaviours, and internalising behaviours are all examples of behavioural disorders. Depression, anxiety, stress, poor self-esteem, solitude, child neglect, and despair are all examples of emotional behaviours. Several electronic resources, including Research Gate, PsycINFO, EBSCO, CrossRef, Medline, PubMed, and Scopus, were used to do a meta-analysis of previously conducted studies on orphans. Orphans have been shown to have higher rates of sadness, anxiety, tension, anger, poor self-esteem, and both internalising and externalising behaviours. Anxiety, depression, stress, decision making skills, externalising behaviours, internalising behaviours, aggression, conduct problem, peer-relationship problem, emotional health, mental health, self-esteem, self-concept, quality of life, child neglect, and suicidality were among the keywords used to search the databases because they are associated with behavioural and emotional problems.

**Singh, Abhinesh & Sekher, T V. (2020)** This research takes into account the living situation, academic achievement, and nutritional condition of children in families when both parents are deceased. UNICEF distinguishes between three primary categories of orphans: those without fathers (paternal orphans), those without mothers (maternal orphans), and those with no parents at all (double orphans) (absence of both the parents). While examining academic achievement and nutritional state, this research compares orphans and non-orphans. The 2015-16 Indian National Family Health Survey data was utilised for this analysis. This is a nationally representative survey of many thousands of homes. According to the survey results, 5% of families included at least one orphan (any of the three sorts of orphans) in the age range of 0-18. A study of where orphans live revealed that single and double orphans were more likely to live with grandparents or other relatives, while single and double orphans were more likely to live with extended family. When comparing orphans and non-orphans, it was revealed that the orphan population had a greater rate of never having attended school and a higher rate of dropping out of school. All three indices of nutritional status (stunting, wasting, and underweight) showed that orphans lagged behind their non-orphaned peers. A child's entire development is negatively impacted by the loss of a parent, thus targeted interventions are necessary to improve the lives of orphans who live in their homes.

**Sameena, DarDar & Rouf (2016)** During the last two and a half decades, Kashmir has seen a surge in both the number of orphans and the number of institutions dedicated to caring for them. Children raised in institutions like orphanages often suffer from untreated mental health issues. Orphanages in six randomly chosen Kashmiri districts were sampled for this cross-sectional survey, which took place between April 2014 and March 2015. It was also decided to



evaluate potential contributors to mental illness in the selected group. From a sample of 450 kids, 38 percent had some sort of mental illness. According to the Child Behaviour Check-List, 33.3% of these children exhibited attention issues, 24.5% were sad, and 21.4% were anxious. There is a strong correlation between mental illness and age ( $p < 0.001$ ), orphan type ( $p < 0.001$ ), parent's death reason ( $p < 0.001$ ), social shift within the family ( $p < 0.001$ ), orphanage stay length ( $p < 0.001$ ), and sibling engagement in childbirth ( $p < 0.008$ ). Children in orphanages have a high prevalence of mental illness. There's an urgent need to address the concerns of this marginalised population right now.

**Lassi, Zohra & Mahmud (2011)** This research looked at the differences between children in traditional orphanages and those living in an SOS Village, which tries to provide its residents a family environment. We surveyed 330 children in Karachi who were between the ages of 4 and 16 and living in SOS or traditional orphanages, and we used a strengths and difficulties questionnaire to evaluate the children's behavioural issues (SDQ). The (2) test of independence was used to compare the children in the two groups based on their scores on the composite SDQ and its subscales, as reported by their foster moms. In order to determine which components are really causal of behavioural issues, a multivariate model was constructed using the generalised estimating equations (GEE) regression method. Thirty-three percent of the population displayed some kind of behavioural issue. In a one-way analysis of variance, we observed no significant differences between the groups for general behavioural difficulties but did find significant differences regarding peer problems ( $P = 0.026$ ). Five indicators were discovered in the model for composite SDQ behavioural problems: wasting, a duration of time in the institution of 5 years, the foster mother's depression, the kind of facility, and the sex of the child. Children with behavioural issues were more likely to have a foster mother who was depressed, to be malnourished, and to have spent less time at the facility overall, with two interactions including the child's sex, the kind of facility, and the foster parents' marital and parental status. At Karachi's orphanages, we noticed a significant prevalence of behavioural issues among the wards' charges.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

This research was exploratory in character, using a variety of methods to find the best fit for the problem. There were both numbers and descriptions in the data set. As a result, the research team analysed the data using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The research used the following sets of statistical methods:

#### 3.1 Research Design

During the second phase, researchers took a random sample of classrooms to gather information. Purposive sampling was utilised to obtain data from orphanages and juvenile facilities due to the limited number of convicts. Young men and women were sampled from the same institutions including schools and orphanages. Information on males was gathered from juvenile boys' homes, while information on girls was gathered from Kozhokode's lone girls' juvenile home.

## 4. RESULTS

**Table 1 Data on the correlation between mental illness and emotional intelligence among juvenile detention centre inmates: means, standard deviations, and p values**

Place of stay	Variable	Psychiatric morbidity	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mann Whitney U value	Z	p value
Orphanages	Intra personal awareness	Present	12	12.67	3.77	291.000	-2.530	0.011*
		Absent	88	15.3	2.92			
	Inter personal awareness	Present	12	12.17	2.92	308.500	-2.341	0.019*
		Absent	88	14.38	3.49			
	Intra personal management	Present	12	11.83	3.95	241.000	-3.055	0.002**
		Absent	88	15.93	3.87			
	Inter personal manageme	Present	12	13.75	3.93	256.000	-2.902	0.004**
		Absent	88	17.15	3.29			
	Total emotional intelligenc	Present	12	50.42	6.91	125.000	-4.278	<0.001**
		Absent	88	62.24	10.26			

By utilising the Mann-Whitney U test, we find that there is a substantial correlation between mental morbidity and emotional intelligence among juvenile detention centre inmates:  $p = 0.001$ . Children with mental illness have a mean emotional quotient of 50.42, whereas children without such disorders have a mean quotient of 62.24. There seems to be a negative correlation between mental illness and emotional intelligence among orphanage prisoners, as shown by these figures. So, it is recognised that orphanage convicts would have a correlation between mental illness and emotional intelligence.

**Table 2 Association between mental morbidity and emotional intelligence in children who live with their parents: means, standard deviations, and p values**

Place of stay	Variable	Psychiatric morbidity	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mann Whitney U value	Z	p value
Living with parents	Intra personal awareness	Present	12	14.25	2.63	223.500	-3.261	0.001**
		Absent	88	16.81	2.28			
	Inter personal awareness	Present	12	13.08	3.60	361.500	-1.776	0.076
		Absent	88	14.99	3.27			
	Intra personal management	Present	12	14.00	2.09	204.000	-3.460	0.001**
		Absent	88	17.19	3.44			
	Inter personal management	Present	12	13.42	2.39	295.000	-2.483	0.013*
		Absent	88	15.67	3.61			
	Total emotional intelligence	Present	12	54.75	6.30	183.000	-3.663	<0.001**
		Absent	88	64.17	10.02			

For children still living at home with their parents, the relationship between mental illness and emotional intelligence is statistically significant (Mann-Whitney U test, p 0.001) at the 0.01 level. Children with mental morbidity have an average EQ of 54.75, whereas children without such disorders have an EQ of 64.17. This data suggests a negative correlation between children staying at home with their parents and emotional intelligence and mental illness. That's why it's reasonable to assume that there's a correlation between emotional intelligence and mental morbidity among kids who still live at home with their parents.

Children living with their parents, those in orphanages, and those in juvenile facilities all had their IQs and EQs measured using Spearman's Rank correlation. Tables 3 through 5 show the collected findings.

**Table 3 Relationship between juvenile detention centre prisoners' IQ and EQ**

Place of stay	Variables	Correlation	Lower bound	Upper bound	Z	p
Juvenile homes	Intelligence- Intra personal awareness	0.631	0.590	0.672	8.052	<0.001**
	Intelligence- Inter personal awareness	0.607	0.564	0.650	7.561	<0.001**
	Intelligence- Intra personal management	0.672	0.635	0.709	8.983	<0.001**



Intelligence- Inter personal management	0.752	0.723	0.781	11.294	<0.001**
Intelligence-Total Emotional intelligence	0.921	0.911	0.931	23.404	<0.001**

The correlations between intelligence and self-awareness, social-awareness, self-management, social-awareness, and emotional intelligence are 0.631, 0.607, 0.672, 0.752, and 0.921 among juvenile home prisoners, respectively. All p-values are statistically significant at the.01 level. It follows that the prisoners of juvenile homes' overall emotional intelligence score is positively correlated with their intelligence's various components. Acceptance of the notion that juvenile delinquents will exhibit a link between IQ and EQ in secure care facilities.

**Table 4 Finding a link between orphanage prisoners' IQ and their EQ**

Place of stay	Variables	Correlation	Lower bound	Upper bound	Z	p value
Orphanage-s	Intelligence-Intra personal awareness	0.603	0.560	0.646	7.483	<0.001**
	Intelligence Inter personal	0.692	0.657	0.727	9.490	<0.001**
	Intelligence Intra personal	0.564	0.518	0.610	6.761	<0.001**
	Intelligence Inter personal	0.536	0.488	0.584	6.285	<0.001**

	Intelligence Total emotional intelligence	0.817	0.795	0.839	14.026	<0.001**
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Inmates of orphanages are found to have an IQ that correlates with the following sub-dimensions: self-awareness, social-awareness, self-management, relationship-management, and overall emotional intelligence (0.603, 0.692, 0.564, 0.536, and 0.817). All of the p values are statistically significant at the .01 level. The prisoners of orphanages all have high levels of emotional intelligence, and there is a strong correlation between IQ and all of the components of emotional intelligence. Inmates of orphanages are hypothesised to have high levels of both cognitive and emotional intelligence.

**Table 5 Emotional intelligence is positively correlated with IQ in children who live with their parents.**

Place of stay	Variables	Correlation	Lower bound	Upper bound	Z	p value
Living with	intelligence- Intra	0.523	0.474	0.572	6.074	<0.001**
	Intelligence- Inter	0.572	0.527	0.617	6.903	<0.001**
personal	Intelligence- Intra					
	management	0.718	0.685	0.751	10.212	<0.001**
Intelligence- Inter	personal management	0.665	0.627	0.703	8.815	<0.001**
	Intelligence- Total emotional intelligence	0.784	0.758	0.810	12.503	<0.001**

For children still living at home with their parents, we find a positive link between IQ and emotional intelligence measures of self-awareness, social-awareness, self-management, relationship-management, and overall emotional intelligence (all p values > 0.5). Thus, it is reasonable to infer that all components of EQ and EQ as a whole are positively related to IQ in children who live with their parents. The theory that children who live with their parents would have a higher average IQ and EQ is supported.

The incidence of delinquent behaviour in the three groups was compared between boys and girls using the chi-square test. Due to the fact that some of the columns had expected values of

less than 5, a chi-square test could not be performed to determine whether or not orphanage residents and children living with their parents vary with respect to the frequency with which they engage in antisocial behaviour. Hence The incidence of antisocial behaviour among orphans and youngsters living with their families was compared using the Fisher's Exact test. Tables 6-8 provide the collected data.

**Table 6 Findings from a chi-square analysis comparing male and female juvenile delinquents in residential facilities for young offenders**

Place of stay	Delinquent behaviour	Gender						Chi Square value	Degree of freedom	P value
		Boys		Girls		Total				
		N	%	N	%	N	%			
Juv enil e ho mes	Present	28	38.9 %	10	35.7 %	38	38%			
	Absent	44	61.1 %	18	64.3 %	62	62%	0.086	1	0.769
	Total	72	100 %	28	100 %	100	100 %			

The difference in the rate of delinquency between the sexes in juvenile homes is not statistically significant ( $p = 0.769$ ). This suggests that there is no major gender gap in the frequency of delinquent behaviour among youths residing in juvenile homes. Given the data in the table, we can infer that 10.2 percent of the female population (35.7%) and 28.2 percent of the male population (38.1%) exhibits antisocial conduct. We thus reject the null hypothesis that there would be no significant gender difference in the rate of delinquency among residents in juvenile facilities.

**Table 7 The Fishers exact test comparing male and female orphanage prisoners reveals no significant difference in the rate of delinquency.**

Place of stay	Delinquent behaviour	Gender						Chi Square value	Degree of freedom	P value
		Boys		Girls		Total				
		N	%	N	%	N	%			
	Orphanages Present	7	16.7%	2	3.4%	9	9%			



Absent	35	83.3%	56	96.6%	91	91%	–	–	0.054 <sup>#</sup>
Total	42	100%	58	100%	100	100			

When comparing the rates of delinquency among orphanage boys and girls, there is no statistically significant difference ( $p = 0.054$ ). This suggests that there is no discernible gender gap in the incidence of delinquent behaviour among orphanage youth. Seven of the 42 males (16.7%) and two of the 58 girls (3.4%), as shown in the table, exhibit signs of delinquency. As a result, we cannot accept the null hypothesis that there is no gender difference in the incidence of delinquency among orphaned children.

**Table 8 Fisher's exact test findings comparing male and female youngsters in households with high and low rates of delinquency**

Place of stay	Delinquent behaviour	Gender						Chi Square value	Degree of freedom	P value
		Boys		Girls		Total				
		N	%	N	%	N	%			
Living with parents	Present	4	7.4%	1	2.2%	5	5%			
	Absent	50	92.6%	4	97.8%	95	95%	–		0.370 <sup>#</sup>
Total		54	100%	4	100%	100	100%	10		0%

Boys and girls who are still at home are not equally likely to engage in antisocial behaviour, as shown by a  $p$  value of 0.769. The number is utterly meaningless and of no consequence. According to these findings, there is no discernible gender gap in the frequency of delinquent behaviour among children who live with their parents. Four of the 54 males (7.4%) and one of the 46 girls (2.2%) are exhibiting delinquent behaviour, as seen in the table.

So, the prediction that there would be a gender gap in the rate of juvenile delinquency among boys and girls who live at home is not supported.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Emotional quotient was another factor chosen for analysis. Those strong in emotional intelligence are less likely to partake in harmful behaviours such as smoking, excessive drinking, drug usage, and aggressive outbursts, as stated by Mayer, Salovey, and Caruso



(2004). The correlation between EQ and criminal behaviour has been observed in a number of research. The problem of juvenile delinquency is approached differently by the field of psychiatry than by that of criminology. In this case, dysfunctional personality traits are the root cause of social impairment, rather than overtly antisocial behaviour.

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